



**TOWN OF THOMPSON**  
**Board of Selectmen**  
**SELECTMEN'S MEETING-Minutes**

Tuesday, October 5, 2021  
Hybrid Meeting – In Person at Town Hall  
and via ZOOM Online Meeting Portal

I. The call to order

II. Approval of Minutes:

**Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the minutes of the BOS 9-21-2021 Regular Meeting and the 9-21-2021 Special Meeting carried unanimously, with two modifications: #IX. ...keep it in mind for the next budget cycle ~~to qualify for additional grants.~~ and #X. ...four Stations already have R1 status (Emergency Responder) and Community is pursuing it now ~~(did not need it when the ambulance service was part of the operation).~~**

III. Correspondence:

A. DESPP - Police Services Report - August 2021

B. United Services, Inc. - Thank You

C. TVCCA - Thank You/request for funding

D. Prescription Services Usage

E. Chamber of Commerce - Business After Hours/Showcase 10-06, Willimantic Elks Club

\*After the agenda was created: Jessica Bolte asked for meeting notices on the new electronic sign

IV. Selectmen Comments:

S. Witkowski: Community Day was well-attended; she praised all groups who worked together

K. Beausoleil: Joe Iamartino was named Volunteer of the Year; the ribbon cutting at the East Thompson Train Wreck site was excellent and filming has begun for the next documentary

A. St Onge: liked the Community Day layout of the vendors and all arrangements

V. Citizen Comments:

-Kim Austin, 1061 Quaddick Town Farm Rd: is disappointed in what happened with ambulance and fire services, calls for involvement by all residents; access to the facts of town fire services is on the website

-Jonathan Grant, 108 Fabyan Road \* Attended meeting last Monday; PZC wants to deny people a basic right. There are already state rules in place. \* Taxes increased again-control is needed-newer homes are now the hardest hit.

VI. Request Building Committee charge HVAC assessment - Discussion and Possible Action: the Superintendent of Schools requests supervision of a HVAC grant; John Rice confirmed that the Building Committee can accommodate this charge, if so requested by the BOS.

**Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to charge the Building Committee with the supervision of the HVAC System upgrade in the Public Schools carried unanimously.**

VII. Ambulance Services - Discussion and Possible Action: Attorney Ken Slater presented the purchased/sale agreement to the Community Fire Department, but they did not accept, noting that two assurances they specified in their proposal were not addressed. K. Beausoleil proposed a face-to-face meeting to work this out. The situation at the Thompson Hill Fire Station, their accommodation of an ambulance and the K/B Ambulance staff was reviewed.

Discussion: possible merger with Putnam EMS. Attorney Ed Higgins, Putnam EMS Chair, reviewed the history of the originally all-volunteer organization up to today, when it employs full-time staff. The 501 (c)3 organization submits an annual budget request to the town and maintains a separate equipment-replacement fund. They would welcome Thompson as a

partner, with the benefits that would fall to each town. The Putnam Board approved moving forward with Thompson, utilizing the expertise of Bob Holdsworth, and a public forum allowed Putnam residents to understand the situation. If agreed upon, the Board would be expanded to include Thompson.

Bob Holdsworth reviewed his firm's 40 years of experience in Ambulance Services consulting. If agreed upon, he will first collect data from both towns, calculating the service areas needs by day/time/personnel required. The Regional study by NECCOG will be updated. He advises against creating a new ambulance services entity, given high start-up costs. It will take 30-45 days to set everything up for a combination of the two town's services; the shared-services agreement will permit representation by Thompson on the Board. K. Beausoleil asked for a presentation to the BOS of NECCOG-style data including revenue by town and then as combined. A. St Onge: estimated costs of this work is \$19,680. Putnam Selectmen approved covering 1/3, Putnam EMS approved covering the second 1/3 and Thompson will decide if to cover the remaining 1/3 which will be under \$7,000. K. Beausoleil: given B. Holdsworth reputation in this specific field, the investment will be well-spent. If approved, B. Holdsworth will meet with the Putnam EMS Board and then proceed expeditiously, reporting back soon.

**Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve 1/3 of the fees for the Holdsworth Group analysis for the future of ambulance services, funds to be taken from the current ambulance stipend budget line item, up to the amount of \$7,000, carried unanimously.**

VIII. Brownfield Grant Opportunity: 929 Riverside Drive - Discussion and Possible Action: by utilizing a grant to address the Brownfields, which is only available to municipalities, the town would support the developers and move the project ahead. The state is approving such public/private partnerships. This \$2M grant would address over ½ of the total costs of cleanup including asbestos removal. Wayne Bugden, environmental consultant, who is present via Zoom, anticipates that the application will be favorably received by the state. Attorney Ken Slater has approved moving forward. W. Bugden will begin the grant application process, then bring it to the BOS to complete and submit. K. Beausoleil: this grant may lead to others as the cleanup progresses. It was the consensus of the BOS to move ahead with the Brownfield grant application.

IX. Appointment:

**Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to appoint Justin Yong to the Building Committee to fill a vacancy through 11-15-2023 carried unanimously.**

X. Other Business: none

XI. Citizens Comments:

-Justin Yong, Fairway Dr \*The three fire departments do have debit service, have put aside funds for future equipment and supply upgrade needs, and have managed their budgets very well. \* Taxes: shall Thompson be a bedroom community or one with industry? New business should be actively courted to locate in Thompson by the EDC Director and elected officials, bolstering the tax base. \* Thanks for the generosity of Thompson Hill Fire Department for offering to house an ambulance while the situation is resolved. A face-to-face discussion would be beneficial in order to put the situation behind us.

-Jonathan Grant, 108 Fabyan RD asks the status of interaction with the community, calling for negotiation and some give-and-take, states the final ambulance decisions should be by voters.

-Shawn Brissette, Lowell Davis Rd: the approach to date has been correct. Negation with Community Fire will necessitate a give-a-little approach. He offered a reference for work needed at the Hill Fire Station and clarified grant funds received by Education over a two-year period.

-Kim Austin, Quaddick Town Farm Rd: clarified that her earlier comment was not specific to a person or group, calling for all involved to work together to resolve the fire department issue.

**XII. Tax Refunds: Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to refund a total of \$787.07 as presented carried unanimously.**

Alves, Gary J.	\$21.69	McCassie, Michelle L.	\$55.09
Clark, James M. & Tanya L.	\$14.15	Naylor, Robert P.	\$385.05
Farrell, Keith A.	\$57.89	Zorola, Israel	\$20.16
Hyundai Lease Titling Trust	\$57.64	Zorola, Israel	\$175.40

Toyota Lease Trust \$38.31

Vault Trust \$393.51

**XIII. Adjourn**

**Adjourn: Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to adjourn at 8:32 PM carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted by Dorothy Durst, Recording Secretary *Dorothy Durst*

To see the meeting, beginning with Bob Holdsworth Article VII, click on this link or copy/paste into your search bar:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/dcPv1bXzKrzkutVFh9iawZdrZpvE2m8mg1N8bmXbWSpxIvGmpF058WxUjcAlvmKp.exW5zFs\\_DxwFucUy](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/dcPv1bXzKrzkutVFh9iawZdrZpvE2m8mg1N8bmXbWSpxIvGmpF058WxUjcAlvmKp.exW5zFs_DxwFucUy) Passcode: GY@e\*&7r

*These minutes have not yet been approved by the Board of Selectmen. Please refer to next month's meeting minutes for approval of and/or amendments to these minutes.*