



# **TOWN of THOMPSON**

## ***Board of Selectmen***

### **Minutes: Regular Meeting**

**Tuesday, June 6, 2017**

**Old Town Hall/Thompson Historical Society**

p. 1 of 5

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Present: Ken Beausoleil  
Steve Herbert

Absent: Shaina Smith

Staff Present: Tina Fox, Recording Secretary

Also Present: Members of the Public

### Pledge of Allegiance

#### I. Approval of Minutes

- A. **Steve Herbert moved and Ken Beausoleil seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the May 16, 2017 regular meeting as written.**

Ken Beausoleil- 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 2, 2017 special meeting as written.**

Ken Beausoleil- Yes

Steve Herbert- Yes

**The motion carried unanimously.**

#### II. Correspondence

- A. Building Office numbers for the month of May.
- B. West Thompson Fire Department false alarm billing schedule for Gladys Green and Pineview court.
- C. From Council of Small Towns, new procedure for driver's licenses will be going into effect. Applicants will receive a temporary paper driver's license, and then the permanent license will be sent via mail.
- D. From NECCOG, an act concerning municipal finances allowing towns to make adjustments to their budgets after the State budget has passed is still pending.
- E. From Quinebaug Park, there will be a flag dedication ceremony on June 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM.
- F. The ribbon cutting for the new bridge on the airline trail was June 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- G. There will be a reception on June 8<sup>th</sup> for the new art at the library display titled Spring Awakening.
- H. From the Chamber of Commerce, Business After Hours June 20<sup>th</sup> at Creamery Brook Village.

**MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**815 RIVERSIDE DRIVE · NO. GROSVENORDALE, CONNECTICUT 06255**

**TELEPHONE (860) 923-9475 · FAX (860) 923-9897**

- I. From the Department of Transportation, notification that in Fiscal Year 2018, the State plans to pave Route 200 to the MA line. In Fiscal Year 2019, Porter Plain Rd. to the MA line and Route 200 from Riverside Dr. up to the Thompson common.
  - J. A letter was sent to towns that are part of CCM looking for other towns to help with the MERS case that Thompson is involved with.
  - K. PZC gave a favorable recommendation to the Town to give the Thompson Historical Society the Ellen Larned Building.
  - L. S. Herbert asked representatives of two fire departments in the audience if they charge for false alarms. John Sharpe answered that they do not and that this is something new. He stated that most of the time, the alarms at Gladys Green and Pineview Court are not false, and when they are, the person usually doesn't know they were sending an alarm. There was a brief discussion about whether charging for a false alarm is appropriate.
- III. Selectmen's Comments
- A. K. Beausoleil presented the following Selectmen's Comments:
    - 1. The Highway Department will begin chip sealing by the end of the month.
    - 2. A meeting is scheduled for June 14<sup>th</sup> with the DOT to review some troubled areas and intersections.
    - 3. Had a meeting with Melinda Smith, the new superintendent for Thompson Public Schools. She has new ideas and believes in strong communication between the school and Town. S. Herbert stated that he attended the presentation of the two prospects. They both did a great job, and Melinda Smith did an excellent job at presenting her credentials. She was met with a number of people in Town and has some great ideas. He is looking forward to her success.
    - 4. Had a meeting with Charlie Whedon who helped design and build the TEEG building. He offered to install solar panels on the TEEG building, giving them a reduced electricity rate for 15 years. After 15 years, the Town would own the solar panels. He will look into whether or not the Town would have to approve the proposal, or if the BOS can approve it.
    - 5. There will be a Town Meeting regarding the budget on June 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Library, and the Referendum will be June 20<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 8:00 PM. The BOS will meet in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room that night for their regular meeting.
    - 6. High school graduation ceremony will be June 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.
    - 7. K. Beausoleil and S. Herbert attended the Memorial Day celebration at the school on May 31<sup>st</sup>. There was a dedication for Norm Babbitt and his wife spoke for a moment.
- IV. Citizens' Comments
- A. Steve Benoit, Poulin Dr., asked if it is only the housing development that is going to be billed for false alarms. He asked why someone down the road who accidentally pressed their life alert button wouldn't be charged, especially because people press those accidentally all the time.
  - B. Rob Mann, 15 Meadow Dr., stated that if one department is going to charge for false alarms, it should be Town wide. It's basically a Town housing development, so the department is basically going to be charging the Town more. He stated that if one department does it, they all should. He is in support of the Ellen Larned Building being given to the Thompson Historical Society to take the burden off the Town.

- V. Recreation Request to Approve Additional Summer Staff
- A. K. Beausoleil read a letter aloud that was received June 6<sup>th</sup> regarding the hiring of the two life guard positions and summer office clerk position.
- B. **Steve Herbert moved and Ken Beausoleil seconded the motion approve the three individuals.**  
Ken Beausoleil- Yes                      Steve Herbert- Yes  
**The motion carried unanimously.**
- VI. 929 Mill Update
- A. K. Beausoleil stated that the meeting the previous Thursday was well attended. Some articles have gone in the paper and the Town needs to keep the momentum going. The Town is in favor of revitalization and not deconstruction of the mill. There is a petition to sign on the Town's website to show support.
- B. Rob Mann asked if it is normal for the Town to have petitions supporting one side. K. Beausoleil stated that he asked the Town Attorney for an opinion and did not get an answer. The Town is in support of revitalization and is doing everything possible to encourage it.
- C. S. Herbert stated that the website is publicly funded and the petition is taking a stance on one side of the issue. K. Beausoleil stated that he will let the Board know if he hears from the Town Attorney.
- D. Steve Boudreau asked about the status of the Belding Mill. K. Beausoleil stated that Shawn Donahue said they were getting ready to market the property now that the Brownfield Study was completed, but they are going to wait to see what happens with the NECCOG Branding Study first. There was a brief discussion regarding the Branding Study.
- VII. VFIS Fire Study Proposal Discussion and Possible Action
- A. K. Beausoleil stated that VFIS provides the Town's insurance for the volunteer fire departments. He spoke to the Vice President at VFIS regarding a study, and he sent a proposal with a list of references from all over the country. It was a very complete proposal and seems to be in the Town's best interest.
- B. S. Herbert stated that this proposal costs about a third less than the previous proposal the Board was considering, and that the proposal also looks like it may be better. K. Beausoleil stated that the cost difference is because some of the services are already provided by VFIS because the Town does business with them. The cost is \$5,000 and up to \$1,500 of travel reimbursement.
- C. Both Steve Boudreau and John Sharpe stated that they are very impressed with VFIS and enjoy working with them as they are very helpful.
- D. **Steve Herbert moved and Ken Beausoleil seconded the motion to proceed with this proposal up to \$5,000 and \$1,500 travel expenses, subject to satisfactory references.**  
Ken Beausoleil- Yes                      Steve Herbert- Yes  
**The motion carried unanimously.**

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that no bids were received.
- B. S. Herbert stated that it is his understanding that there were a number of inquiries, and some companies were denied access to view the sprinkler system. He stated that information came to him second-hand that some companies were not allowed access by the Library Director, which is very frustrating if it is accurate. He stated that he extends his apologies if he is wrong. He also stated that the Library Director seemed to favor one company, which she proposed to hire that company when this project was presented to the BOS.
- C. K. Beausoleil stated that he is not aware of anyone being turned down to access the sprinkler system. He was certain that one company made arrangements to tour the library with the former custodian and had no problems.

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that there have been proposals for third party purchasing of power that the Town should explore.
- B. There was brief discussion regarding the Building Committee, possible State aid, and the possibility of holding a joint meeting between the BOS, BOF, BOE and Building Committee. There was a consensus to move forward with scheduling the meeting.

A. K. Beausoleil stated that a resignation was received from Mary Poulin, and there was an application from Amy St. Onge to fill the vacancy. Amy St. Onge has been attending meetings and would be a good addition.

B. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to appoint Amy St. Onge to the Housing Authority to fill the vacancy of Mary Poulin, term to expire October 31, 2018.**

Steve Herbert- Yes

XI. Other Business: None

A. Rob Mann, 15 Meadow Dr., asked who would receive the solar credit if solar panels are put on the TEEG roof. K. Beausoleil answered that the credits would go to the builder, but the panels would be installed for free and the rate would be about half their current electric bill.

Steve Herbert- Yes

**The motion carried unanimously.**

- XIV. Adjourn
- A. **Steve Herbert moved and Ken Beausoleil seconded the motion to adjourn.**  
Ken Beausoleil- Yes          Steve Herbert- Yes  
**The motion carried unanimously.**
- B. First Selectman Ken Beausoleil adjourned the meeting at 8:22 PM.

Tina Fox  
Recording Secretary