



TOWN OF THOMPSON
Board of Selectmen
SELECTMEN'S MEETING-Minutes
Tuesday, April 20, 2021
Via ZOOM Online Meeting Portal

I. The call to order by A. St Onge was at 7:01 PM with all members present; recording via Zoom
Roll call: First Selectman Amy St Onge, Selectmen Susanne Witkowski and Ken Beausoleil.
Tyra Penn-Gesek (Town Planner), John Rice (PnZ, Building Committee). 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 4-06-2021 BOS Meeting carried unanimously.

III. Correspondence

- A. Chamber of Commerce-Virtual Coffee 04/27 DOT Commissioner re: Bridges, other plans
- B. TEEG - Food Program Thank You for packaged food collected at the Town Hall

IV. Selectmen Comments:

-K. Beausoleil: details for use of the new Covid Relief funds? A. St Onge -not yet from OPM
-S. Witkowski: thanked the BOF for their work last week, proposing a budget and mil rate to the BOS
-A. St Onge: The Norwich Bulletin Legal Notice for the May 3 Town Meeting is being prepared.
* The Makers Fair on May 1 will include the Pop-Up Shop (or 2!) at Riverside Park. * Resident Jason St Onge has volunteered at the Animal Control facility, cleaning and handling upkeep; he is a strong proponent. Thank you. There are 2 dogs there awaiting adoption. * The Memorial Day Parade, May 31, will be different due to Covid, but attempts are underway to make it fun. Students are making giant poppies. * The DPW Director has negotiated a pause in CT-DPOT's resurfacing of Rt 12 until after the new sidewalks are installed. * K. Beausoleil: is CT Water cooperating? Yes, sequencing is planned.

V. Citizens' Comments: none

VI. New Electronic Sign at Town Hall - Discussion and Possible Action: A two-sided 3' X 6" electronic changeable message sign, designed by Graphics Unlimited, Putnam. The proposal includes a detailed plan, construction, and installation for \$27,067. The Town assumes responsibility for power to the sign and for connections. Detailed discussion of the previous years' encumbering of funds and of this FY's funds by the EDC to Graphics Unlimited ensued; the balance remaining is less than \$10,000.

Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by A. St Onge to waive the bid process on the changeable electronic sign in favor of Graphics Unlimited carried 2-1 with S. Witkowski voting nay.

Further discussion took place of the electrical work, and possible sources of the additional funds:

Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to move forward with the electronic sign with Graphics Unlimited utilizing remaining CARES Act Covid Relief funds (Communications) and to handle the electrical work carried 2-1 with S. Witkowski voting nay.

VII. Appointments:

Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to re-appoint Orla McKiernan-Raftery as the Northeast CT District Department of Health Representative, assuming there to be no conflicts, and Delpha Very to the NEDDDH as Alternate through June 5, 2024 carried unanimously.

VIII. Fire Fighters Exemption Ordinance: The BOS reviewed the documentation provided by the Town Assessor regarding the minimal impact on conversion from a Tax Abatement (currently taxable income, at a maximum of \$1,500) to a Tax Exemption for volunteer Fire Department personnel; they agreed that the Department of Emergency Management staff will qualify as well.

Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to move to the Town Meeting of May 3 the

proposal that the Call to Meeting be modified to provide for the amended Ordinance for an annual Tax Exemption for volunteer personnel at the Five Fire Departments (Community, East Thompson, Quinebaug, Thompson Hill and West Thompson,) and the Emergency Management department carried unanimously.

IX. Conveyance of 7 Parcels of Land to Wyndham Land Trust: After referral to the BOS by the Conservation Commission, then from the BOS to the Planning and Zoning Commission -- following legal review and confirmation that the language in the original Trust will be met by the Land Trust, the PnZ recommendations that all 7 parcels be donated to the Windham Land Trust.

Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to add to the business to come before the Town Meeting the conveyance of 7 parcels of land on Bull Hill to The Windham Land Trust carried unanimously.

X. Bid Award Recommendations: 1). Under 20' Bridge Inspections 2). Buckley Hill Road Preliminary Bridge Design. J&D Civil Engineers and Rich Benoit (Director/DPW) reviewed the bids and recommend WMC Engineering based on recommendations, experience and relationship-building.

Motion S. Witkowski seconded by K. Beausoleil to award both the Buckley Hill Road and the Under-20-foot Bridge Inspection contracts to WMC Engineering, Newington, as recommended, carried unanimously.

XI. Discuss and Take Action on Legal Notice of Annual Town Meeting and Referendum: The Legal Notice final draft is being prepared, including additions/modifications approved at this meeting.

Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to move forward with the Legal Notice with modifications as approved at this meeting for the Town Meeting on May 3 and the Referendum on May 17, per Ordinance 10-019, carried unanimously.

XII. Other Business:

Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to add an agenda item under *Item XII, Other: Discussion of and possible action on General Code Codification Services* carried unanimously.

Town Clerk Renee Waldron strongly advocates for the proposed update to the town Ordinances; she has about \$5,300 in grant funds that could be applied to the \$9,500 two-year project. All members of the BOS agreed that the project is important. A. St Onge will follow up on possible sources of funding.

XIII. Citizens' Comments:

-A. St Onge: last night the Governor extended Executive Orders for in-person meetings until May 20.

-J. Rice asked who will keep the content of the new sign current. T. Penn-Gesek confirmed that it will be programmed remotely; many Departments will be able to upload content, as the sign can rotate through several messages. T. Penn-Gesek was asked to confirm that the software and appropriate technology is included in the price quotation.

XIV. Tax Refunds: none

XV. Motion to adjourn at 7:57 PM by A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski carried unanimously.

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

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/WmHZz6eeTsfs5ZDVPsbaZds1I9qXMBISkgkb0_3LZMkKeKsKlimwGrseE3R2qVF.EldfW5nlKOIF6skn
Passcode: f69FT+2*

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.