

TOWN OF THOMPSON

Board of Selectmen

SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday, September 1, 2020

Via ZOOM Online Meeting Portal

Minutes

The call to order by First Selectman Amy St Onge was at 7:00 PM.

Roll call: First Selectman Amy St Onge, Selectmen Susanne Witkowski and Ken Beausoleil. Planner Tyra Penn-Gesek, Transfer Station Committee Karen Durlach, Members of the public, Recording Secretary Dotti Durst

A. St Onge noted all Selectmen to be present and that the meeting is being recorded.

I. Approval of Minutes:

Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the minutes of the BOS Meeting of 8-18-2020 carried unanimously

II. Correspondence: none

III. Selectmen Comments:

S. Witkowski thanked all school personnel as well as BOE and many others for making the first day of school a success; they continue to work diligently to refine the process.

K. Beausoleil- the large number of people who brought students to school/picked them up did create a logistical situation, but it is already being addressed. Many volunteers and others were present to cheer the students on.

A. St Onge- September has arrived. She hopes that all residents will stay safe and enjoy the last weekend of summer.

IV. Citizen Comments: none

- V. Transfer Station Fees - Discussion and Possible Action: extended discussion of possible solutions to the current Transfer Station budget situation (over-expended due to higher tipping fees, and an income short-fall by about \$20,000) lead to various fee schedule adjustment considerations. K. Beausoleil- people being at home has resulted in a spike in use of the Transfer Station. K. Durlach- the Transfer Station Committee has reviewed the minutes of the discussion at the previous BOS meeting; questions arose. She confirmed that fees were raised a couple of years ago. The current economic situation is such that the timing of a fee increase should be considered. A. St Onge – read the minutes of the Transfer Station Committee meeting, noting several points. The establish the fee to be ½ of the standard rate, rounded down to the closest \$5 increment. The BOS recognized that currently a ½ year permit excludes obtaining a second permit. Currently a replacement permit/window sticker is \$5.

Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to adjust the Transfer Station Fee Schedule carried unanimously, with the schedule to be modified thusly:

- a full year permit will increase by \$20 from \$100 to \$120
- a half-year permit will increase by \$15 from \$60 to \$75
- the \$5 fee for a replacement sticker will be eliminated
- a ½ year permit will be an option (no exclusions/no reason need be specified) at \$15

- the Senior rate will be ½ of the standard rate, rounded down to the nearest \$5 increment, which keeps them the same as currently; the Ordinance should be so adjusted to include a formula for Senior fees.

- VI. TEEG - Appropriation for HVAC Repairs: In July heat wave, the air handling system at the town-owned TEEG building failed; as an emergency measure, repairs were performed by a firm which has previously worked on that unit. A. St Onge stated that she did not previously include the maintenance work at the building on the BOS agenda, stating that should have happened; it did go to the BOF where the expenditure was approved. TEEG, covered the first \$500.

Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the expenditure of \$1,500 for TEEG repairs to the HVAC carried unanimously. In discussion of the motion, K. Beausoleil commented that the appropriate sequence matters coming before the BOS and BOF, or other agencies, is important, in that we need to be a Board that acts in unison.

- VII. Windham North Property Lien - Discussion and Possible Action: two parcels of land, owned by Centerville Bank, were the topic of discussion at the February 18 BOS Executive Session: **Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to accept a proposal by Centerville Bank to pay a lump sum of \$100,000 to the Town of Thompson in exchange for the release of mortgage Vol 382 on page 58 of the Land Records, the original amount being \$384,000, and to authorize the First Selectman and the Town Attorney to complete the transaction.** Discussion of the motion: K. Beausoleil- both the 49 and 152 acre parcels? A. St Onge- the dam is significantly faulty and in need of repairs; she advocates for moving ahead. K. Beausoleil- thought the 2 parcels had previously been separated because of the dam, and that in February only one parcel was under discussion. **A. St Onge retracted the motion and S. Witkowski retracted the second of the motion.** K. Beausoleil- further discussion and clarity of the matter will be beneficial; perhaps the town attorney should be consulted and perhaps attend an Executive Session regarding this land.

- VIII. Bid Opening - Foundation Repair 65 Main Street: T. Penn-Gesek reviewed the process of upgrading 65 Main Street, with the Community Garden and a Public Park in place. Repairs to the building will in time follow; this proposal is to address one issue. An Invitation to Bid went out and one firm has responded. S. Witkowski- posed a series of questions including about the sequence of activities regarding the parcel. T. Penn-Gesek will provide the requested detailed documents. K. Beausoleil- the town obtained a statement from the town attorney when the re-use of the property came up in the recent past, including the requirements that must be met for the Tourtellotte Trust. The consensus of the BOS is to delay opening the bid that was submitted, awaiting the other requested information, then place the matter on the agenda for the BOS September 15 meeting.

- IX. IX. Request for Appropriation of Funds for Animal Control Program - Discussion and Possible Action: Janice Smith has begun operations of the Animal Control facility. Funds are requested from the assets set aside for this purpose to cover repairs and supplies, as well as electrical work. **Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to ask the BOF to approve the use of up to \$10,000 from the Animal Control Fund during the 20-21 fiscal year for kennel improvements and associated supplies carried unanimously.**

- X. Other Business: none

- XI. Citizens Comments: none

- XII. Tax Refunds:
Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to issue tax refunds totaling \$549.03 carried unanimously.

Amadei, Robert V. \$11.90
Honda Lease Trust \$336.80
Castonguay, John H. and Debra A.
 \$70.94

Prestes, Robert L. and Ellen E. \$93.19
Stevens, Jacquelyn A. \$12.60
Kitka, Barry F. \$23.60

- XIII. Adjourn: Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to adjourn at 7:54 PM carried unanimously.

To hear the entire Zoom Meeting, click on this link or copy/paste it into your Search bar

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/6-pWAJHL0G5JQqvU4xrABbMAR4fKeaa81iUdqfJYmElhjl2kkMF52NHuSgkQ4dGh>
Passcode: 6y*4e2&J

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.