



**TOWN OF THOMPSON**  
**Board of Selectmen-Minutes**  
**January 18, 2022**  
**Town Hall-Merrill Seney Room**  
**and via Zoom from remote locations**

I. The call to order by Selectman Amy St Onge was at 7:05 PM.

Roll call: First Selectman Amy St Onge, Selectmen Susanne Witkowski, Ken Beausoleil (present via Zoom)

Michelle Giammarinaro (HR Director), Members of the public in person and via Zoom, WINY, Recording Secretary Dotti Durst

II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. BOS Meeting Approval of Minutes:

**Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the minutes of the 01-04-2022 BOS Regular Meeting carried unanimously, with spelling and text modifications:**

**-in Item #7 the spelling of Josh Kusek and adding "... the newly-expanded group of community participants, *Crystal Simon and Bryan Erickson...*"**

**-in #9, the spelling of Orla McKiernan-Raftery**

**-in # 4 spelling of Alvan Hill appointed through 11-18-2025**

B. **Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the minutes of the 01-12-2022 Special BOS meeting carried unanimously**

IV. Correspondence

-Eversource – Electricity this Winter: they advise that supply/demand issues could have an impact

-After the Agenda was prepared: Planning /Development Director Tyra Penn memo 01/14/2022 detailing the Grants applications and the results (Total awarded to date: \$4,175,815) as requested by the BOS. \*A second document detailing the PA 490 zoning revisions being considered was emailed. S. Witkowski requested that the Planner be present at a BOS meeting to review the status of grant applications, either in person or virtually.

V. Selectmen's Comments:

- S. Witkowski: Covid test kits and masks are available through on-line sources

- K. Beausoleil: none

- A. St Onge: none

VI. Citizens' Comments: A. St Onge reviewed the procedure for members of the public, both via Zoom or in person, asking that each person adhere to 3 minutes. Citizens' Comments are on the agenda twice; they are strictly opportunities for comments.

-William (Bill) Warner, Lowell Davis Rd: citing Ordinance and Statute requirements about filling Planning and Zoning Commission vacancies, he called upon the BOS to verify the situation with the town attorney

- Sally White, 308 E. Thompson Rd: asked that deliberation take place when members of the public are present at a meeting; she believes that vigorous debate best informs the public policies and issues. \*\*She noted the PA 490 memo distributed today by the Town Planner, reading it aloud into the record and encouraged the BOS to read aloud any such document, it being in the best interest of the town that the public be informed.

VII. Resignation:

**Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Witkowski to accept the West Thompson Fire-Police resignation of Heather Gauthier- Bourgeois with regret, thanking her for her service to Thompson, carried unanimously.**

VIII. Appointments: Alternates on Planning & Zoning Commission: discussion about procedure- the Democratic Town Committee has submitted a recommendation, but due to the timing of their meeting, the Republican Town Committee recommendation has not yet been received. Given that there is no mandated timeline, the BOS consensus was to take no action at this time.

IX..BOS Budget Review Dates: in early February meetings for department FY 2023 budget requests will be scheduled, each beginning in the afternoon and continuing until early evening, thus allowing public access; the scheduled BOS, BOE and BOF and holiday (town hall closure) dates will not include any extra meetings.

X. Voting Districts: A. St Onge noted that this item is on the agenda to begin healthy debate. The re-drawing of voting districts by the State necessitates town discussion and decisions about the number and locations of voting places/districts. The changes must comply with the State's changes, which moves over 900 voters to Senate District 35, and must be completed by March. The current Ordinance is dated 1981. No revised Ordinance has been drafted, but by the BOS meeting in February it is hoped that a one will be ready for consideration. BOS discussion: the Community Center was constructed with the plan that all voting could take place there, it having been designed with traffic flow, both for vehicle access and egress as well as the movement of voters themselves, in mind. The media will be used to make the public aware that this revision process is underway, and a public forum for discussion can be scheduled. Once a decision is reached that seems the best re-organization of voting places/districts, a Town Meeting will be held.

XI. Other Business: none

XII. Citizens' Comments:

- William (Bill) Warner, Lowell Davis Rd: \*\*requested the BOS to work with the town attorney regarding Planning and Zoning seats. \*\* offered an alternative option as a voting place, which perhaps has space and suitable flow to accommodate the number of voters
- Jane Salci, 19 Green Acres Lane: \* asks about dialogue with a member of the public at a BOS meeting. \* notes that she believes the activities regarding the PZC election and subsequent appointments seem incorrect procedurally. S. Witkowski comments that the BOS meeting activities are governed by FOIA regulations including what transpires during Citizens' Comments.
- Nadine Williams-Edwards, 131 Spicer Rd: there are procedural questions concerning the PZC seats, two months after November 2, which have not been legally resolved
- Larry Guillot, 74 Red Bridge Rd: has experience with Boards interacting with the public at meetings
- Raymond (Ray) Williams, Porter Plain Rd: speaks for resident Max Derosier who could not be present: following up to a letter he received, he does not want to get rid of any of his property near the town garage.
- Sally White, 308 E. Thompson Rd: an exchange of ideas in a public forum is a healthy thing; in the past, she has participated in such dialogue at board meetings
- Jane Salci, 19 Green Acres Lane: in the past there were community roundtables at various locations in town

XIII. Tax Refunds: none

XI. Executive Session:

**Motion S. Witkowski seconded by K. Beausoleil to enter into Executive Session with the 3 members of the BOS and the HR Director at 8:14 PM in order to discuss a. Land Acquisition – North Grosvenordale and b. Interim Finance Director/Treasurer carried unanimously. Executive Session ended at 8:34 PM with no action taken.**

**VX. Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to adjourn at 8:35 PM carried unanimously.**

To see the meeting, click on this link or copy/paste into your search bar:

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/UXL1dD-ncFF4FHLHR4FgDNugAMI9TFZy0rfdQhDJwzvemz8OZURBdDnJlmiB9FWP.TW6jeYauthNZLo0t>**  
**Passcode: e5U5=49b**

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

*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.*