



# TOWN of **THOMPSON**

## **Board of Selectmen**

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*Linda Paradise*  
Asst TOWN CLERK

### MINUTES: Board of Selectmen

Tuesday, April 17, 2018 7:00 p.m.  
Thompson Town Hall Seney Room



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Present: First Selectman Ken Beausoleil, Selectman Steve Herbert, Selectman Amy St. Onge  
Representatives of other Boards/Commissions: Town Planner M.A. Chinatti; Recreation  
Director Angela Newell; Library Director Alison Boutaugh; EDC Chairman Brian Yacino;  
EDC Branding Implementation Committee Chair Rene Waldron; EDC/Branding Committee  
Members Charles Obert and Charlene Langlois; Building Committee Member John Lenky;  
Social Media Subcommittee Member Scott Antonson.

Members of the public: Paul Lenky and several others were present;  
Recording Secretary Dotti Durst

The meeting was called to order by First Selectman Ken. Beausoleil at 7:01 PM

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

- I. Approval of Minutes of April 3, 2018; Note – there is a typographical error; Article IV  
Citizen's Comments - it should be A. Landry  
**Motion S. Herbert seconded by A. St Onge with this note carried.**  
**A. St Onge – aye S. Herbert – aye K. Beausoleil – abstained**
- II. Correspondence was reviewed by K. Beausoleil:
  - A. Chamber of Commerce 30th Annual Golf Invitational, June 13, 2018
  - B. State of Connecticut Armed Forces Day 69th Annual Luncheon 05/18/18
  - C. Chamber Business After Hours: Tractor Supply, Putnam, April 25, 5 – 7 PM
  - D. DESSP, (Troup D) April 5, 2018 Monthly Police Services Report shows 316 calls in  
Thompson during March, 2018
  - E. Mill Sites Redevelopment Public Informational Meeting: Wednesday, May 23  
Community Center at the Library Community Center at 6 PM
  - F. Notice of Public Hearing for a gravel operation near Thatcher Road and Whittemore;  
the town is an abutter
  - G. Today April 17, correspondence (regarding the Solar Panel research) from Brian Santos  
was received. Pages 2-3 were presented at the recent Building Committee meeting.
- III. Selectmen's Comments: A. St Onge – none S. Herbert – none  
K. Beausoleil –
  - The Board of Finance approved going to referendum April 23 over the oil spill  
remediation; this is a DEEP requirement
  - May 1 is the next Board of Selectmen's meeting; the annual budget town meeting  
will be May 7, at 7 PM the Community Center, referendum will be on May 21
  - April 19 the Board of Finance after the Regular meeting will do Budget Review
  - Town meeting April 9 approved the sale of busses (DATTCO) and fleet disposal
  - Ballard Road is closed again; it is five feet under water
  - The Little League Opening Day Parade is at Saturday at 11 AM
  - The Road Sweeper has been delivered to the garage; training is done

- With the storms, the Highway Department has been very busy with damage control; dirt road grading will begin soon
- A power outage at the Transfer Station on Saturday, due to a tree falling at a substation on an abutting property, caused a major disruption for two hours
- Selectman's update will be in the next Shopper's Guide
- Social Media staffing: Facebook is up and running and the website is being examined. An RFP went out; the committee will narrow down the candidates, seeking a specialist in Municipal websites.; 3 will be selected for a demonstration.
- The NECCOG location presents an option for purchasing property
- Seniors at UCONN in the Engineering Program will present the work they did in Thompson to the professors on Thursday, April 19
- The Board of Finance approved two vehicles: purchase of an F 350 as well as the currently budgeted F 550 (lease/purchase agreement). Quotes will be sought
- A. St Onge: Confirmed: the F 350 is a purchase. Are the Econolines from our current fleet being kept? Yes, each with under 100,000 miles.

IV. Citizens' Comments:

- Rene Waldron representing the EDC Branding Implementation Committee and the Website Committee – A memo is presented to the BOS requesting the transfer of EDC funds to support goals the Committees have identified: Website re-design, Developing a stronger social media presence for the Town, and Revision of the Zoning, and Regulations to make Thompson more conducive for business growth.
- P. Lenky- 50 Watson Rd Quinebaug- urges the Selectmen to utilize the proceeds from the sale of the school busses for road and bridge work; the Town has 98 miles of roads, many needy; there is scouring at the footings and headwalls of bridges.
- C. Obert, Trails Committee – Between 3 - 5 roads appear on town maps but are not being serviced; he and the Town Clerk worked to identify which are discontinued. He asks that they be added to the trails network. Some connect to the Airline Trail. Safety bollards could be installed to prevent vehicle access, yet allow walking and bicycling as well as easy removal by emergency vehicles if required. K. Beausoleil – will speak further with the Trails Committee and do some more investigating.

- V. Transfer of Funds within EDC Budget – K. Beausoleil wrote up/distributed some comments. The EDC Branding Implementation Committee has now come up with a product to move forward. Brian Yacino, EDC Chair, sent a letter, April 11, 2018 requesting that \$7,500 be made available for 929 Riverside Drive. C. Obert - The contract for expertise regarding mill redevelopment will protect the interests of the town in negotiations, especially with the Brownfields aspect. A. St Onge – the proposed line item is \$7500 -8,000. How can we protect the budget to lock this in? M.A. Chinatti – the vendor plans to stay as close to the \$7,000 as he can. Documents such as deeds, environmental reports and others have been requested for his review by Planner M.A. Chinatti prior to a contract being put in place. A. St Onge – the town will need assurances as to what specifically will be provided and at a cost not to exceed \$8,000. M.A. Chinatti will try to obtain a written assurance by this week's Board of Finance meeting. S. Herbert – reminder: this is only a proposal to plan how to create the desired plan! K. Beausoleil – The UCONN Engineering students' work regarding Riverside Drive includes how to upgrade pedestrian access, add sidewalks, and move toward the economic development goals which have been identified. In addition, a parcel on River Road may provide picnic or other outdoor, family-friendly space, again, possibly impacting economic development .
- R. Waldron- the website and social media expense will bring in an expert in municipal communication. The highest quote is at \$16,000 which *may* include on-going maintenance of the site that the other bidders did not include. This will be determined by the

Committee. A. Broutaugh – this is the third attempt at upgrading the website. Contemporary users need a fast, user-friendly interface with minimal “clicks” and easy navigation. S. Antonson – now people use mobile devices and the technology has to “mirror” what would be seen on a computer screen. C. Obert – connectivity and ease of access of information by all Boards/Commissions/Organizations makes the site effective. S. Antonson – each of these groups would have its own access from the back end; sometimes the posting is time-sensitive. M. A. Chinatti and K. Beausoleil – at the Economic Forum, the necessity for a significantly improved website was stressed, sometimes it serves as the trigger factor in a potential business’ interest in a community.

**Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Herbert for the Board of Selectmen to recommend to the Board of Finance to transfer up to \$30,000 for the itemized expenses, rounding the figure up from the proposed \$29,500 to provide for a recording secretary for the Branding Implementation Committee monthly meetings, carried unanimously.**

- VI. Fire Department Rebate Program: K. Beausoleil –due to the late budget approval, tax bills had to be paid by the fire personnel later than is required to qualify for the tax rebates.

**Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Herbert to abate the requirement for tax payments to be completed with the Calendar year, affecting 9 fire department personnel, in the amount of \$3,011.85, carried unanimously.**

- VII. Re-appointments: Thomas Jourdan and Stephen Bordua, Recreation Commission  
**Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by A. St Onge to reappoint Thomas Jourdan and Stephen Bordua to the Recreation Commission, through April 15, 2021, carried unanimously.**

- VIII. Town Attorney Interviews: sessions of about 90 minutes each are proposed. Target dates are Thursday, 04/26 (Thursday being a Town Hall late-closing day) and Friday, 04/27.

- IX. Fire Department Meeting Date Scheduling: K. Beausoleil noted that the Fire Departments have met as a group and developed a list of ideas and questions. Next we should all work together to create a master list of questions to send to the consultant. Then we bring the consultant in to address them. No dates are yet identified.

- X. Schedule BOS Special Meeting Friday, April 20, 2018 – with the timing needed for posting of the legal notices, a Special Meeting for discussion of the posting of legal notices for the Town Meeting/Budget Referendum on May 7 is scheduled for April 20 at 11 AM.

**Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Herbert to add an agenda item, Discussion of Solar by John Lenky, carried unanimously.**

- XI. Solar Panels report: John Lenky, Building Committee representative – Brian Santos is out of state and normally would present these findings. His memo is distributed to the BOS members. The purpose of looking onto solar panels for the schools is to curb the costs of electricity. Since the School property has no space available for panels, an adjacent, private property has been identified as a possible location for a solar field. S. Herbert – asks the number of kWt hours used by the schools. The chart/handout appears to show 118,000 kWt hours per month. A. St Onge – has the BOE or Superintendent been presented with this information? KJ. Lenky– no, these are Town buildings and land; the Town pays the electricity bill. S. Herbert – we must decide among three options which are: to continue to purchase electricity from Eversource, to build our own solar array or to contract with a third-party provider such as SHR then pay them on a per-kWh-used basis. J. Lenky – the

contractor handles all aspects of negotiating for the property, installing the access ways and infrastructure and panels, testing the system and monitoring it. J. Lenky – no motions were made at the Building Committee meeting; the presentation was informational only. P. Lenky – the Building Committee will, in time, make recommendations and send them to the BOS. K. Beausoleil – all selectmen agree that more information is needed. They will set up a Special BOS Meeting with Brian Santos, including the Building Committee, for further information about what he has developed.

XII. Other Business: none

XIII. Citizens' Comments:

\* C. Langlois, Member Branding Implementation Committee-a major problem Thompson faces is that our villages are so segregated; somehow we need to re-unite them. There are many "identities" in the villages, fire departments, post offices and polling places.

\* R. Waldron, Branding Implementation Committee Chair – agrees there is no clear identity; perhaps working toward only one zip code could help Suggestion – perhaps NECCOG has seen what other towns have done to address this

\* B. Yacino, EDC Chair – Possible step: if we wanted all resident/businesses be able to use THOMPSON on our address line, then we could still utilize the various zip codes.

XIV. Tax  
Refunds:

Theresa A. Conduct	\$174.15
ACAR Leasing Limited	\$160.90
Jason R. LeBeau	\$386.91
Michael Bennett	\$44.43
Ada G. Temple	\$123.90
Wheels LT	\$119.12
Toyota Motor Credit Corporation	\$239.17

**Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Herbert to approve the tax refunds itemized by the Assessor on April 17, 2018 carried unanimously.**

XV. Executive Session:

**Motion was made by S. Herbert seconded by A. St Onge to go into Executive Session at 8:50PM to address the following:**

- A. UPSEU Union Petition/ State Labor Relations Board Hearing**
- B. CBU vs. Thompson**
- C. Starr Road**
- D. Green Environmental**
- E. Possible Land Acquisition**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion to close the Executive Session S. Herbert, seconded by A. St Onge at 9:35 PM carried unanimously. No business was transacted.**

XVI. Adjournment was by K. Beausoleil at 9:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Dorothy Durst, Recording Secretary **Dorothy Durst**

*These minutes have not yet been approved by the Board of Selectmen. Please refer to the minutes of the next meeting for approval of and/or amendments to these minutes.*