



# TOWN OF THOMPSON

## Board of Selectmen

### SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday, October 20, 2020

Via Zoom

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The call to order by First Selectman Amy St Onge was at 7:00 PM in the Schools Auditorium. Roll Call: First Selectman Amy St Onge, Selectmen Susanne Witkowski and Ken Beausoleil. Karen Durlach (Chair, Trails Committee), John Rice (Building Committee, PnZ), Kathleen Herbert (Chair, BOE), Paul Hopkins (Assessor), Robert Nordman, Carolina Werge (Conservation), Members of the Public, Recording Secretary Dotti Durst

I. Approval of Minutes:

**Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the minutes of the 10-06-2020 BOS meeting carried unanimously.** Note: the meeting was held in the Schools auditorium with the public participating via Zoom.

**Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the minutes of the Special BOS meeting of 10-14-2020 carried unanimously.**

II. Correspondence

A. TVCCA - Thank You

B. DESPP Police Services Report

III. Selectmen Comments:

K. Beausoleil- called upon everyone to exercise the right to vote, reminding that the November BOS first meeting of the month has been scheduled for Wednesday, 11-04. Regarding the CT Water agenda item at the BOF meeting last week- the BOS should have been advised in advance.  
S. Witkowski- none

A. St Onge-Halloween will be different but fun this year, taking place at the Speedway, 4-6 PM. The Congregational Church, Fire Departments and Recreation have invited organizations and businesses to sign up, then to decorate and dress up and to help make this a memorable event.

IV. Citizen Comments: none

V. Meeting Schedule: Meetings will be on the customary 1st and 3rd Tuesdays except on Election Day  
**Motion S. Witkowski seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve the 2021 BOS meeting schedule as presented carried unanimously.**

VI. Appointments: The Assessor has to be both appointed and hired

**Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to appoint Paul Hopkins as Assessor for an indefinite term carried unanimously.**

VII. Two New Hires: K. Beausoleil reviewed applications, and offered a comment to Director R. Benoit  
**Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Witkowski to accept the hiring committee's recommendations to appoint Alan Rivers and Richard Gregory as Public Works Maintainers carried unanimously.**

VIII. VFW Request to Distribute poppies at Transfer Station Nov 11-14, 2020; Commander Elmer Preston noted this usually takes place Memorial Day, but Veteran's Day week will be used instead.  
**Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve the Poppy Sale as presented carried unanimously.**

- IX. School Roof Project-Open bid: A. St Onge stated that 5 bids came in. Per FOIA, the bid amounts need not be read; the details in each bid must be compared with the bid requirements, and this is done by the Building Committee. As the BOS began to open and read the bids, Robert Nordman (address not given) interjected the statement that he believes that the BOS must read the bid amounts, as this is a formal, legal bid opening and it is for a State-funded project. The Selectmen repeated that the bids need not be read aloud at this time, for the reason stated, and moved ahead. The bid amounts were subsequently read aloud (see below, Item XII).

The bids, in the sequence in which they were opened:

Silktown Roofing (Manchester)- \$1,836,000

Imperial Company Restoration Contractor, Inc (Cromwell) - \$1,855,000

Young Developers (Hamden) - \$1,982,000

Commercial Roofing and Contracting (Putnam)-\$2,268,000

Greenwood Industries, Inc (Worcester, MA)- \$1,944,000

J. Rice confirmed that the Building Committee will meet the next day to review the bids to be certain they meet the required specifications, sending it to consulting engineers Tighe and Bond.

- X. Disposition of Town Property Woodland Avenue - Discussion and Possible Action: parcel history work by Cindy Dunne and a site walk confirmed wetlands to be on the parcels under discussion. Learning this, Joyce and John Hoyer withdrew their interest. No action taken.

- XI. Disposition of town Property - South Shore Rd: David Blake will investigate how to acquire an "unclaimed parcel" which abuts his, the ownership of which is unclear. No action taken.

- XII. Land Donation to Windham Trust - Discussion and Possible Action:

\*\*Robert Nordman interjected again the statement that the School Roofing bid amounts need to be read at this time and cited an unnamed person on his phone who so claimed. Not wanting to take time from the meeting to retrieve the document the BOS has received advising otherwise and read it into the record, the consensus was to circle back to agenda item IX, Bid Opening, and add the bid amounts; the bids will next be reviewed for completeness by the Building Committee.

Windham Land Trust: Several parcels of land are involved. Extended discussion took place; C. Werge (Conservation Commission) recommends that the terms of the transfer include that the parcels would be used exclusively for Conservation, and that a Reversion Clause be included in case something happens in the future. She also posed a possible topic of negotiation with the Windham Land Trust, given that adjacent town-owned parcels where soccer fields are located are wet. K. Beausoleil- agrees the recreation fields do contribute to Open Space and meet Conservation goals. He asked if the transfer should be reviewed by the Town Attorney: should the land go out to bid before it can be donated, and is a swap of acreage is permitted if a donation takes place. He notes it will be sent to Planning and Zoning. No action taken.

- XIII. Revised Ordinances – Discussion and Possible: Of the several Ordinance proposals, some modifications are essentially "housekeeping" to perfect statutory references or verbiage corrections (Veteran's Tax Exemptions, Transfer Station, Driveways) and should move forward. The text of the Driveway Ordinance needs to be checked to verify the inclusion of the mandate for a bond for new installations. Possible Blight Ordinance: the draft, researched by Planner T. Penn-Gesek, will need further consideration before moving ahead. K. Beausoleil proposed that the failed 2015 Blight Ordinance be compared to the current proposal, to determine if there are the same provisions that caused defeat at that time. S. Witkowski will look into a State Blight Ordinance. A. St Onge- this is an inopportune time, with the Covid active, to ask townspeople to address this matter. K. Beausoleil- various town staff already handle some aspects of what could be considered blight. The Proposed Referendum Ordinance, regarding changing the way the BOF addresses the budget after either the General Government or the Education budget fails at referendum was discussed extensively. Reference was made to comments by BOF members at their 10-15-2020 meeting, as well by the BOE at theirs. The split budget format, begun in 1997, is being utilized in 43 towns of

the 169. Reaching consensus, the BOS will ask the Ordinance Committee to create a draft Ordinance which re-combines the budgets. This agenda item will appear again November 4.

- XIV. Other Business: **Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to add an agenda item *Potential Land Donation* carried unanimously.**  
**Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to add an agenda item *Potential November 24 Town Meeting* carried unanimously.**

a. Allan and Kathy Rawson offered a land donation to address a safety concern at a sharp curve at 361 Quaddick Town Farm Road; the Highway Department could then modify the curve for safety purposes. The concept would need a PnZ 8-24 Municipal activity review, then a town meeting.

**Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by A. St Onge to send to Planning and Zoning the recommendation that the town accept the two parcels as presented carried unanimously.**

b. Possible town meeting November 24 at the Schools auditorium combined with Zoom: Superintendent Melinda Smith has worked out use of the auditorium for about 100 people (of the about 600 seats). Topics which need a town meeting: 1). Short-term funding for Schools roof, awaiting reimbursement 2). Marianapolis litigation approved by the BOF for \$200,000 3). And possibly discussion of the three Ready-To-Go Ordinance revisions. K. Beausoleil noted that the Tax Abatement for Fire Fighters needs to be updated; the Ordinance Committee should be asked; a draft Legal Notice can be prepared once these issues are ready. No action taken.

- XV. Citizens' Comments: K. Herbert reminded the BOS that the BOE did look at the proposed budget Ordinance; they support bringing back a unified budget.

- XVI. Tax Refunds:  
**Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the tax refunds as listed totaling \$241.41 carried unanimously.**

Leake, Maria C.	\$5.43		
Cahill, Thomas M.	\$14.16	Polletta, Pamela J.	\$53.33
Cahill, Thomas M.	\$52.00	Cahill, Thomas M. & Paula M.	\$64.86
Bonzek, Kathryn L.	\$51.63		

- XVII. Adjourn:  
**Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Witkowski to adjourn at 8:17 PM carried unanimously.**

**See/hear the meeting on Zoom:** Click on the link or Copy and Paste to your Search bar:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GkKJR2qkRAg>

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.*