



TOWN of THOMPSON

Board of Selectmen

**Minutes: Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 16, 2017
Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall**

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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
Shaina Smith (entered at 7:02 PM)
Steve Herbert

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 2, 2017 regular meeting with the following corrections:**

1. Page 2, Section VII(A): "...group of concerned citizens..." rather than "...croup of concerned citizens..."
2. Page 2, Section VII(A): "...from being stored..." rather than "...form being stored..."
3. Page 3, Section VII(B): "...in the country..." rather than "...in the county..."

(S. Smith entered the meeting here at 7:02 PM)

4. Page 4, Section XIII(A)(3): "...did not sign a contract..." rather than "...did not assign a contract..."

Ken Beausoleil- Yes

Shaina Smith- Yes

Steve Herbert- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

B. **Steve Herbert moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the May 2, 2017 special meeting with the following correction:**

1. Should be noted in the minutes that the room the absentee ballots will be counted in should be the Norman Babbitt Veteran's Conference Room.

Ken Beausoleil- Yes

Shaina Smith- Yes

Steve Herbert- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

C. **Steve Herbert moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the May 9, 2017 special meeting as written**

Ken Beausoleil- Yes

Shaina Smith- Yes

Steve Herbert- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

II. Correspondence

- A. Invitation to a conversation on mental health issues from EastCONN.
- B. Coordinated response exercise scheduled for June 24th at 5:30 PM in Norwich.
- C. Letter from DEEP stating that the sewer system evaluation has been reviewed and approved.
- D. Notice of filing final license application with the federal energy regulatory for a hydroelectric plant in Northbridge, MA by Riverdale Power and Electric Company.
- E. Agenda for May 11th from CT Siting Council telecommunications meeting.
- F. Application sent to PZC to approve the proposal for the Town to give the Ellen Larned Building to the Thompson Historical Society.
- G. Invitation to Chamber of Commerce business after hours on May 24th.
- H. Invitation to Evening of Champions hosted by Boy Scouts of America on May 18th.
- I. Jewett City Savings Bank annual report.
- J. Memo from Chair of Board of Directors for NDDH.
- K. Notification from CT Siting Council received May 9th stating that CTEC Solar, LLC petitioned for a ruling for phase 2 and 3 of their solar field.
- L. Latest totals for the discounted prescription program.

III. Selectmen's Comments

- A. S. Smith presented the following Selectmen's Comments:
 - 1. At the previous meeting, the Board looked at an ordinance on banning fracking waste. Since that meeting, the CT House of Representatives passed a permanent ban on fracking, and now the bill will go to the CT Senate.
- B. K. Beausoleil presented the following Selectmen's Comments:
 - 1. The referendum for the budget is May 23rd from Noon to 8:00 PM. K. Beausoleil will be on WINY on May 19th at 9:00 AM along with representatives of the BOE to discuss the budget. There will be an ad in the Shopper's Guide and a story in the Villager regarding the budget.
 - 2. The Highway Department began working on the airline trail, and the ribbon cutting for the new bridge will be in June.
 - 3. The Memorial Day parade will be May 29th starting at Town Hall.
 - 4. There will be an EDC Branding/Identity meeting May 24th at the Library at 6:30 PM.
 - 5. Negotiations have started for the union contract.
 - 6. RFPs for sprinkler system at the Library, as well as IT services and website design for the Town went out.
 - 7. The Tax Collector held a tax sale May 3rd, and most properties were sold.
 - 8. An Interim ZEO, Ann Brown, began working at the end of the previous week.
 - 9. Taped a show with Charter for Town Talk which will air May 19th at 5:30 PM on channel 192, and can be viewed online.
 - 10. The next regular BOS meeting will be at the Old Town Hall.
 - 11. Ada Temple will be in Town Hall May 17th at 11:00 AM to meet with everyone.
 - 12. The Eastern Connecticut Conservation District will be going in front of the Library Board to present a proposal for grant funded work at the Library.
 - 13. The State used to have a program to fund cameras to film Board meetings, but the program was pulled years ago. The cost to purchase the equipment to film meetings would be approximately \$14,000. S. Smith suggested purchasing a camera and uploading the videos to YouTube.

- C. S. Herbert presented the following Selectmen's Comment:
1. The tax sale was a success, but there was some misunderstanding about delinquent properties, and what a reserve is.
 2. S. Herbert asked where the situation with the fire consultant stands. K. Beausoleil stated that he has spoken to a person that dealt with the potential fire study consultant, and he did provide a positive recommendation.
 3. S. Herbert asked about the status of the Building Official. K. Beausoleil stated that he has spoken to the Woodstock First Selectman about sharing one employee for the position, and they are working on putting numbers together on that proposal.
 4. **Shaina Smith moved and Ken Beausoleil seconded the motion to, under Other Business, add "Adventure Camp Staff Request."**
 Ken Beausoleil- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.
 5. **Steve Herbert moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to add "Building Committee Recommendation" to the agenda under Other Business.**
 Ken Beausoleil- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.

IV. Citizens' Comments

- A. David Duquette, 522 Thompson Rd., asked about the location of the bridge on the airline trail. He asked if there are plans to fix the bridge that passes near New Rd. The deck is rotten and there are no rails on it. K. Beausoleil stated that there are no plans for that bridge at the moment and he will talk to the Trails Committee.
- B. Paul Baer, 1227 Thompson Rd., stated that the Town needs an ethics policy and he hopes the Ethics Committee will get going again. The Town changed the conflict of interest ordinance so they could hire someone to do the MS4 permit, which was sleazy. The Town is trying to create a brand but has nothing to offer. Community Fire Department asked for money for equipment and stated they had no money in any accounts, and it was later discovered they had \$85,000 in a savings account. That was fraud. The Fire Advisory Committee went nowhere and did not do their charge. The Town needs to hold people accountable. The former Town Clerk recorded a copy of a deed rather than an original, which is against State law, and the Town refused to fix it. Transferring the Ellen Larned building to the Thompson Historical Society should be a concern because they had a lease requiring them to maintain the building and they didn't. He congratulated the BOF for complying with State statutes. Students at the school have talents and can help with the Town's website, but the Town decided to send out an RFP instead.

V. Proclamation- Ada Temple

- A. S. Smith read the proclamation aloud, proclaiming May 17, 2017 as Ada Temple Day.
- B. **Shaina Smith moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to approve the proclamation as written.**
 Ken Beausoleil- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.

- VI. Community Fire Request to hold Boot Drive
- A. K. Beausoleil read a letter from Community Fire Department aloud, requesting to hold a boot drive at the Transfer Station.
- B. **Steve Herbert moved and Ken Beausoleil seconded the motion to approve the request from Community Fire to hold a boot drive at the Transfer Station May 20, 2017 from 8:00 AM through 2:00 PM.**
- Ken Beausoleil- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes
- The motion carried unanimously.**
- VII. Fort Hill Ag-Grid LLC Solar Project
- A. K. Beausoleil stated that Peter Orr from Fort Hill Farm spoke to him about expanding their farm and incorporating bio-power. They will come to the next BOS meeting to further explain and answer questions.
- B. S. Herbert stated that it looks like they are looking for a letter of intent from the Town to buy their electricity, and suggested passing along the information to the Building Committee.
- C. S. Smith suggested inviting the Building Committee to the next BOS meeting.
- VIII. Canada Day July 1, 2017 Proclamation
- A. K. Beausoleil stated that they received a letter from Ontario, Canada regarding the 150th anniversary of Canada, and the letter is asking to declare a day in name of Canada and approve a proclamation.
- B. S. Herbert stated that the letter is strange. It did not come from a government agency, but rather from two individuals.
- C. No action was taken.
- IX. Zoning Enforcement Officer Interim Ann Brown
- A. K. Beausoleil stated that Ann Brown is filling in as Interim ZEO. She has past experience, and will work a couple days a week. She has worked three days already and feels she has caught up with everything.
- B. S. Smith asked if there was a contract between Ann Brown and the Town and what it stipulates. K. Beausoleil stated that there is a contract and it specifies that her position is at-will employment.
- X. 929 Mill Update
- A. K. Beausoleil stated that there was a site walk on May 9th with CT Trust, DEEP, DECD, and interested developers. There has been interest from developers in developing the property. The prospective developers are going to coordinate with the agencies that attended the site walk. There will be another public informational meeting, tentatively scheduled for June 1st at the Library.
- XI. Road List
- A. K. Beausoleil stated that there is no update.
- B. There was discussion about the lack of update for this agenda item.

XII. Other Business

A. Adventure Camp Staff Request

1. K. Beausoleil stated that one individual was offered a position and declined. Seth Waldron was recommended as a replacement to fill the vacancy.
2. **Steve Herbert moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to approve the summer hire for Adventure Camp.**

Ken Beausoleil- Yes

Shaina Smith- Yes

Steve Herbert- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

B. Building Committee Recommendation

1. K. Beausoleil stated that the Building Committee sent out an RFP for engineering services for upcoming projects. They provided documentation regarding the bids received, but did not provide a detailed comparison.
2. S. Herbert stated that they are asking to choose the bid that cost 50% more.
3. K. Beausoleil stated that more information is needed, and he will speak to the Town Planner about developing an analysis via spreadsheet.

XIII. Citizens' Comments

A. David Duquette, 522 Thompson Rd., stated that he doesn't think any of the

Highway Department workers earn what an outside paving company would charge per hour. CT Paving pays workers \$37.77 an hour for labor. He added that no one working for the Highway Department earns that much money.

B. Paul Baer, Thompson Rd., stated that the Town should be able to tell residents how much it costs per hour to pave roads for employees and equipment. Equipment is depreciating. He stated that government officials aren't the most efficient workers. He asked how the Interim ZEO could be caught up in three days. He asked about sending out RFPs for legal services and accounting services. He expressed hope that the Town is vetting companies they plan to do business with, and added that companies are taking tax dollars from resident and taking the money out of state.

XIV. Tax Refunds

A. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to approve the following tax refunds:**

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | Vault Trust | \$326.04 and \$162.17 |
| 2. | Toyota Motor Credit Corp. | \$177.14 and \$243.66 |
| 3. | JP Morgan Chase Bank NA | \$88.61 |

Ken Beausoleil- Yes

Shaina Smith- Yes

Steve Herbert- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

XV. Adjourn

A. **Steve Herbert moved and Shaina Smith 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 8:38 PM.

Tina Fox
Recording Secretary