



TOWN OF THOMPSON

Board of Selectmen-Minutes

Tuesday, September 7, 2021

Hybrid Meeting – In Person at Town Hall
and via ZOOM Online Meeting Portal

- I. The call to order by First Selectman Amy St Onge was at 7:00 PM; all Selectmen were present. Roll call: First Selectman Amy St Onge, Selectmen Susanne Witkowski and Ken Beausoleil. Others: Many members of the public both in person and on Zoom, WINY, Recording Secretary Dotti Durst
- II. Approval of Minutes
Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve the minutes of the 08-17-2021 BOS Meeting carried unanimously
Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the minutes of the 08-30-2021 Special BOS Meeting carried unanimously
- III. Correspondence:
L. Pugh re: PZC Meeting 8-23-2021 and L. Hackett re: PZC Meeting 8-23-2021:
Both letters were sent to the Planning and Zoning Commission for their response
- IV. Selectmen Comments:
S. Witkowski-none
K. Beausoleil-none
A. St Onge- we had a big success on 08-28. * The impact from the weather associated with the tropical storm was moderate. The DPW were out early to assess the situation and protect us.
- V. Citizens' Comments:
Tom Angelo, 640 Fabyan Rd- offered thanks to all who serve the town including the efficient storm management work. He noted that Riverside Park trash receptacles have been removed while at the same time there are no bags at the dog-droppings collection stations. In addition, syringes have been found on the Library property, indicating a problem there.
- VI. Resignation: **Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to accept the resignation of Larry Consiglio from the Building Committee as of August 23 with regret carried unanimously.**
The BOS commented that he was a great asset to the town.
- VII. New Hire:
Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to hire the candidate as an Aide to the Recreation Director per the recommendation of the Search Team and the Recreation Commission carried unanimously.
- VIII. Miscellaneous Fees and Revised Transfer Station Brochure - Discussion and Possible Action: The DPW Director recommends increasing certain Bulky Waste fees and those for tires, in order to cover the costs of disposal which the town incurs. The BOS did not have complete information about the proposal to add a fee for those who want to weigh their vehicle on the drive-over scale. The DPW will be asked to elaborate about frequency and reasons for this request. No action was taken at this time.
- IX. Add Charge to Building Committee: After review of the work the Building Committee has before it, and a comment by Member John Rice noting that the Roof Project is nearly complete, the BOS noted that other projects (WPCA) have their own oversight.
Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to charge the Building Committee with the development of the Salt Shed facility upgrade carried unanimously.

- X. North Grosvenordale Pond Dam/Centreville Bank – Update/Discussion: The bank has been proactive, with site inspections before and after weather events. An EAP (Emergency Action Plan) is on file, have identified a new engineering firm experience in water/dam related matters as well as a new attorney for the issue. After a preliminary meeting with DEEP: Option 1) complete the repair of the dam, in partnership with the town in order to seek grants, even though there does not appear to be many. Option 2) lower the water level, lowering risk. 3). Remove the dam, which is encouraged by DEEP, but is the most costly and least desirable to the townspeople. The full report will be available soon.

- XI. Petition the Selectmen for a Town Meeting to appropriate funds/Community Fire Station:
Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by A. St Onge to send the matter to a town meeting.
Discussion took place. A. St Onge read the petition, dated as received by the town clerk on 09-03-2021, into the record, noting that it had been discussed on WINY. She added a comment to each of the points in the petition stating that she would be setting the record straight, noting that though Community Fire is privately owned, neglect is not acceptable.

The process of handling the matter was reviewed. S. Witkowski noted that since the amount requested is \$130,000, the BOF will first need to review the matter and send it back to the BOS with their recommendation. Attorney Ken Slater has confirmed that the matter goes first to the BOF per CGS 7-348 as it is outside of the approved budget. K. Beausoleil: the amount is less than requires a referendum (1/2 % of the town's budget).

K. Beausoleil rescinded his motion; A. St Onge rescinded the second of that motion.
Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to refer the petition for funding for the Community Fire Station to the BOF, requesting \$107K for stabilization of the structure and \$23K for engineering and design costs for a total of \$130,000 carried unanimously.

Motion to re-sequence the agenda, moving Other and Citizens' Comments to follow #XI in order to allow Citizens' Comments previous to the Executive Session carried unanimously.

- XII. Other Business: none

- XIII. Citizens' Comments:

*Jill St Cyr, 346 Reardon Rd- how will Community Fire sustain itself for the next 5-10 years?

* Louise Pugh, 186 Pompeo Rd- asked that her letter about a PZC meeting be discussed and the letter read, per Roberts Rules. S. Witkowski: it will be attached to these minutes. A. St Onge: the letter can be read aloud at the PZC meeting. Note: it is attached at the end of this document.

*Matt Herman, Green Acres Lane- the CGS calls for the town meeting to be held within 21 days if so deemed by the BOS. He commented about some language in the petition and wondered about the use of ARPA funds for the Community Fire Station since it serves the entire town.

* Tom Angelo. 640 Green Acres Lane- such a beautiful town but poor cell service at the center where Economic Development should be targeted. Additionally, the Belding site, with broken fences and weeds should be addressed by the town's beautification efforts, including consideration of taking the property by eminent domain.

*John Rice, 39 E. Thompson Rd- regarding Agenda item #10, the pond: recreation will suffer if the pond is lowered or removed, including resulting foul odors in the area.

*John Sharpe, Floral Avenue- notes he will attempt to set the record straight from his perspective of Community Fire Chief: Fire Departments are underfunded; assets are set aside for future needs, especially major needs. Annual operational costs are about \$73-75 K, but income is \$62-65K. The engineering work done by Tighe and Bond for the Community Station is the goals. Operations are continuing in a different fashion, with equipment located in various but centralized places. All the schools, the business center and a densely populated part of Thompson comprise the Community service area.

* Ed Danielson, 1081 Thompson Road- felt threatened at the recent Planning and Zoning meeting and asks to be treated fairly, seeking guidance from the BOS. His letter needs to be considered by the PZC; if he so desires, A. St Onge will attend the meeting with him.

- XIV. Executive Session – Acquisition of Real Estate in center area of Town:
Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to go into Executive Session at 7:48 PM with Janet Blanchette, Wayne Bugden and the three Selectman in attendance carried unanimously. Executive session ended at 8:23 PM.
Motion A St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to move forward with the steps to investigate potentially acquiring a site in the center of town for an EMS Services Facility as well as a future Fire Station carried unanimously.

- XV. Tax Refunds: **Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to refund a total of \$796.03 as presented carried unanimously.**

ACAR Leasing LTD	\$44.10	Mike Albert LTD	\$241.14
Belinski, Richard F.	\$50.93	Perkins, Todd/Antoinette	\$10.53
Bown, Anne T.	\$6.86	Siekierski, Kristine	\$28.60
Dauphinais, Philip/Nancy	\$92.96	Vault Trust	\$101.45
Johnson, Richard/Jeanne	\$3.42	VW Credit Leasing LTD	\$141.09
Labonte, Lawrence R.	\$11.88	Southall, Barbara L.	\$61.87
Loric Tool, LLC	\$1.20		

- XVI. Adjourn:
Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to adjourn at 8:26 PM carried unanimously.

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

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/mXpBkJcJ95oAHYQseP9mr9kGobtlUFCb8nec8No0b5CuQMlCpLyk0KovsX4QVNF.-UStu2SYKc5iDsor> Passcode: r&=J5.Qb



09-07-2021 BOS
addendum L Pugh.p

Addendum: Letter from L. Pugh re Planning and Zoning meeting

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.