

TOWN OF THOMPSON Board of Selectmen-Minutes Wednesday, November 3, 2021 Hybrid Meeting – In Person at Town Hall and via ZOOM Online Meeting Portal

- I. The call to order by Selectman Amy St Onge was at 7:00 PM.
 Roll call: First Selectman Amy St Onge, Selectmen Susanne Witkowski and Ken Beausoleil.
 Orla Raftery-Kiernan, Finance Director; John Guszkowski, principal at Tyche Planning and Policy Group; Members of the public in person and via Zoom, Recording Secretary Dotti Durst
- II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited
- III. Approval of Minutes: Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the minutes of the 10-19-2021 BOS meeting carried unanimously.
- IV. Correspondence
 - A. The ARC request to be considered for ARPA funds
 - B. TEEG Thank You for donations
 - C. Chamber of Commerce Nomination Request for the annual Chamber Award
 - V. Selectmen Comments:

K. Beausoleil- congratulations to the First Selectman and to the people on Boards and Commissions who put themselves out there to run for office. Even with the complexity of the Write-in ballots, this was Democracy in action. The process worked.

S. Witkowski- not everyone is willing to volunteer. Thanks to the poll workers; having the Writein ballots provided added new challenges, but the time it took brought attention to the process A. St Onge-thanks to all who exercised their right to vote.

- VI. Citizen Comments: None
- VII. Affordable Housing Plan Schedule Public Hearing: CGS 8-30j establishes a simple requirement for a new plan to address Affordable Housing, for which a grant application is being completed; submission is required next month. A. St Onge went over the process currently underway, including the activities of the Town Director of Planning and Development in collaboration with a broad community group interested in exploring the topic, which conducted two surveys, looked at the demographics, at all current housing in town, then made recommendations. John Guszkowski, who has worked with the group, noted that a public hearing is not required. He will create a visual presentation for the Selectman's meeting of November 16. The Selectmen will make the public aware of the presentation. No action was taken.
- VIII. Re-Appointment: Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to re-appoint James Leite to the Thompson Housing Authority Commission through 10/31/2026 carried unanimously
 - IX. Community Fire Boot Drive Request: Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the Community Fire Boot Drive Request for 11/20/2021, 8 AM-12 noon, both on Riverside Drive at Main and at the Transfer Station, carried unanimously.
 - X. Ambulance Service Update: Consultant Bob Holdsworth is gathering data such as call frequency by day, time, and type. He will examine the past 3 years of details and prepare projections for the scenarios that might be selected by the town, making a presentation in person to the BOS, possibly before the end of November.

- XI. Fiscal Year End Budget Transfers: S. Witkowski asked that in the future, the BOS conducts the first review of proposed Transfers.
 Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the Budget Transfers as presented by the Finance Director, noting that the BOF has approved the Transfers pending BOS approval, carried unanimously.
- XII. Request to Waive Bid Process for Buckley Hill Road Bridge Design- WMC Engineers: discussion of the Town bid policy took place and whether it is applicable in the case of this proposed engineering work, phase 1 of which was conducted by WMC Engineers. A. St Onge advocated that the firm has an outstanding reputation, is familiar with the project having done the preliminary inspections and work. R. Benoit, DPW Director, indicates being comfortable with this firm's performance. The proposed fee for the balance of the engineering (\$227,000) is about 7% of the project cost; it is customary for the cost to be billed at 10%. K. Beausoleil reviewed the town's bid process and the dollar amount that triggers the requirement. Although he is comfortable with the firm and the quotes, he is not comfortable stepping away from town policy. The project itself is targeted for November, 2023. Since there are other major town projects anticipated, perhaps they can be combined when it comes time to consider bonding. The BOF should be informed.
 Motion S. Witkowski seconded by A. St Onge to waive the bid process for design and engineering of the Buckley Hill Road project carried, with K. Beausoleil abstaining.
- XIII. Recreation Commission Policy Memorials on Town Property: a discussion has begun, brought on by the state of the gazebo, donated by the Lions Club long ago, and now in need of repair. A process for the acceptance of and expectations for anything donated in the future is being developed. The Selectmen will ask that the Recreation Commission be present next meeting to make a presentation and be available for questions. It was clarified that there is no Ordinance in place addressing the matter. The BOS consensus was that at a future meeting the possible need for an Ordinance related to this topic will be added to the agenda.
- XIV. Other Business: none
- XV. Citizens Comments: None

XVI. Tax Refunds:

Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to refund a total of \$158.80 as presented carried unanimously. JP Morgan chase Bank NA \$54.05 Carr, Jeffrey R. \$69.86

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XVII. Adjourn:

Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to adjourn at 7:47 PM carried unanimously.

\$6.14

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

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/EE9OeceeXxz4oQmuYpq2aS86NTz6ZvqZrQH0BRcVrKqgxBuK 6OriJBEHxe791m6v.UiWvFVeKflZoYG_D Passcode: Xwg4d!Zb

Respectfully submitted by Dorothy Durst, Recording Secretary Dorothy Durst