



# **TOWN of THOMPSON**

## ***Board of Selectmen***

**Minutes: Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, March 21, 2017  
Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall**

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. Approval of Minutes

**Shaina Smith moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the March 7, 2017 regular meeting as written.**

Ken Beausoleil- Yes                      Shaina Smith- Yes      Steve Hebert- Yes

**The motion carried unanimously.**

II. Correspondence

- A. Building Official statistics and information from the Assessor's Office.
- B. Information from Judy Rondeau regarding a project to do rain gardens and storm water tree filters at the Library, which will be funded primarily through a grant program.
- C. CT Water monthly newsletter.
- D. Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board fiscal year ending June 30, 2016 audit.
- E. Connecticut Economic Resource Center reached out to offer their consulting services.
- F. Notification from State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Service and Public Protection that 30 cents per capita will be granted to QVEC on behalf of Thompson.
- G. Two records received by the Town Clerk regarding 929 and 915 Riverside Dr. Riverside Drive Acquisition, LLC entered into a deconstruction agreement. There is a future meeting scheduled with the Attorney and representatives of the LLC in a couple weeks.

III. Selectmen's Comments

- A. K. Herbert presented the following Selectmen's Comments:
  - 1. There was an EDC Branding/Identity meeting the previous night. It was interesting, things are moving forward, and additional meetings will be scheduled.
  - 2. Thanked emergency management and the fire departments for attending to their offices during the snow storm the previous week.

3. Asked K. Beausoleil if he had a chance to explore the fire hydrant issue.
- B. K. Beausoleil presented the following Selectmen's Comment:
1. Students from UCONN will be doing an inventory of businesses in Thompson. The report should be completed by the first week of May.
  2. Met with Mae Flexer the previous day and there is nothing new to report with the State budget.
  3. Attended the Northeast Early Childhood Development meeting, where participation is required by the school superintendent and Town CEO in order to be eligible for a grant.
  4. Attended Charter Communications Advisory meeting. Spectrum has an internet assistance program where people can qualify to receive reduced costs for internet services.
  5. The Vice-President of CT Water spoke with John Sharpe about the hydrant issue. There will be hydrant testing March 22<sup>nd</sup> after school gets out. S. Herbert asked if the contract with CT Water requires that they provide a certain pressure/volume of water. K. Beausoleil stated that he is not aware of a contract with the company.
  6. The Highway Department did a great job during the previous storm.
  7. There will be a joint BOS, BOE, and BOF meeting at 5:30 PM on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Library to discuss the school bus RFP.
  8. Thompson Business Association is holding a Business Expo on March 24<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the Knights of Columbus.
  9. If anyone sees a street light out, please report it to Eversource of the Selectmen's Office.
  10. NECCOG met with the Northwest Hills Council of Government and sent a joint letter to various State politicians. The letter was read aloud.
  11. S. Herbert referred back to Correspondence item G, and stated that the agreement specifically talks about a deconstruction agreement allowing the North Carolina based company to deconstruct basically everything other than the concrete pad that the mill sits on.
- IV. Citizens' Comments
- A. Steve Benoit stated that in 1976, the fire departments had issues with the hydrants. That is over 40 years ago. The same issues are still present today and haven't been resolved.
- B. Don Pimental, 40 Starr Rd., asked if anyone did the math on how the average person will be affected by the 5.5 mill rate increase. Expenses should be cut. He heard someone say that bills have to go out for July, and asked why last year's mill rate cannot be used. K. Beausoleil stated that tax bills have to go out in July because otherwise the Town will have a cash flow problem. D. Pimental stated that the Town has to make cuts. It's not hard to figure out the flow and pressure at hydrants, which has to be done after 40 years of neglect. He asked if anyone looked at the packet of information he provided at the last meeting. He asked how Paul Lenky knew it was done on a particular computer. The packet of information should be addressed. Something has to be done about it because it's been three years and it's wrong. Money was spent on a forgery. Hold people accountable.

- C. Wayne O'Brien, 108 Fabyan Rd., congratulated Town employees for a job well done after the snow storm. He asked why the BOS and BOF do not ask the BOE to give back money they put into their general fund. When the BOE had a presentation in March or April, their special education budget went from 13% to 35%. They hid that money and were told they couldn't do that. The first meeting after the budget was settled, they moved \$214,000 from special education to the general fund, and also took \$110,000 from workers comp and health insurance, and \$50,000 from electrical into the general fund. They padded those lines. He suggested the BOE purchase busses themselves. They said it was a bare-bones budget and they were wrong; they hid money.
  - D. Don Pimental, 40 Starr Rd., stated that he likes that the BOS listens to questions and replies.
  - E. Ramon Jameson, Taylor Rd., asked if citizens get to vote on the bus issue. K. Beausoleil stated that the BOE decides how to exercise their budget. The BOF can make adjustments to their bottom line. The BOS can determine the disposal of the fleet and renting of the highway garage. If the disposal of the fleet needs to go to the BOF and Town Meeting, then there would be a vote for that. R. Jameson stated that the BOE is providing costs for the bussing, and asked why the BOE doesn't already know the costs. K. Beausoleil stated that S. Herbert is working with Neal Breen on getting the numbers.
  - F. Wayne O'Brien, 108 Fabyan Rd., asked if there will be real numbers this time. S. Herbert stated that he is working on the analysis with Neal Breen. It is a complex question. W. O'Brien stated that he does not trust the BOE numbers.
  - G. Rob Mann, 15 Meadow Dr., stated that he hopes that when they do get the numbers, they are compared to the bus RFP to figure out exactly what it costs the school for the items in the RFP, and he hopes they're honest. The RFP does not include a lot of expenses.
- V. NECCOG/Economic Development Commission Identity Branding
- A. No discussion.
- VI. Building Official
- A. The Board briefly discussed options the Town has to move forward with finding a new Building Official. No decision was made at this time. K. Beausoleil stated that he will reach out to Towns to see if they would be interested in sharing a Building Official.
- VII. Fair Housing Resolution
- A. S. Smith read the resolution aloud.
  - B. **Shaina Smith moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to approve the Fair Housing resolution as presented.**  
 Ken Beausoleil- Yes                      Shaina Smith- Yes                      Steve Hebert- Yes  
**The motion carried unanimously.**
- VIII. Appointment: Trails Committee- Brian Loffredo
- A. There was a brief discussion regarding the appointment and the term limit.
  - B. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to appoint Brian Loffredo to the Trails Committee, term indefinite.**  
 Ken Beausoleil- Yes                      Shaina Smith- Yes                      Steve Hebert- Yes  
**The motion carried unanimously.**

- IX. Other Business
- A. S. Smith stated that, with regards to storms and emergency preparedness, there is a priority list in Town that people can fill out an application to be included on for when the power goes out. K. Beausoleil stated that the form is online
- X. Citizens' Comments
- A. Ramon Jameson, Taylor Rd., asked what is happening with the solar project. K. Beausoleil stated that the Building Committee has been entrusted with several projects including solar. R. Jameson stated that he felt that there's nothing in Thompson with alternative energy. He asked what happened to the hydro-plant. He senses resistance in Thompson regarding that kind of technology. S. Smith stated that now that the Building Committee has the project, it should alleviate miscommunication, but the project is starting from square one.
- B. Rob Mann, 15 Meadow Dr., asked if anything is happening with the old Quinn's shirt shop, as it was supposed to turn into apartments. K. Beausoleil stated that the project is still going through whatever process and procedure it needs to.
- C. Don Pimental, 40 Starr Rd., stated that if the mill rate keeps climbing, no one is going to come to Thompson to buy property.
- XI. Tax Refunds
- A. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to approve the following tax refunds:**
- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. C and N Transport, LLC | \$329.40, \$440.94, \$688.77, \$197.53                   |
| Ken Beausoleil- Yes       | Shaina Smith- Yes                      Steve Hebert- Yes |
- The motion carried unanimously.**
- XII. 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 8:27 PM.

Tina Fox  
Recording Secretary