



TOWN of THOMPSON

Board of Selectmen

**Minutes: Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 2, 2017
East Thompson Fire Department**

p. 1 of 4

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Present: Ken Beausoleil
Shaina Smith
Steve Herbert

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

- I. Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - A. **Shaina Smith moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the April 18, 2017 regular meeting with the following correction:**
 1. Correct S. Herbert's last name on all motion votes.
Ken Beausoleil- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes**The motion carried unanimously.**
- III. Correspondence
 - A. Chamber of Commerce golf invitational.
 - B. Information from CT Trust pertaining to 915 and 929 Riverside Dr.
 - C. Letter from Peter Vanghel concerning 46 Rawson Ave.
 - D. Proposal from Charlie Whedon to gift solar panels to the TEEG building.
 - E. Annual meeting of the Last Green Valley May 31st in Pomfret.
 - F. EastCONN brochure for employee education programs.
 - G. CT Water monthly newsletter.

Selectmen's Comments

- A. K. Beausoleil presented the following Selectmen's Comments:
 1. The Annual Town Meeting will be May 15th at 7 PM at the Community Center/Library. The referendum will be May 23rd.
 2. Attended a meeting with representatives from Southend Reclaim, LLC. They are still looking toward deconstruction for the 915 and 929 Riverside Dr. There will be a walk-through of the mill on May 9th with various parties and potential developers. S. Smith stated that she is not aware that businesses located in the mill have been notified of a site walk.

- B. S. Smith presented the following Selectmen's Comment:
1. Discussed a training program to empower adults to prevent child sexual abuse, called Darkness to Light. They provide training to individuals who have one-on-one contact with children. She would like to explore the costs associated with the program.
- IV. Citizens' Comments
- A. Don Pimental, 40 Starr Rd., handed out information for the Board to look at regarding the person being considered for the Fire Study.
- B. Wayne O'Brien, 108 Fabyan Rd., stated that he missed what was said about the budget earlier in the meeting. Killingly set their Town Meeting and there is no increase to their budget. He asked how Killingly managed to do that. He stated that Killingly had their Town meeting and it's going to referendum, but he hasn't heard anything about Thompson's proposed budget. K. Beausoleil stated that the proposed mill rate is 28.92, based on estimated numbers from State revenue, and that Killingly made up for decrease in State grants with an increase in their grand list. W. O'Brien asked how much the mill rate has gone up since the last revaluation. He asked where the budget is going, and if the school budget is increasing. The mill rate is what makes people want to come to Town.
- C. Rob Mann, 15 Meadow Dr., stated that the proposed mill rate is 28.82, and for a house valued at \$200,000 and assessed at \$145,000 the proposed mill rate means about \$400.20 more per year.
- V. Recreation Department Request to Approve Summer Staff
- A. Angela Hachey, Recreation Director, stated that from January through March, applications are received, and they reach out to prior staff. Interviews were conducted over April vacation. A point system is used to score candidates. The list of staff presented to the Board was approved by the Recreation Commission. Ten people on the list are returning staff. They keep a counselor to student ratio as close to State licensing standards as possible of 1:10, but the majority of the time they meet 1:8.
- B. **Steve Herbert moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to approve these individuals for hire for the summer recreation program, as presented.**
Ken Beausoleil- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.
- VI. VFW Request to Distribute Poppies at Transfer Station
- A. K. Beausoleil read a letter from the VFW requesting to sell poppies at the Transfer Station and other establishments around Town on May 24th, 25th and 27th.
- B. **Steve Herbert moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to approve the VFW's request to sell poppies May 24th, 25th and 27th.**
Ken Beausoleil- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.
- VII. Conservation Committee Request for Creation of Ordinance re: Fracking Waste
- A. Carolyn Werge stated that she was asked by a group of concerned citizens if the Conservation Commission would be in support of the Town introducing an ordinance to ban fracking waste from being stored in Town. A number of Towns in Connecticut adopted similar ordinances recently. There is a bill going forward at the State level, but it has not passed State legislation yet.

- B. S. Herbert asked why fracking waste was being looked at as opposed to all hazardous waste. C. Werge answered that there is a lot of fracking happening in the county and they are looking for places to get rid of it. She suggested that other types of waste likely already have State laws in place against storing them inappropriately. She also stated that the ordinance is ready as-is, and to include other types of waste would require a lot of research.
- C. Lynn Landry presented more information to the Board. She stated that it is crucial to protect our water and agriculture. She mentioned that this is the exact wording that was passed in fifteen other Towns in Connecticut. She added that there is a degree of urgency with this particular type of waste.
- D. There was some continued discussion with audience participation.
- E. K. Beausoleil stated that he will reach out to the Town Attorney and Ordinance Committee about this, as there was a consensus amongst the Board that this is something to move forward with.

VIII. Historical Society Correspondence re: Ellen Larned Building

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that the process would be to go to Planning and Zoning Commission, and eventually Town Meeting to give the building to the Historical Society. There was a consensus to have the First Selectman present this to PZC at their next meeting.
- B. S. Herbert stated that the proposal needs to be fleshed out, but this is a positive step in general.

IX. Appointment

- A. Inland Wetlands Commission: Diane Chapin
 - 1. K. Beausoleil stated that this was not acted on at the last meeting. He stated that someone has expressed interest in being appointed, and there was nothing compelling to exclude her.
 - 2. S. Smith stated that information was received from the Inland Wetlands department that there is not a conflict with this person being a realtor. She also stated that she would like to look at creating standards for applications going forward.
 - 3. Ron Tillen, IWC member, stated that the Commission desperately needs another member.
 - 4. K. Beausoleil stated that this person was recommended by the Woodstock IWC.
 - 5. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to appoint Diane Chapin to the Inland Wetlands Commission.**
Ken Beausoleil- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.

X. Zoning Enforcement Officer Resignation

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that the ZEO has resigned, and his last day is May 5th. He thanked Alvan Hill for his work with the Town. He is in the process of trying to find an Interim ZEO, and he has reached out to NECCOG.

XI. Safety Committee

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that this is FYI for the Board. This is a required committee but is inactive after being started about six years ago. People have volunteered to join and they are getting ready to have their first meeting.

XII. Road List: No discussion

XIII. Other Business

- A. S. Herbert asked about the Fire Study. K. Beausoleil stated that he sent in the recommendations for the contract and is waiting to hear back.
 - 1. S. Herbert suggested that the Town ask for references from the consultant, and asked if other consultants were considered. K. Beausoleil answered that he went with the consultant that was from the area, and he did see what Don Pimental distributed regarding the company.
 - 2. S. Herbert was worried about the derogatory comments that can be found on the internet regarding this particular firm.
 - 3. S. Smith stated that the Town did not assign a contract with this particular company, and the approval of funds was for the study, not the company.
- B. S. Smith stated that there is a tax sale at Town Hall at 10:00 AM on May 3rd for 15 properties.

XIV. Citizens' Comments

- A. Jim Pimental, 30 Starr Rd., stated that the Town is taking down trees in his area, but not the dead ones. Eversource cut down a tree at his neighbor's that is 75 ft high, and then the Town spent hours removing it from the property, but the tree was healthy. K. Beausoleil explained that the Town has a bucket truck that extends to 50 ft., so Leo Adams requests that Eversource cuts down trees taller than that.
- B. Don Pimental, 40 Starr Rd., stated that he distributed the information regarding the Fire Study because he is alarmed by it. He is trying to protect the Town and the Board, and he suggested that the Board should read every detail.

XV. Tax Refunds

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

1.	Andrea M. Austin	\$60.80
2.	Jayson A. Livingstone	\$29.19
3.	Jayson A. and Gail L. Livingstone	\$80.66
4.	Matthew C. Martel	\$98.74
5.	Walter J. and Heidi M. Grudzien	\$699.36 & \$734.88

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

XVI. 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 8:39 PM.

Tina Fox
Recording Secretary