

September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015

State Chief Attorney's Office  
300 Corporate Place  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Attention: Inspector Jo Schaller

**Re: Investigating the Thompson Town Hall for Suspected Corruption and Falsified Documents**

Dear Chief Attorney, Inspector and Staff,

As a member of the Board of Selectmen for the town of Thompson, I am hereby submitting a formal complaint after not only hearing the concerns of citizens, but after witnessing alarming actions which have taken place while on the Board of Selectmen.

The matter in question dates back to a public hearing on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014 concerning a project on Starr Road, a project that involved River Junction, LLC (owners and members Allan and Jeffery Rawson). The matter included a donation of land to the town of Thompson. Plans at the time included modifications to an area near Starr Road. I invite you to retrieve copies of the public hearing agenda and minutes from the Town Hall for further information and verification of the above statement.

It was during this public hearing that the entire board was given the, at the time, latest copy of the Miles of Locally Maintained Roads. Starr Road was shown having .339 miles under the unimproved portion of that list. Previous road lists submitted by the town and filed with the state did not reflect this mileage. It was unclear where the .339 number derived from and who generated the road list supplied to the entire board at this public hearing. Steve Burns from the planning and zoning commission had stated at the public hearing that he agreed with resident Kevin Walsh that a legitimate source is needed when Mr. Walsh determined that it was not clear the exact length of Starr Road. Although I appreciate the First and Second Selectmen for scheduling the public hearing, inadequate information was provided and to date, there are still unanswered questions which were raised at this meeting. **You will find the public hearing minutes enclosed with this formal complaint.**

Throughout our administration, the issue of a falsified and altered document has been discussed by residents and the Board of Selectmen. During that time, what I would deem questionable acts have taken place. One such act, which will tie into my initial complaint and concerns in a moment, includes the elimination of a former employee's password on a town-owned laptop with an invoice dated 02-09-15 by System Solutions. That invoice states that the company performed work on this laptop with Owner Chris Nelson noting on the invoice he "Assisted Kerstin to eliminate Tonya Levesque's laptop password at Kerstin's home (.25 Hrs)". It was not until March 6<sup>th</sup> 2015 that an official letter from the First Selectman's office was generated to the Finance Department, notifying personnel that this employee was terminated.

The letter from Paul A. Lenky states:

"Dear Orla,

Please be advised that Tonya Park has been terminated from her position as Personnel Director/ Executive Assistant as of March 2, 2015. Respectively, Paul A. Lenky, Town of Thompson—First Selectman." **(\*A copy of this document may be obtained from the First Selectman's office. I could also provide you with a copy if you are unable to obtain the**

document.) I am uncertain as to why such action took place on a former employee's laptop while that individual was still an employee, according to the First Selectman's letter dating the termination as of March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015. Such actions are just another reason as to why residents question the current administration. Again, such action begs to question whether or not documents within that particular laptop were not erased or altered to further sweep the possible falsification of documents, and in this case the Miles of Locally Maintained Roads List, under the rug. Such an act comes across to the townspeople as suspicious.

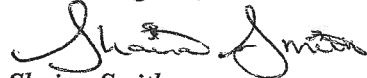
A memo was also written by First Selectman Paul Lenky to the Board of Selectmen regarding miles of locally maintained roads as of July 29, 2014. That memo, dated April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 states that "due to a lack of procedures and accountability during, at least the last decade, we are unable to locate the source of any of these documents." It goes on to state he was unable to find anyone who made the addition of the .339 unimproved miles to Starr Road, believes it is "futile to spend any more of the town's scare resources—human and financial—researching this issue" and considers this matter closed. **I have enclosed that memo to be considered as part of this complaint** as I find several discrepancies within that memo, one of them pointing the blame on past practices and employees, questioning their accountability and procedures. Another issue was presented within that memo concerning the interviewing of the interim clerk, as the document states "The interim clerk did not make the change to the document". When I asked the Board of Selectmen at a meeting this year who had conducted the interview of the interim clerk, Selectmen Kerstin Forrester stated she had. The interim clerk is Ms. Forrester's daughter and I find that highly inappropriate protocol in researching this matter to conduct interviews with a leadership position (board member) being a family member to a town employee.

Another memorandum was written to the Board of Selectmen from the Planning and Development office stating that research has been conducted regarding the unimproved/unmaintained portion of Starr Road. Although the packet of documentation was informative, I feel that an objective perspective into this matter would better serve the public as the issue has not officially been resolved and should not be considered 'put to bed' as others have claimed it to be.

With such occurrences taking place, it is unclear to residents and me who could have altered the document: a former employee or a current employee within the town hall. I share the same concerns as many other Thompson residents that action has and are still taking place behind closed doors without discussion of the full board and without proper explanation within an open meeting. With the municipal elections taking place this November, I fear that this issue will not be resolved while the acting administration is in office and this matter will then be placed on the laps of future leaders of this town and elected officials. To leave such an open-ended issue on the table before exiting office, to me, seems unjust and unfair to our taxpayers.

I am hereby requesting that the Chief Attorney's office investigate the origin of the described falsified document and its author so that the individual can be held accountable for his/her actions and necessary action can take place. I am saddened to see that the public trust in our elected officials has dwindled and it is disheartening to see negative light shed on our charming community. I hope that I can be of service during the investigation and researching process regarding the matter as I do share part of the responsibility in the board not taking a more proactive approach. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kindest Regards,



Shaina Smith

Selectman, Town of Thompson

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