



# TOWN OF THOMPSON

## Board of Selectmen

### Regular Meeting- Minutes

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Via ZOOM Online Meeting Portal

- I. The call to order by A. St Onge was at 7:00 PM. The meeting was recorded on Zoom.  
Roll call: First Selectman Amy St Onge, Selectmen Susanne Witkowski and Ken Beausoleil.  
Finance Director Orla McKiernan-Raftery, Assessor Paul Hopkins, Recreation Director Lesley Munshower, Members of Boards/Commissions and of the public, Recording Secretary Dotti Durst
- II. Approval of Minutes:  
**Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve the minutes of the 02-23-2021 BOS Special Meeting carried unanimously.**  
**Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the minutes of the 02-25-2021 BOS Special Meeting carried unanimously.**  
**Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the minutes of the 02-27-2021 BOS Special Meeting carried unanimously.**  
**Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the minutes of the 03-02-2021 BOS Regular Meeting carried unanimously.** A. St Onge noted that Agenda item # 8 should state that K. Beausoleil seconded the motion to approve the Natchaug Epic event.
- III. Correspondence  
A. Recreation Commission/Recreation Aide: memo 03/11/2021 from L. Munshower - while the Covid months curtailed activity in the Recreation Department, the activity in the Building Department increased significantly. The Recreation Commission has voted to share the Aide accordingly, with the return to her own department as Recreation programs resume; the line item for payroll will be adjusted accordingly  
B. DESPP - Police Services Report February 2021
- IV. Selectmen Comments: S. Witkowski- none.  
K. Beausoleil \*Recreation and the EDC will hold a "Maker's Fair" May 1. The park should be prepped. \* He inquired if anything further is known about sharing an HR person with the schools.  
\*At the Transfer Station notices have been posted advising residents that if they bring more than 6 bags of household waste, they will need to have the materials weighed. Since not everyone can go each week and since the bags may be of different sizes, there may be an enforcement issue.  
A.St Onge \* Met with staff at the Transfer Station, learning that not all residents are adhering to recycling expectations; the workers can hear cans and bottles clinking as the resident picks up their bags. \* The Transfer Station Advisory Committee, including Lynn Landry, will look into this, perhaps launching a public information initiative, as failure to recycle drives costs up for the townspeople. \* Budget Workshops are scheduled by the BOF for every Thursday in March and April; since they are on Zoom, it is hoped that many residents will attend. \*A special email address has been set up which will direct budget questions to the BOF ([Budget@thompsonct.org](mailto:Budget@thompsonct.org)).  
\* Events and activities: The "Maker's Fair" will be 11-4, Riverside Park, May 1. The East Thompson Volunteer Fire Department announces: the Easter Bunny can be scheduled to drive in front of a resident's home on March 27, late AM: Contact [ksimon@etvfd.org](mailto:ksimon@etvfd.org). \*Roadside ad River cleanup will take place May 29 and into April; it is easy to sign up to volunteer.  
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- V. Citizen Comments: none

- VI. Resignation of David Chaput/ Director of the TWPCA as of April 9 - he was unanimously praised for having performed admirably for 19 years. The elected Water Pollution Collection Authority will seek a new person. Perhaps he could be asked to remain in his position a little longer to facilitate the transition.
- VII. Zero (0) Lillian Avenue – Continued discussion from the previous BOS meeting: K. Beausoleil noted that the 4.2 acres was set aside as Open Space by the PnZ Commission; Recreation should be asked to look into possible uses. A. St Onge has walked the parcel and saw that the conditions which caused concern for the abutter are still problematic.  
**Motion S. Witkowski seconded by A. St Onge to ask the PnZ Commission, to evaluate the site and report back recommendations, carried with K. Beausoleil voting nay.**
- VIII. AG Grid Energy Request to Extend One Year Permit Fee Payment – Discussion of the Fort Hill anaerobic digester, which will generate power, including for the town at a reduction compared to the current rate. A 03/11/2021 memo noted that the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2021 payment (first over a 10-year period) to the town is due, but the operation is not yet functional.  
**Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by A. St Onge to extend the first payment date by one year to the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2022 and through the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2031 carried unanimously, with S. Witkowski noting that further postponements are not possible.**
- IX. Salt Storage Facility – Discussion: One Earth Environmental/Wayne Budgen completed the study of possible effects of road salt storage on groundwater. No data now shows an increase in the salt content of nearby groundwater, but pro-active changes are recommended, such as working with CTWater at RT 200/395. K. Beausoleil- in order to keep our groundwater safe, a contained salt shed is needed.
- X. Fire Fighters Abatement: Proposed Change from Abatement to Exemption – Discussion based on research by Assessor Paul Hopkins (March 11 memo) demonstrated the impact of a conversion from an abatement to an exemption; the total number of dollars of difference to the firefighter may not be much but the exemption would not be taxable income, thus providing savings to all the volunteers. K. Beausoleil this would be similar to how Veterans are handled. Steve Benoit, Emergency Management Director, confirmed that since the Emergency Management staff are also volunteers, they would be eligible. An Ordinance modification would be needed: A. St Onge hopes to add it to the Agenda for the May town meeting. K. Beausoleil- this needs to be in place before the next tax cycle begins; the BOS and BOF will both need to examine the total impact. A public information initiative will be needed to fully inform the voters. The Ordinance draft will not include specific numbers, allowing for flexibility over time. A. St Onge will ask that the draft be prepared and begin to consider how best to provide public information.
- XI. Recreation Summer Camp Buses RFP Opening: one bid was received, from DATTCO/ New Britain, the current provider of bus services in Thompson. The bid, which has many sections with dollar figures, will be reviewed by Recreation for compliance with the bid specs, then published in full.

- XII. Wheaton Brook Culvert Replacement RFP Opening: 11 bids were received/opened. After they have been reviewed by the DPW and J&D Civil Engineering for compliance with the bid requirements, they will be released in full. When a question arose about not reading the bid amounts aloud at the meeting, A. St Onge confirmed that it is not required at the bid opening. Bids were received from:

|                                  |  |   |
|----------------------------------|--|---|
| American Industries, Inc.        |  | 630 Plainfield Rd., Jewett City, CT 06351   |
| B & W Paving & Landscaping, LLC. |  | 70 Foster Rd., Waterford, CT 06385          |
| Jones Construction, LLC.         |  | PO Box 418., Unionville, CT 06085           |
| King Construction, Inc.          |  | 16 Northwood Dr., Bloomfield, CT 06002      |
| Loureiro Contractors, Inc.       |  | 100 Northwest Dr., Plainville, CT 06062     |
| Mattern Construction, Inc.       |  | 26 M. Bushnell Hollow Rd., Baltic, CT 06330 |
| Milton C. Beebe & Sons, Inc.     |  | 12 Beebe Ln., Storrs, CT 06268              |
| New England Infrastructure, Inc. |  | 16 Brent Dr., Hudson, MA 01749              |
| Suchocki & Son, Inc.             |  | 43 Hatchetts Hill Rd., Old Lyme, CT 06371   |
| Tabacco & Son Builders, Inc.     |  | 145 Burlington Ave., Bristol, CT 06010      |
| True Blue Environmental          |  | 5 Northfield Rd., Wallingford, CT 06492     |
|                                  |  |   |

- XIII. Other Business: none

- XIV. Citizens' Comments: none

- XV. Tax Refunds: **Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve the tax refunds as itemized, for a total of \$449.70, carried unanimously.**
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|------------------------------------|-----------------|---|-----------------|
| <b>Gromelski, Thomas R.</b>        | <b>\$4.92</b>   | <b>Reynolds, Kathryn L.</b>             | <b>\$122.19</b> |
| <b>Hyundai Lease Titling Trust</b> | <b>\$216.62</b> | <b>Yurkevicius, Christine L/John A.</b> |                 |
| <b>Salisbury, Michael C.</b>       | <b>\$20.39</b>  | <b>\$85.58</b>                          |                 |

- XVI. Adjourn:  
**Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to adjourn at 8:08 PM carried unanimously.**

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

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/rs3NcLPKHDxXkYvRlmQQ-qHrLiqP8WftLXNKZhrGbT5QEmoDbwddLA\\_CiXvzyCeU.UkMJ550k5o1VWfFW](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/rs3NcLPKHDxXkYvRlmQQ-qHrLiqP8WftLXNKZhrGbT5QEmoDbwddLA_CiXvzyCeU.UkMJ550k5o1VWfFW)

Passcode: Z@4\*uYb\$

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.*