



TOWN OF THOMPSON

Board of Selectmen

SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Via ZOOM Online Meeting Portal

First Selectman Amy St Onge called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM with all three Selectmen present in the School auditorium. The meeting is being recorded.

Roll call: First Selectman Amy St Onge, Selectmen Susanne Witkowski and Ken Beausoleil. Town Planner Tyra Penn-Gesek, MSRAC (Mill Site Redevelopment) Chair Janet Blanchette, John Rice (PnZ, Building Committee), Rich Benoit (Director, DPW), Bruce Woodis (KWP-Engineering & Surveying), Candice Merrick, IT Tech from the Schools, Members of Boards/Commissions, and of the public, Recording Secretary Dotti Durst

- I. Approval of Minutes:
Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the BOS Regular Meeting Minutes of 11-04-2020 carried unanimously.
- II. Correspondence:
A. DESPP Police Services Report
- III. Selectmen Comments:
K. Beausoleil * The matter of property on Quaddick Town Farm Road, which is now scheduled for the Town Meeting, did not come before the BOS, and he asked if it came before the PnZ Commission subsequent to last October. It will need to be presented to the public. A. St Onge-we will need to verify in the records. S. Witkowski- even if it did come up, it may be a good idea to bring it back. * MSRAC meeting update? A. St Onge- John Gumpert, who will be revitalizing the mill, anticipates a 2022 groundbreaking for the construction, which will be phased in over several years. * Update regarding the situation with dams? A. St Onge- this week the BOF will address funding for the initial Langer Pond boundary survey.
S. Witkowski-none
A. St Onge * A re-launch of the Animal Control facility is planned for December 1; she praised and thanked several people who have been instrumental in moving the process forward.
S. Witkowski suggested publicity, maybe a ribbon-cutting, even a Spring open house.
K. Beausoleil- yes, maybe a video can be created now and posted.
* It is important for the public to know about a new Town Hall policy for those who enter the building. In the department being visited, a log book for sign-in and sign-out, by time, will assist in contact tracing should it be required.
* All members of the public are encouraged to please stay home. Don't come into town buildings if any symptoms are experienced, in order to help protect the public and town employees.
- IV. Citizen Comments: John Rice, 39 E. Thompson Rd- asks the BOS members to be mindful of the position of the microphones they are using, as sound volume is fluctuating.
- V. Eastern CT Land Bank Presentation - Discussion and Possible Action: Town Planner T. Penn-Gesek and MSRAC Chair J. Blanchette reviewed the history of the Land Bank, its role in land reclamation and a way Thompson could possibly utilize the agency to address the situation of the Belding parcel which awaits rehabilitation. A PowerPoint presentation explaining the Land Bank will be posted on the MSRAC webpage. The Land Bank seeks to partner with municipalities

regarding a parcel of land which has come under municipal ownership, perhaps due to a tax delinquency or other reasons. It takes title to the parcel, does the remediation work and puts the parcel back on the market, thus self-funding much of its work. The BOS can check with a tax attorney to determine if the Belding or other projects could be eligible, then build support for the project along with Planning and Zoning and other agencies/entities which will come forward to support the initiative. Further research will take place, then the BOS will determine if they want to support bringing the project to the Land Bank; no action taken.

- VI. Finance: Budget Transfers – Discussion/Possible Action:
Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Witkowski to ask the BOF to make the end of the Fiscal Year budget transfers, as identified by the Finance Director, carried unanimously.
- VII. Road Work Permit Plum Rd - Discussion and Possible Action: B. Willis reviewed a letter sent to the BOS from KWP regarding the necessity for the property owner of a parcel on Plum Road to improve the town road to the point at which his residential driveway would begin, as is required by the town's Subdivision Regulations. The process: discussion comes to the BOS, which refers the matter to PnZ which sends a recommendation for action to the BOS. R. Benoit- toured the site and has no concerns. S. Witkowski asked if this approval would be for one house lot; B. Willis-that was the intent; the owner has now purchased an adjacent parcel.
Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Witkowski to refer the request for the road work permit on Plum Road to the PnZ Commission carried unanimously. B. Willis inquired for the property owner if the remainder of Plum Road could be discontinued by the town, as when he purchased the parcel, he wanted to have a private location at the end of a dead-end road. The BOS consensus: this question would require a separate agenda item at a future meeting.
- VIII. Dept. of Public Works: Disposition of Miscellaneous Equipment - Discussion and Possible Action: R. Benoit reviewed the pieces of town road equipment which are not in service and/or no longer appropriate for town use; he is proposing the pieces go to auction. From the income derived from that process, it would be ideal if the town would permit the funds to be used by the DPW to solve a recent problem, of dumpster stations which pose a safety risk and which need immediate replacement. A. St Onge praised R. Benoit for taking the initiative with the removal of extra equipment from the DPW, noting that there is no ordinance covering the disposition of a town department's property and the disposition of those funds. K. Beausoleil- although of course customarily these funds would go to the general fund, it is appropriate to send the question of utilization of these funds, by the DPW itself, to the BOF. S. Witkowski-applauds the effort by R. Benoit and suggests a complete proposal be drawn up for the BOF, indicating projected auction income and proposed utilization thereof, helping support the DPW from within without the need for asking for an extra budget allotment.
Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Witkowski to allow the DPW to dispose of extra miscellaneous equipment at auction carried unanimously.
- IX. Resignation: K. Beausoleil noted the years of service by John Sharpe which enhanced the function of the Economic Development Commission.
Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to regretfully accept the resignation of John Sharpe from the Economic Development Commission carried unanimously.
- X. Appointment:
Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to appoint Peter Faucher to the Community Fire Police Commission through 11-16-2021 carried unanimously.
- XI. Re-Appointment:
Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to reappoint members of the following Boards and Commissions, as listed, carried unanimously.
Agriculture Commission - Kies Orr through 8-01-2025

Building Committee through 11-15-2023

**John J. Rice
Laurence C. Consiglio Jr.
Jonathan Hoenig
Francis N. Langlois**

**David Poplawski
Paul Provost
Brian S. Santos
William Witkowski**

Housing Authority - Matilda Deotte and James Sali through 10-31-2025

Recreation Commission - Wayne K. Barber and Robbie L. L'Heureux through 4-15-2023

XII. Other Business: none

XIII. Citizens Comments: none

XIV. Tax Refunds:

Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve the Tax Refund to Gaone, Tracylee D. and Joseph M. II totaling \$72.15, carried unanimously.

**** A. St Onge:** Members of the public and all who attended this meeting were invited to remain on-line as the IT department at the Thompson Schools test the system, in preparation for a hybrid-model Town Meeting on November 24, in which some members of the public will be in the audience while others will attend via Zoom.

XV. Adjourn:

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

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

<https://youtu.be/zojrnRhIKSQ>

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.