



TOWN of THOMPSON
Board of Selectmen - Minutes
Tuesday, December 21, 2021
Town Hall: Merrill Seney Community Room
and via ZOOM Online Meeting Portal

- I. Call to Order The call to order by First Selectman Amy St Onge was at 7:01 PM; all Selectmen were present. Roll call: First Selectman Amy St Onge, Selectmen Susanne Witkowski and Ken Beausoleil. Attorney Ken Slater. Many members of the public in person and on Zoom, Recording Secretary Dotti Durst
- II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to re-sequence the agenda, moving Executive Session, Item # VII to become item # IIA, in order to discuss Windham North Properties, carried unanimously.

IIA. Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to enter into Executive Session at 7:03 PM with all three Selectmen and the Town Attorney Ken Slater in attendance carried unanimously.

The BOS exited the Executive Session at 7:23 PM. No action was taken. The Regular BOS meeting resumed.

- III. Approval of Minutes:
Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve the minutes of the 12-7-2021 BOS Meeting carried unanimously
Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the minutes of the 12-15-2021 Special BOS Meeting carried unanimously

- IV. Correspondence
A. TEEG Thank You: Holiday Food/Cash Donations in November and on Election day
B. DESPP Summary of Services November 2021
C. Thompson Taxpayer Alliance: Bill Warner 12-07 Letter-- P & Z resignation timing

- V. Selectmen Comments:
-K. Beausoleil hopes that all citizens will stay safe over the holidays and enjoy family time. See you all next year!
-S. Witkowski requested regular monthly updates on the BOS agenda regarding a). the status of activity regarding the EMS situation. She proposed two citizens to participate in the panel (Crystal Simmonds and Bryan Erickson) and, b). status reports of the grant activity through the EDC and the Planner's office including grants applied for/received, grants applied for/not received and grant applications as they are submitted.
-A St Onge: DPW activity includes reducing time on road surfaces as the weather has cooled, and preparation instead for snow removal; they are two staff members short. The modified Transfer Station holidays hours are on the website. K. Beausoleil added that the priority for the DPW road crews should be road clearing, as safety of the residents is paramount, then resume operation of the Transfer Station. *The town is hosting a holiday luncheon for town staff on Thursday, and she hopes the Selectmen can be in attendance.

- VI. Citizens' Comments:
-William (Bill) Warner, Lowell Davis Road: * hopes the BOS will review the letter sent by the Taxpayer Alliance regarding P & Z activity. * He is concerned about the election audit indicating possible November municipal election irregularities both at the Library and Town Hall voting places. He has followed up on his concerns with State Elections Enforcement.
- Raymond (Ray) Williams, Porter Plain Rd: looked at possible conflicts between local and state laws or Regulations, noting that statute makes it clear that state law prevails. He believes there was an incorrect election decision regarding the Planning and Zoning

Commission election.

A. St Onge noted that the Ordinance and Bylaws are going to the Town Attorney for review, previous to a Monday meeting.

- VII. Executive Session: re-sequenced to become Item # IIA
- VIII. Redistricting/Voting Districts: Review and Discussion of the documents provided by Douglas Larry, NECOG Election Monitor on 12-14 and 12-15-2021, reviewing the re-configuration of voting districts as mandated by Connecticut's Redistricting Commission. D. Lary reviewed the changes put in place by the Redistricting Commission, impacting Thompson primarily in a part of Quinebaug, moving some residents from Senate District 29 to Senate District 35, noting that formal town changes are required to be in place by March 21, 2022. The voting places, which are not the same as the voting Districts, can be modified if desired. The first step needed is a decision by the BOS about how the voting Districts will be re-configured, since the current Districts 2 and 3 will be impacted, and the revision must match the changes put forward by the state, which requires a separate voting District for Senate 35 elections. A. St Onge noted that a formal vote by the BOS and a revision of the Ordinance regarding voting districts will be needed, followed by a town meeting. S. Witkowski expressed belief that Thompson will benefit from a revision in Districts that sets up the newly mandated District for Senate elections and only one other District, with consolidation of all voting places to the Community Room of the Library (thus a total of 2 Districts). K. Beausoleil added that East Thompson Fire Station (voting place) has had water and sewer issues; it may be a good time to consolidate those voters to another location. K. Beausoleil asked about how the state determines District boundaries, with some based on geographical features (streams) and others splitting the residents of a street right down the center line. D. Lary agreed that there is variation, but Districts must be established that reference the newly established state boundaries. D. Lary will work with the Registrars and the Ordinance Review Committee. Time is of the essence, as many towns will need to have the same work done, and the deadline is March 21.
- IX. Other Business: none
- X. Citizen Comments: Steve Herbert, 122 Wilsonville Rd, has reviewed voting data regarding the current Districts as well as tabulating the extra costs to the taxpayers of the current voting situation. He stated that the Library Community Center had been designed to handle voting by the entire town.
- XI. Tax Refunds:
Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to refund a total of \$331.61 as presented carried unanimously. (ACAR Leasing, \$288.22 and CCAC Leasing, \$43.19)
- XII. Adjourn: **Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to adjourn at 8:06 PM carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted by Dorothy Durst, Recording Secretary Dorothy Durst

Note: Due to a technical matter, a Zoom recording is not available for this meeting. The Selectman's Office has an Audio Recording of the meeting.

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.