



TOWN of THOMPSON

Board of Selectmen

**Minutes: Regular Meeting
Wednesday, July 5, 2017
Quinebaug Fire Department**

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The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

First Selectman Ken Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Present: Ken Beausoleil
Steve Herbert
Shaina Smith (via phone)

Staff Present: Tina Fox, Recording Secretary
Also Present: Members of the Public

I. Approval of Minutes

A. **Steve Herbert moved and Ken Beausoleil seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the June 20, 2017 regular meeting as written.**

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.

B. **Steve Herbert moved and Ken Beausoleil seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the June 22, 2017 special meeting with the following corrections:**

1. Paragraph 3, Herbert is spelled incorrectly as Hebert.
2. The time the meeting adjourned is incorrect.

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.

II. Correspondence

- A. Thank you letter from Danica Seney for making the Town of Thompson's scholarship possible.
- B. 17th annual celebration of agriculture at Woodstock fair grounds.
- C. Northeast Connecticut Chamber of Commerce is having a super bowl tailgate party on July 13th.

III. Selectmen's Comments

A. K. Beausoleil presented the following Selectmen's Comments:

1. Ray Faucher, Sr. passed away July 3rd. He was a current member of the ZBA, an active business person, and volunteer fire fighter. Services are July 6th at Gilman Valade Funeral Home.
2. 862 Riverside Dr., Old Quinn's Shirt Shop, was sold. The new owner will be applying for a permit to renovate.
3. The proposed restaurant on Rte. 193 is moving forward.
4. ZBA has a vacant position. Notice has gone out to the appropriate Town committee for a recommendation to fill the vacancy.
5. The Town Attorney is drafting a contract for the transfer of the Ellen Larned Building to the Thompson Historical Society.

6. RFP for the website and IT services received 19 or 20 bids. The bids are being compiled on a spreadsheet for review. Assistant Emergency Management Director Brian Howell agreed to review the bids as he is familiar with IT. S. Herbert asked to be careful that the bids do not expire.
 7. Chip sealing will begin in the next week to ten days.
 8. The State will be discussing a budget proposal on July 18th.
 9. Someone inquired about 910 Riverside Dr., which received no bids at the tax sale. They were directed to the attorney in charge of the tax sale. Their bid was accepted and the Town will be receiving the full amount of past taxes due and WPCA fees.
- B. S. Herbert stated that his mother-in-law passed away the day before the meeting.

IV. Citizens' Comments

- A. Celeste Guimont, 1265 Riverside Dr., stated that she is a member of the Ordinance Committee. She stated that they gave the BOS four ordinances to review and she doesn't understand why they are not going forward, as they go back to 2013. In 2013, First Selectman Larry Groh, Jr. suggested that the ordinances be given to the new Board. The ordinances were given to the new Board January 2014 and nothing came about. The Ordinance Committee is frustrated. The current Board was presented with the ordinances in September 2016. She asked when the Board will agree to bring the ordinances to Town Meeting.
1. S. Herbert stated that there was some frustration in reading some of the ordinances because they did not come especially well prepared.
 2. K. Beausoleil stated that the previous administration did bring some of the proposed ordinances to Town Meeting in October 2015 and they were voted down.
 3. C. Guimont stated that the ordinances that were brought to Town Meeting in October 2015 had never been sent to the Ordinance Committee for re-review.
 4. There was discussion regarding why the ordinances have not gone forward since September 2016. C. Guimont agreed to send copies of the ordinances to the BOS again.
 5. C. Guimont asked about the revision to the budget ordinance. K. Beausoleil stated that the Town Attorney is still reviewing the proposed changes.
- B. Al Landry, 33 Randall Rd., stated that the Town Hall is improving in looks, and the grass outside is the best he has seen in years. He stated that the fracking waste ordinance is a priority because Governor Malloy has spoken about opening CT to fracking waste for income.
- C. Mike Lajeunesse stated that he agrees that there is a lack of continuity from one Board to the next elected Board. He suggested looking into having a Town Charter and a fulltime administrator for continuity purposes. S. Herbert stated that lack of continuity was discussed at an EDC Branding/Identity meeting. Having a Town Administrator has both positives and negatives, but it would be a Town choice, not a BOS choice. M. Lajeunesse stated that there has been success with some projects with this Board and not much success with previous Boards, so he is happy with this Board.

- V. VFIS Fire Study
- A. K. Beausoleil stated that questionnaires will be sent out to the fire departments with a deadline to respond by. The questionnaire has some self-evaluation and basic information.
 - B. S. Herbert asked if references were contacted. K. Beausoleil stated that he had contacted the company's references and they were positive.
 - C. S. Herbert also stated that it is important for the fire departments to cooperate; otherwise, money is being spent for nothing.
- VI. Library Sprinkler System Bid
- A. K. Beausoleil stated that the previous estimate was for \$43,415.73 and the current bid was for \$45,956. The only cost difference was for the price of material. He stated that there was only one bid and he suggested awarding the bid to that company.
 - B. S. Herbert stated that he felt the Board should solicit other bids.
 - C. There was some discussion.
 - D. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to award the contract of \$45,956 to Tyco Simplex Grinnell.**
Ken Beausoleil- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes Steve Herbert- No
The motion carried.
- VII. Set Fee for Abandoned Vehicles
- A. There was brief discussion and no action taken on setting a fee as it was discovered that a fee was previously set.
- VIII. Opioid Class Action Suit/Waterbury
- A. K. Beausoleil stated that a high profile law firm is organizing a class action lawsuit at no cost to Towns. He reached out to the firm and requested more information.
 - B. S. Herbert stated that the firm is seeking to sue legal opioid producers. The Attorney General of Ohio is suing a number of manufacturers as well, but the difference is that the State of Ohio is actually involved in that suit. The private firm in this case may see large fees. He also stated that some of the companies being named in the suit may sponsor the organization that S. Smith is involved with. S. Smith stated that the non-profit she works for receives funds from a number of sources.
- IX. Other Business: None
- X. Citizens' Comments
- A. Mike Lajeunesse asked about the cooling tower at the Library. K. Beausoleil explained that a zero interest loan was being pursued, but Eversource has said they will not go forward with the loan for the cooling tower. Eversource is still entertaining the loan for the heat pumps and lighting. There was some discussion regarding the cooling tower and heat pumps.
- XI. Tax Refunds: None

XII. Adjourn

A. **Steve Herbert moved and Ken Beausoleil seconded the motion to adjourn.**

Ken Beausoleil- Yes

Shaina Smith- Yes

Steve Herbert- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

B. First Selectman Ken Beausoleil adjourned the meeting at 8:12 PM.

Tina Fox

Recording Secretary