



# TOWN OF THOMPSON

## SELECTMEN'S MEETING - Minutes

Tuesday, August 3, 2021

Hybrid Meeting-Town Hall and Zoom

- I. The call to order by First Selectman Amy St Onge was at 7:01 PM in the Town Hall, with all three selectmen present. Members of the public were present as well as logged in via Zoom. A. St Onge reviewed the protocols for public participation.  
Roll call: First Selectman Amy St Onge, Selectmen Susanne Witkowski and Ken Beausoleil.  
Others: Anne Miller (Director, TEEG), Renee Waldron, John Rice, Tyra Penn (Town Planner), John Sharpe (Chief, Community Fire). 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 07-20-2021 BOS meeting minutes carried unanimously.**
- III. Correspondence:
  - A. DESPP - Police Services Report – June 2021
  - B. Thompson Community Day – Saturday 10/02, Riverside Park
  - C. Today: Business After Hours at Taylor Brooke Brewery, hosted by Christopher Heights, on August 17
- IV. Selectmen Comments:  
K. Beausoleil - the first outdoor concert worked out well; people were seeking shade around the perimeter.  
A. St Onge \* The Wheaton Brook culvert project will cause road closure through mid-August. \* Thanks to the EDC, the new changeable sign is installed; staff will become familiar with posting new messages frequently.  
\* Rivermill Developer John Gumpert and Fire Marshal Jamie Seney reviewed several safety measures especially in the structure's unoccupied areas. J. Seney will work with The Community Fire Department to consider temporarily placing fire and EMS equipment at the site. \* The film premiere of the history of the Ramsdell train, *The Nine Lives of No. 9*, takes place August 14 with 2 shows; there is no charge. Reservations are required.
- V. Citizens' Comments:  
\*Renee Waldron, 79 Main St- praised the two summer concerts, noting a road-noise reduction on Sunday. The Town-Wide Yard Sale is this Saturday, with maps available.  
\* John Rice, 39 E. Thompson Rd- the new sign outside the Town Hall is a major improvement. Remember the Train Exhibit at the Museum, inside Tourtellotte High School, will be open parallel to the movie premiere. An elevator is available for those who need it.
- VI. Appointment:  
**Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to appoint Steven Houghton to the Transfer Station Advisory Committee through 11-16-2021 carried unanimously.**
- VII. New Position: Events Intern – An Events Coordinator Intern, reporting to the Recreation Director and First Selectman, is proposed, utilizing current EDC funds (about \$4,000). It would become a permanent position, and thus included in the budget proposal for the next fiscal year.  
**Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve that the EDC add an Events Coordinator Intern position, pending approval by the BOF, carried unanimously.**
- VIII. New Hires:  
**Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by A. St Onge to appoint Dan Malo as Conservation Agent beginning August 16 carried unanimously.**  
**Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by A. St Onge to hire Heather Gauthier-Bourgeois as Recording Secretary (Recreation & Economic Development Commissions), to begin work mid-August, carried unanimously.**
- IX. Discussion on use of ARPA funds: individuals who serve on the BOF were invited tonight; Steve Herbert and Rob Werge are present. On August 18, there will be a Public Engagement event, open to all; at the BOS August 17 meeting the options will be reviewed and possibly refined. The 7 Categories of the uses of the American Rescue Plan funds were reviewed, with a brief note about some possible projects which meet guidelines for each.

- \* Justin Yong, 12 Fairway Dr- suggests a review of EMS services and of consideration for bringing it under town jurisdiction, combining the location with other safety and security services. A. St Onge commented about possibly creating a mixed-use Public Safety facility. J. Yong has created a document outlining his vision.
- \* Anne Miller, Director/TEEG- reviewed their town-owned building as a possible site for some Public Safety measures. She identified a possible new part-time staff position that would comply with student services guidelines specified in the ARPA and enumerated after-school supports for families with deep anxiety due to ramifications of Covid 19.
- \* Rob Werge, 452 Lowell Davis Rd- reviewed the importance of the process; long-term financial impacts associated with the projects must be considered. Perhaps over-weigh those which serve more citizens.
- \* T. Penn- the Public Engagement event will help determine Community priorities; A. St Onge praised the work the Planner has done on the project to date as well as looking ahead to the community event.
- \* K. Beausoleil- we should plan as though the \$2.7M were not there for the projects we need to do anyway, and instead use the funds for greatest impact especially as related to Covid 19.
- \* S. Witkowski- it is important to stress: adhere fully to the specifics of each of the 7 guidelines.
- \* John Sharpe, Floral Ave – Statute requires Ambulance services by each town; our EMS is independently owned, serving for 50-60 years. Costs are so high; billing does not cover expenses and the \$75K in the town budget is required.
- \* J. Yong – agreed: town service needs have diminished over the past several years.
- \* Merrill Seney, 4 Johnson St- as President of Community Fire, sees a dwindling number of EMS calls, not enough to break even. Maybe step out of the Ambulance business and contract for out services, as do surrounding towns.

X. Appointment:  
**Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to appoint Donna Poitras as a Recreation Commission Member through April 15, 2022 carried unanimously.**

XI. New Hire:  
**Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to hire Brian Lievense as Recreation Director per the recommendation of the Search Committee carried unanimously.**

XII. Other Business: none

XIII. Citizens' Comments: none

XIV. Tax Refunds:  
**Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$649.78 as listed carried unanimously**

Flynn, Leon	\$97.23	Riley, Michael	\$80.37
Wojtowicz, Karol P.	\$234.66	Howell, Pamela J.	\$24.07
Liberty Glass and Metal Industries, Inc.	\$161.93	Werge, C. A. and R. W.	\$51.52

XV. Adjourn:  
**Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to adjourn at 8:17 PM carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted by Dorothy Durst, Recording Secretary *Dorothy Durst*

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

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/uR\\_WUgSbCC1tOU1mSQL-ctG66tLpXm9cUpMRs8\\_fyxCOTry5EaWjfxaNFm1dazXq.g3oGZH\\_YKQUSbsbk](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/uR_WUgSbCC1tOU1mSQL-ctG66tLpXm9cUpMRs8_fyxCOTry5EaWjfxaNFm1dazXq.g3oGZH_YKQUSbsbk)

Passcode: g=Z\*1239

*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.*