



TOWN OF THOMPSON

Board of Selectmen- Minutes

Tuesday, February 16, 2021
Via ZOOM Online Meeting Portal

I. Call to order: First Selectman Amy St Onge called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with all three Selectmen present via Zoom, noting that the meeting is being recorded.

Roll call: First Selectman Amy St Onge, Selectmen Susanne Witkowski and Ken Beausoleil.

John Rice (PnZ, Building Committee), Members of Boards/Commissions, and the public, WINY,

Recording Secretary Dotti Durst

II. Approval of Minutes:

A. **Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve the 2-02-2021 BOS Regular Meeting Minutes carried unanimously.**

B. **Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the 2-08-2021 BOS Special Meeting Minutes carried unanimously.**

C. **Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the 2-10-2021 BOS Special Meeting Minutes carried unanimously.**

III. Correspondence: Tec Associates: annual Vegetation Management Plan for along the P&W Railroad

IV. Selectmen Comments:

K. Beausoleil—none. The Budget Workshops are going well

S. Witkowski- none

A. St Onge- the mostly-virtual Budget Workshops continue in the Town Hall, and will be followed by a budget proposal review by BOS. This will be followed by public access (Zoom) including on Saturday, February 27 in the daytime; it will be very important for the public to understand the budget proposal and to offer comments. * On February 24, the Town Meeting in hybrid format will take place, with participants at the school in person and others utilizing Zoom. Voting will take place on the proposed Ordinance updates and as well as to again approve the Roofs project (requires a second authorization due to the legal notice timing).

V. Citizen Comments: none

VI. Land Donation to Windham Trust: Attorney Richard Roberts, Town Council for land use matters and Attorney Steve Adams, Council for Windham Land Trust, will suggest language to the BOS.

VII. SBA Cell Phone Tower Lease -the 2006 Town Meeting documents and 2007 contract were provided. K. Beausoleil: a 50-Year lease was signed in 2006, effective 2007. A. St Onge noted the annual Ground Lease income for the parcel where the cell tower is located is \$21,386 plus a 3% annual increase for a total of \$791,000. The tower has 3 tenants, \$11,186 resulting in a total “revenue sharing” of \$413,000. The Cell Tower firm’s letter, with 37 years remaining on the current contract: one proposal is for \$550,000 to buy out the ground lease together with the revenue sharing, while another option is to sell just the ground lease for \$320,000 with the town retaining the revenue sharing income. The BOS does not find either to be proposal appealing. No action was taken.

VIII. UPSEU Union Contract: A. St Onge praised the town staff which have voted on a new contract with a zero % increase in year one, followed by 1.75% and 2.25% in years two and three. K. Beausoleil asked for a definition of an “operator” and A. St Onge clarified. The BOS will review the tentative contract and add it to the Mach 2 agenda; a decision will be needed for the budget-creation process.

IX. CEN (CT Education Network) Internet Service: currently utilized by the schools, the internet bandwidth capabilities are greater than available at the town hall, thus enabling the hybrid-model town meetings which have been organized through the Schools IT department. The town buildings, which already have fiber-optic cables in place, currently use Charter, with which there is currently no contract. The Charter fee is \$700 per month while the CEN fee is \$125, with 1,000 mb compared to Charter's 25 mb. A. St Onge pointed out that CEN is designed for use in schools and thus there may be some filtering of materials which are permitted, but this does not seem to provide an obstacle. The consensus of the BOS is for the First Selectman to move ahead with CEN as the service provider.

X. General Code Company – Codification Services for Thompson's **Code of Ordinances**-- 02-09-2021 proposal: to review, organize, verify compatibility with Statutes, research the history of each Ordinance and prepare a revised document which is more accessible to all users. Town Clerk Renee Waldron has proposed the investigation of this firm's capabilities, encouraging the BOS to see their virtual presentation, to which the BOS agreed. The proposal is for a two-year review period at \$10,000 followed by an update process at \$1,200 annually. Should this be approved, it will most likely be handled as a capital expense over the two-year review period.

XI. Appointment:

Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by A. St Onge to appoint Lynne Comtois to the Thompson Housing Authority for an unexpired term ending 10/31/2023 carried unanimously,

XII. Re-Appointments:

Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by A. St Onge to appoint Thomas Jourdan, Renee Waldron and Stephen Bordua to the Recreation Commission for a term ending 04/14/2024 carried unanimously. Note was made that Mr. Bordua submitted his resignation earlier this month when he moved from Thompson, which was accepted with regret by the BOS. The town attorney has confirmed that, as he remains a property owner in town, he is eligible to serve on an appointed Board or Commission, and is thus re-instated.

XIII. Other Business: a bid for the RFP for the Affordable Housing Plan was hand-delivered to the town hall today. Even though the application period had been extended; this was the only bid.

Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to add an agenda item under Other, Item XIII, to open the bid which came in today for the Affordable Housing Plan carried unanimously.

The bid was opened by A. St Onge; Tyche Planning and Policy Group (215 E. Main St, Vernon) would develop the Affordable Housing Plan for Thompson. This will utilize the Grant of \$15,000 awarded for this purpose. The bid amount was \$15,000. The materials will be sent to the Town Planner for review.

XIV. Citizens' Comments: J. Rice, E. Thompson Rd- supports the Ordinance review process discussed earlier.

XIV. Tax Refunds:

Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the tax refunds as presented for a total of \$1,008.82 carried unanimously.

Wiles, Christopher M.	\$34.02	Denham, Jasmin I.	\$46.64
Syme, Rebecca S./David A.	\$56.24	Gemmill, David	\$531.73
Honda Lease Trust	\$340.19		

XVI. Adjourn **Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to adjourn at 7:31 PM carried unanimously.**

See and hear the entire meeting by clicking on this link

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/2iFo0jVMtOgxcoZsq_LiKrcYgLwX564kB_dr4-e3jYKay3jLw9bEyXmSMIyHQdcs.qAEf-1CCvkGeEhq7 Passcode: #w@SN63i

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.