



## SELECTMEN'S MEETING

### January 2, 2008

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Wednesday, January 2, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. in the Merrill Seney Community Room.

**PRESENT:** Lawrence K. Groh, Jr., First Selectman; Sarah F. White, Selectman; Kathleen A. Hiatt, Selectman; Lynn Landry; Al Landry; Stephen Benoit; Theodore Smith; Charles Seney; Joseph Gaucher; Celeste Guimont; Donald Brown; Leo Adams; Dustin Racciopi – Norwich Bulletin; Mason Wood – Thompson Villager; other concerned citizens

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2007 Special Selectmen's meeting with corrections.*

<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Miss White</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

### CORRESPONDENCE

- Mr. Groh presented correspondence from the State of Connecticut Office of Policy & Management in regard to the Department of Motor Vehicles' delinquent motor vehicle charge.
- Mr. Groh presented an opinion letter from Town Counsel in regard to septic system easements.
- Mr. Groh presented correspondence and documentation in regard to zoning fee collection.
- Mr. Groh presented correspondence from Town Counsel in regard to the Thompson Hill Sewer Project.
- Mr. Groh presented an announcement for the bonfire sponsored by Thompson Recreation which will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on January 19, 2007. Miss White questioned if the bonfire was a cost to the Town. Mr. Adams commented that there is a collection area at the Transfer Station for Christmas Trees. Ms. Levesque stated that there is a line item for \$500.00 under the Recreation Department budget.

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- Mr. Groh presented correspondence from the Attorney General in regard to the Veteran's Tax Exemption.
  - Mr. Groh presented correspondence from United Services in regard to a grant to support the Recreation Department's After School Program.
  - Mr. Groh presented correspondence from the Connecticut State Treasurer in regard to the Short-term Investment Fund.
  - Mr. Groh presented correspondence from the Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc. in regard to the Environmental Review Team program.
  - Mr. Groh presented information on snow plow safety.
  - Ms. Hiatt presented an e-mail correspondence from the Director of Planning & Development in regard to the proposed cell tower at Marianapolis.

#### **SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS**

- Mr. Groh commented that he hoped everyone had a safe and happy holiday and that everyone has a good new year coming up in the future.
- Miss White commented that she is working with the Town Clerk and the Director of Planning and Development in regard to updating the Town of Thompson's information in the State of Connecticut State Register.
- Miss White commented on a letter that was sent out on behalf of the Economic Development Commission and that they have already received 31 responses from companies to let the Town know what type of business they are and where they are located.
- Miss White commented that there was an incident of rabies in town and informed people to be aware of animals acting strangely. Miss White commented that people should contact the Town's Animal Control Officer and the Department of Environmental Protection.
- Ms. Hiatt commented that she spoke with the Assessor in regard to the status of the GIS Mapping project and that the Assessor would be happy to attend a meeting in regard to the project.
- Ms. Hiatt commented that she spoke with the Personnel Director in regard to reporting on the Town's hiring policy.

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## CITIZENS COMMENTS

- Ms. Guimont presented information on a proposal to re-write the Town's ordinance in regard to the scheduling of the Town's Annual Meeting for the budget. Mr. Groh commented that the Board of Selectmen has decided to start the budget season earlier this year. Mr. Groh also commented that the Board of Finance pushed their schedule up one day as well. Mr. Groh stated that the budget will be updated online throughout the budget process to help keep the public more informed. Ms. Hiatt provided dates of Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen budget workshops. Mr. Groh added that the Board of Finance meeting minutes will also be posted on the Town's website. Mr. Groh commented that changing the ordinance would not occur this year as all of the Town's boards and commissions have filed meeting dates with the Town Clerk per state statute. A brief discussion followed.
- Mr. Smith questioned how the ordinance change would have affected that Town when there were four referendums. Mr. Smith stated that the Town still would not have been able to collect taxes. A brief discussion followed.
- Mr. Landry stated that someone on the Northeast Connecticut Council of Governments wants the State to change the timeline of the State's budget season. Mr. Smith questioned that the State did a two-year budget. A brief discussion followed.
- Mr. Smith questioned if the Town had a written plowing and sanding policy. Mr. Smith expressed concerns in regard to snow plowing. Miss White stated that this has been suggested and will be pursued.
- Mr. Brown questioned the Board's position on the proposed regional recreation center in Putnam. Mr. Groh stated that he did not have enough information on the regional center. The Board requested that Mr. Brown present information in regard to this center at the next Selectmen's meeting on January 15, 2008.
- Mr. Seney commented in regard to Mr. Groh's radio interview response in reference to plowing Quinebaug Park. Mr. Smith commented that the agreement to plow the park is not unfair as the residents of the park do not receive certain services from the Town. Mr. Groh read the plowing policy to the audience. Miss White suggested that the Board review this policy and stated that it seems the policy was written specifically for Quinebaug Park. Miss White stated that the public should also be included in reviewing the Town policies in the future.
- Mr. Landry commented that the School was supposed to start recycling today, but that the School has not because they do not have a place to put the dumpster that Public Works has provided. Mr. Landry stated that he is ready to go to the Attorney General to enforce the law requiring schools to recycle. Mr. Groh explained that there was a meeting on December 11, 2007 between the Director of Public Works, Mr. Landry, the Superintendent of Schools, the Custodial Supervisor and him in regard to recycling paper for one third of the school. Mr. Groh stated that he would contact the Superintendent of Schools in regard to this matter.

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## APPOINTMENT OF LEGAL COUNSEL

Mr. Groh explained that Town Counsel is Attorney William H. St. Onge and the Town's Employment Counsel is Attorney Kenneth S. Weinstock. Miss White asked if the Town has a policy in regard to bidding. Mr. Groh explained that there is. Miss White questioned how long Attorney St. Onge has functioned as Town Counsel and if he works on a retainer. Ms. Levesque stated that he is paid on a fee basis. Ms. Hiatt explained how the Town hired Attorney Weinstock for Employment Counsel which included interviews and review of recommendations.

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Miss White, to continue using the services of William St. Onge for Town Counsel and Kenneth Weinstock as Labor Counsel.

Ms. Hiatt	-Yes
Miss White	-Yes
Mr. Groh	-Yes

Ms. Hiatt suggested that Mr. Groh send a memo to the Town's boards and commissions asking to keep the First Selectman informed of any major legal expenditures in the remainder of the fiscal year.

## TAX REFUNDS

*Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Ms. Hiatt, to refund the following overpayments as recommended by the Tax Collector, Rene Morin.*

-James S Oleksiak	-\$21.54
-Joseph A Gosselin Est Rita Gosselin	-\$64.31

<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Miss White</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

## OTHER BUSINESS

- Mr. Groh informed the Board that he spoke with the Assessor in regard to the laptop needed for the LUCA program. Mr. Groh stated that he would lend his laptop from his office to the Assessor for the program and use an old computer for that duration.
- Miss White informed the Board that she spoke to Town Counsel in regard to the proposed Economic Development brochure. Miss White stated that Town Counsel said that endorsement of the brochure by the Town is fine and that Putnam has a similar brochure. The Board will address this issue at the next Selectmen's meeting on January 15, 2007.
- Miss White commented that it would be good for the Town to reformat/add/alter the Town's Annual Report. A brief discussion followed.

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- Miss White suggested pursuing a property list for the Town Hall in regard to the Town's assets. A brief discussion followed.

## **ADJOURN**

*Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:38 p.m.*

<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Miss White</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

Recorded and transcribed by:  
Tonya Levesque