



TOWN of
THOMPSON

Board of Selectmen

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Linda Paradise
TOWN CLERK / Asst

Minutes: Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 19, 2017
Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: Ken Beausoleil
Amy St. Onge
Steve Herbert

Staff Present: Diane Minarik, Recording Secretary

Also Present: Members of the Public

I. Approval of Minutes:

- A. **Steve Herbert moved and Amy St. Onge seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the December 5, 2017 regular meeting with the following corrections:**

III.C. Steve Herbert spoke to **potential Attorneys while at the CCM convention** ~~other towns~~ regarding the search for a new Town Attorney and **suggested they have asked if the proposed agenda could be provided to the members available on** ~~asked if the proposed agenda could be~~ **Thursdays or Fridays before the normal Tuesday meetings so they all could attend to it, modify it as add to it if needed** and Amy St. Onge agreed.

The motion carried unanimously.

- B. **Amy St. Onge moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the December 12, 2017 special meeting as written.**

The motion carried unanimously.

II. Correspondence:

- A. State of CT Project No.0172-0475: paving Rt. 12 between mile points 51.99 - 54.46
B. DESPP November Stats: Troop D Troopers responded to 387 calls in Thompson
C. Quinebaug Valley Senior Citizens Center Inc. hired Linda Lamoureux as new Director
D. Chamber of Commerce Workshop: "Planning for Retirement" on 1/9/18 @7:30am
E. Raymond P. Faucher's resignation letter from the Thompson's Mill Sites Redevelopment Advisory Committee - **Steve Herbert moved and Amy St. Onge seconded the motion to accept it with regret**. Ken Beausoleil agreed and stated Ray has been an asset to that committee.
F. Eversource Storm Report on N.E. Damaging Wind & Rain Event 10/29-10/30/17

III. Selectmen's Comments:

- A. Ken Beausoleil stated:

- He wishes everybody a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
- The next meeting is on Tuesday January 2, 2018 at 7:00pm
- The Transfer Station will be open 12/23/17 and 12/30/17 regular hours
- Snow storms on 12/6/17, 12/15/17 & 12/16/17, the crew did a great job, there were only a few minor mechanical issues
- Guardrails were replaced today at the corner of Murolo Rd and Buckley Hill Rd
- Waste oil furnace at Highway Garage will be rebuilt at a cost of \$6,622.00

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- Hazardous waste day to be scheduled in spring
- Hometown Bank will be working with our Town Attorney to supply deeds to the 3 parcels accepted at our last Town Meeting
- Thompson, Putnam & Killingly are currently working together on new procedures, policies and forms for bingo, raffles and bazars to start on 1/1/18
- Welcome Frank McGarry, the new Deputy Republican Registrar of Voters for the Towns
- Fires Study is moving forward, the report will be written in January 2018, on 12/11/17 the Chiefs were given a 2 week deadline to submit the rest of the requested information and were told the report will be written with or without their information
- Article in 12/15/17 Villager Newspaper, Senator Dick Blumenthal is also promoting the Blain Rd Bridge replacement project
- Towns Bond Rating is now at A1 status per Moody's Report

IV. Citizens' Comments:

- A. Steve Benoit, Emergency Management, has letter to send to Fort Hill Farms regarding Renewable Energy because they have given the Town permission to use their electricity for Charging Station if needed in their area. The Selectmen support the letter
- B. Susan Essics, 356 Ravenelle Rd, stated concerns of bus contract "over runs" and if our buses are sold to keep that money in an account for contract over runs
- C. Roman Jamison, 56 Taylor Rd, stated last Thursday the Stop sign was down on the snowbank and the Taylor Rd street sign was gone and he thought Taylor was back in town and took the street sign again. On Friday morning the Stop sign was gone. On Monday both signs were back up, he thought that was amazing but doesn't know who to thank. Ken Beausoleil said it was knocked down while snow plowing, the guys fixed it and put it back up quickly. Mr. Jamison said he is very impressed with the highway guys. Ken will pass that on to them.

V. Building Committee Update and Appointment of Brian Santos:

John Rice asked for Brian Santos to be appointed to the Building Committee and since there is no set number of members allowed

Ken Beausoleil moved and Amy St. Onge seconded the motion to appoint Brian Santos to the Building Committee, term to end 11/15/20.

The motion carried unanimously.

As of 11/30/17 there is \$10,367.53 left in the budget and they have \$18,572.00 in outstanding bills. The Building Committee recommends continuing to pay CME for the testing required by the state, purchasing necessary filters and notifying Shipman and Goodwin that they won't be able to pay until the town gives them more money. Wayne Bugden of CME is writing a report and recommendation to the state in hopes of minimizing required testing. The estimated worst case scenario cost for further state required testing is \$407,000.00 which does include CME costs and they hope to have a response from the state by end of January. Amy St. Onge asked why Wayne hadn't emailed Tim Baird at DEEP yet and John said Wayne was waiting for approval from the Building Committee which he received.

VI. Appointment: Thompson Housing Authority – John Dalton

Amy St. Onge moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to appoint John Dalton to Thompson Housing Authority to complete the unexpired term of Amy St. Onge, term to expire 10/31/18. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. School Bus RFPs:

BOE met last night and gave the Superintendent the authority to move forward and the Selectmen's involvement would be with the Town Highway Facility.

VIII. Social Media Policy:

Steve Herbert thanked the committee for working on this policy. The Board asked for clarification on a few policy items and to change the Administrators of the policy to Selectmen's office designee and Town Clerk's office designee.

Ken Beausoleil moved and Amy St. Onge seconded the motion to accept this policy with the above recommendations. The motion carried unanimously.

IX. Eversource – Bright Idea Grant: Ken Beausoleil stated

- Eversource has just laid off all employees of the Bright Idea Grant Program so the \$5,000.00 grant that the Town has accumulated over the past few years by saving energy will expire on 12/31/17.
- Both the Town Hall and Highway Garage have had an Energy Audit done.
- The Town Hall Proposal has been approved for \$9,000.00. Eversource will give the Town \$2,000.00 Conservation Incentive to offset this cost. If the \$5K grant is also applied to this proposal, the Town's cost would only be \$2K to change all lighting to energy efficient in the Town Hall.
- The Highway Garage Energy Audit Proposal of changing 27 high-bay lights to LED is \$14,000.00, it hasn't been approved yet but Ken is working on it, Eversource would finance the \$14K over 4 years at \$246.00 a month added to electric bill. If the Town applies the Eversource Conservation Incentive of \$2K and the \$5K Bright Idea Grant to the \$14K the Town's cost would be \$7K with an approximate monthly payment of \$150.00. The Highway Garage is in need of lighting repairs now but due to unforeseen furnace repairs the budget is already overdrawn.

Steve Herbert moved and Ken Beausoleil seconded the motion to adopt the Town Hall Proposal and apply the \$5K Bright Idea Grant towards it to see the energy savings hopefully as projected. Amy St. Onge wishes she had known more about this and is not a fan of the program.

Ken Beausoleil – Yes

Amy St. Onge – No

Steve Herbert- Yes

The motion carried.

X. Executive Session: Director of Public Works & Update on Town Legal Issues

7:55pm - **Ken Beausoleil moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to go into Executive Session with Tim Rice. The motion carried unanimously.**

Tim Rice attended the Executive Session.

9:08pm - The Board of Selectmen returned from Executive Session. No action was taken.

XI. Other Business:

School Bus RFP's: for the Board of Selectmen's records, Kathleen Herbert read the Board of Education's motion from last night's meeting.

I HEREBY MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION ACCEPT THE BUSSING RFP BID SUBMITTED BY DATTCO AND DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS TO INITIATE NEGOTIATIONS WITH DATTCO ON A CONTRACT AS WELL AS TO DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ACT AS A FACILITATOR REGARDING CONTRACTUAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN DATTCO AND THE TOWN.

Ken Beausoleil will facilitate with the Superintendent regarding the Town's Highway Garage contractual discussions with Dattco.

XII. Citizens' Comments: None

XIII. Tax Refunds:

- \$127.70 to Numa Tool
- \$138.88 To Numa Tool
- \$30.07 to Glenn R. & Tammy E. Carlson

XIV. Meeting Adjourned:

**Ken Beausoleil moved and Amy St. Onge seconded the motion to adjourn.
The motion carried unanimously.**

First Selectman Ken Beausoleil adjourned the meeting at 9:12 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Minarik

Recording Secretary