

February 13, 2017

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Special Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 13, 2017
Merrill Seney Community Room
1 PM

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TOWN OF THOMPSON, CT.

2017 FEB 13 PM 3:52
Carol Waldron
TOWN CLERK

Present: Ken Beausoleil, Shaina Smith, Orla McKiernan-Raftery
(Steve Herbert came in at 1:32 PM)

The meeting was called to order by First Selectman Ken Beausoleil at 1:25 PM.

1. Budget Reviews

Leo Adams was unable to present before the board due to the past weekend's snow removal and hours spent cleaning up after the storm; Ken Beausoleil requested we look at the transfer station department first under public works. Ken asked to jump down the agenda for a moment while Orla made copies of the transfer station department budget for Steve to the Marianapolis discussion.

2. Marianapolis Sewer Project Litigation Discussion

It was noted that the hired party has been paid a substantial amount to conduct the work to date. The basic claim is that the contractor feels the project was not engineered correctly and the town should be hiring an attorney as recommended by the town council.

The motion was made by Ken Beausoleil to hire additional council as recommended by town attorney for the litigation on the sewer project; seconded by Steve Herbert.

All in favor?

Ken-Yes

Shaina-Yes

Steve-Yes

Motion Carried.

(continued back to Item 1 on agenda): Budget Reviews-Public Works Budget

The board went back into discussions surrounding the transfer station line items. Under exterminating, the board of selectmen opted to decrease from \$1,000 to \$800; the uniform service and safety shoes was rounded up to \$2,000. The board agreed that it should make sure the town participates in hazardous waste day as was discussed by the previous administration to host every other year. Under Orla's advisement with the total amount needed under the remediation report, the board changed the proposed amount of \$8,000 to \$8,300. Under other supplies, the department has already spent \$2,157 out of the \$1,300 that was approved in FY 16/17; the board increased that line item to \$2,200 based on the spending trend within that line item.

Under cemeteries, the budget remained status quo.

Snow removal department reflected a decrease in \$34,718; as a placeholder the board placed \$42,000 for snow overtime.

Capital Request from Public Works includes a 1 ton dump truck, roller, backhoe, sweeper and pickup truck; totals \$64,800. Currently the town has a 2000 dump truck that needs to be replaced; it's rusted out, engine needs to be replaced and is too costly to repair, according to the report from Leo. The roller amounts to \$120,000; the roller the town has now was

purchased used about 6 or 7 years ago and is worn out, needs transmission. Backhoe would cost about \$180,000 to replace; town has a 1994 case 590 backhoe that is wearing out and is costly to run; something is always breaking. The sweeper is once again in the capital request as the 1984 Elgin sweeper is worn out and difficult to get parts for it. The estimated amount to replace is \$210,000. The pickup truck would replace the 2004 one which is rusted out and is mechanically in bad shape. The dump body is estimated to cost \$39,000 as it would replace the body on the 2000 truck which is still in good shape and in good running order.

3. Building Official Discussion

Ken said having more discussions with Woodstock as we work together currently when someone is on vacation. He saw First Selectman Allan Walker at a recent NECCOG meeting. He is aware that his ZEO is helping us out and there are no issues with it at this point. Ken mentioned to Allan that we may want to combine the Building official as an option and has not had the chance to speak with him yet. Looking at creating a part time position here in town is being looked at with a price tag of about \$35,000 and having an assistant in the building office. The dollar amount seems too high, according to Ken and after discussions with the existing building official the salary could go down to \$25,000 for a part-time building official.

4. Budget Discussion

Orla provided salary estimates and it is a combination of union and non-union so starts at 1.15% and goes up to 3.8%. Ken recommended having a few options provided to the board; go as low as 1 and as high as 2.5%. Shaina asked if we have considered voluntary salary freezes and make that request to the departments for consideration as well. Orla noted that a freeze did take place back in 2010/11. Ken noted that the discussion of the buses up at the school are still ongoing and we have no information regarding the RFP. There were a lot of issues with the buses; 6 put out of service per DMV for failure to maintain records. Discussion may come up, depending on what happens, that because the buses are town-owned and in a town building that we supervise the individual overseeing the fleets.

A motion was made by Steve Herbert to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ken Beausoleil.

All in favor?

Ken-Yes

Shaina-Yes

Steve-Yes

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at

Respectfully Submitted by: Shaina Smith, Selectwoman.