



TOWN OF THOMPSON
Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, March 2, 2021
Via ZOOM Online Meeting Portal
Minutes

- I. The call to order by A. St Onge was at 7:00 PM. The meeting was recorded on Zoom.
Roll call: First Selectman Amy St Onge, Selectmen Susanne Witkowski and Ken Beausoleil.
Finance Director Orla McKiernan-Rafferty, Assessor Paul Hopkins, Recreation Director Lesley Munshower, Members of Boards/Commissions and of the public, Recording Secretary Dotti Durst
- II. Approval of Minutes:
Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve the minutes of the 2-16-2021 BOS Meeting carried unanimously.
Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the minutes of the Special BOS meetings on 02-16-202 and 02-18-2021 carried unanimously.
- III. Correspondence
 - A. Access - Thank You for the February donation
 - B. UCONN College of Agriculture – Invitation: March 3
 - C. DESPP - Police Services Report January 2021
 - D. CT Water - 2020 PFAS Test Results well below advisory level
 - E. NE Chamber of Commerce - 2020 Annual Report, Marketing Opportunity and Events
 - F. After the agenda was posted: BOE memo March 2, budget proposal fy 2021-2022
- IV. Selectmen Comments: A. St Onge- Budget proposals Thursday, March 4 at 7 PM via Zoom *Live walk-through at the DPW facility March 3, Public is invited * the budget comment email site is open during March and April, enabling the public to make comments (budget@thompsonct.org)
*March 9, Referendum to re-allocate funding for the Schools Roofing project
- V. Citizen Comments: none
- VI. Tax abatement request: 7 New Road: The BOS discussed the situation; the Tax Collector and Assessor provided data. The owner of the parcel is deceased. An uninhabitable mobile home on the parcel, which had a different owner, has been abandoned for about 10 years. Eileen Witkowski, 334 W. Thompson Road: Since there is no family to approach, the situation can continue forever.
Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Witkowski to abate the taxes on the mobile home, on what should be called 9 New Road, formerly Kenneth Bennett's property, carried unanimously.
- VII. Resignation: **Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to accept the resignation with regret of Earl Rosebrooks as a Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate carried unanimously.**
- VIII. Natchaug Epic, a 75-mile mostly off-road bicycle event for experienced riders – Event organizer Rich Fries noted the Epic was quite successful two years ago. Due to Covid, it will take place March 26 through March 28, with participants appropriately spaced. Only short sections are timed. Insurance and all permits are in place; the DPW is informed. The event starts and ends in Thompson, including a steep climb to the Bull Hill overlook, where “selfies” are to be taken.
Motion A. St Onge seconded by L. Beausoleil to approve road use by the Natchaug Epic bicycling event on Friday, March 26 through Sunday, March 28, carried unanimously.

- IX. Recreation Camp Buses RFP Opening - Discussion and Possible Action: Since the bid envelope is not present at the meeting, it cannot be opened. No action was taken.
- X. General Code Company – Codification Services for Code of Ordinance – Discussion and Possible Action: Following a previous presentation to the BOS, the details have been reviewed. The update to the Ordinances would be welcome; the contract begins with a 2-year review followed by an annual monitoring. After discussion, no action was taken.
- XI. Bid Award – Affordable Housing Plan: a memo from the Town Planner recommends the BOS endorse the single bidder as presented, enabling Thompson to utilize a Planning grant.
Motion S. Witkowski seconded by K. Beausoleil to award the Affordable Housing Plan bid of \$15,000 to Tyche Planning and Policy Group carried unanimously.
- XII. Budget Review: The Finance Director completed updating the Budget proposal following the 02-27-2021 BOS budget meeting. The Schools budget projects an .81% increase. The combined budget proposes a mil rate of 25.81 including all Capital expenses (which are shown in Transfers). Several line items were reviewed in detail and adjustments were made. After K. Beausoleil stated that the ZEO, who has an extra-ordinarily heavy workload, should be compensated at the level the position carried a few years ago, the BOS agreed to put forward her salary at \$25 per hour, going back to the previous rate. He further listed the Fire Department allocation as being too low, the projected figures for the new HR staff person to be too nebulous, questioned the adequacy of the staffing level in the Selectmen's office and the decrease in EDC funding, and stated that the compensation for the Finance Director is too low and should be a BOF decision.
Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the FY 2021-2022 budget as finalized at this meeting and to send it to the BOF carried, with K. Beausoleil voting "nay" basing this decision on 5 key budget concerns he had listed.
- XIII. Other Business: none
- XIV. Citizens' Comments: none
- XV. Tax Refunds: none
- XVI. Adjourn: **Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to adjourn at 8:08 PM carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted by Dorothy Durst, Recording Secretary Dorothy Durst

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

To see the meeting, click on this link or copy/paste into your search bar

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