



TOWN of THOMPSON

Board of Selectmen

Minutes: Regular Meeting

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall

p. 1 of 5

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

First Selectman Ken Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Present: Ken Beausoleil
Steve Herbert

Absent: Shaina Smith

Staff Present: Tina Fox, Recording Secretary

Also Present: Members of the Public

I. Approval of Minutes

A. Steve Herbert moved and Ken Beausoleil seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the February 29, 2016 special meeting as written.

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes

The motion carried.

B. Steve Herbert moved and Ken Beausoleil seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the March 1, 2016 regular meeting with the following corrections:

1. Page 4, Section IV(D): 12th line, "...does not include..." instead of "...des not include..."
2. Page 8, Section XIII(A): "...Town's spokesperson" Instead of "...Town's person."
3. Page 10, Section XIV(A): Steve Herbert also voted yes to the tax refund motion.

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

C. Steve Herbert moved and Ken Beausoleil seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the March 2, 2016 special meeting as written.

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

II. Correspondence

A. K. Beausoleil presented the following correspondence:

1. Letter from Northeast District Department of Health showing activity from July 1st-June 30th.
2. Troop D statistics for February.
3. Emergency Management Grant in the amount of \$8,200.
4. TVCCA is holding a fundraiser on Saturday, April 9, 2016 in New London for a cost of \$50 per person.

B. S. Herbert had no correspondence to present.

III. Selectmen's Comments

A. K. Beausoleil presented the following Selectman's Comments:

1. There is beautification work being done around Town and at Town Hall, with the Highway Department doing some trimming and pruning, and Al and Lynn Landry providing flowers for the front of Town Hall.
2. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to add "Awarding of Quaddick Rd. Bridge Bid" under "Other Business."**
Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.

B. S. Herbert had no Selectmen's Comments to present.

IV. Citizens' Comments (Limit 3 Minutes)

A. Wayne O'Brien, 108 Fabyan Rd., stated that the road crews do a wonderful job, but that there is a field on Red Bridge Rd. where debris keeps getting dumped. He asked if surveillance cameras could be put up in the vicinity to catch the person who continues to dump garbage there.

B. Paul Baer, Thompson Rd. stated the following:

1. Raises in the budget should have been looked at by the BOS before presenting the budget, especially raises for elected officials, because those people chose to run for office at the current pay.
2. Town has a problem enforcing contracts, which wouldn't generally happen in the private sector.
3. Hopefully the Fire Advisory Committee will meet soon, because they have a lot of issues to address. A few years ago, there was a push to look into hiring a Fire Service Consultant. There was a fatality in Town. There is a resistance of the fire departments to have someone on the outside look at their services. One department in particular was asked questions about issues with their membership, and their response was to remove their membership list from their website.
4. Town Clerk documents link does not work on the website. The meeting calendar for 2016 is not on the website. 'Visitors' and 'Visiting' links are duplicates of each other. Businesses that were previously listed on the website are not listed anymore. Under 'Residents,' only Thompson Together is listed. No link to the Board of Education (BOE) website. Under 'Environment,' the only thing listed is vacancies on Inland Wetlands Commission.
5. There is a line item in the budget that Economic Development Commission (EDC) spent \$0 from, but another \$1,000 is being budgeted for this year. It is time to look at what is actually spent and needed instead of the "same old, same old."
6. Multiple folders missing on the website. There are inconsistencies with labeling files.
7. Would like the Transfer Station Advisory Committee (TSAC) to look into outsourcing the Transfer Station.
8. The budget should be looked at based on performance and results to decide what the actual budget should be.

V. Fair Housing Resolution

A. K. Beausoleil read the Fair Housing Resolution aloud.

B. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to approve the Fair Housing Resolution as read.**

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

VI. Quaddick Road Bridge Funding Request

A. K. Beausoleil read a memo addressed to the Board of Finance (BOF) aloud, which asked for additional funds of \$69,247.68

B. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to go in front of the Board of Finance to request the additional funds.**

1. S. Herbert asked for clarification on the memo, because there were two identical memos, with the first one asking for \$80,000. K. Beausoleil explained that the engineer assured him that the \$69,247.68 is all that is needed.

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

VII. NECCOG Resolutions

A. K. Beausoleil read a resolution for grant applications for three studies aloud.

B. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to approve the NECCOG resolution as read.**

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Building Committee Charge

A. K. Beausoleil explained that the Building Committee voted to request the BOS expand the scope of their Committee to include other major projects to consider.

B. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to expand the scope of the Building Committee.**

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

IX. Assessor Position Discussion

A. K. Beausoleil explained that the BOS did attempt to hire a full-time Assessor again, but received no applications for an Assessor. They received one application for an Assessor's Clerk, and a suggestion to have someone who oversees the Assessor's department in two other Towns, also oversee the Thompson Assessor's Office.

B. The Board discussed the following possibilities (with input from the current Assessor, as well as citizens):

1. Hire a full-time Assessor at a higher pay rate.
2. Hire a contract service to oversee the Assessor's Office.
3. Hire an uncertified Assessor's Clerk to be trained to become the Assessor in approximately five years, after the candidate passes necessary classes. The possibility of this position being full-time or part-time was discussed.
4. Use the 'floating' hours in Town Hall to cover some of the work load in the Assessor's Office.

C. No formal action was taken on the position at this time.

X. Appointments- Ordinance Committee, Constables

- A. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to appoint Joseph Garceau, Dennis Taxon, George Henry Mooney, Jr., Donald Brown and Alan Pratt as Constables, term to end November 21, 2017.**
Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.
- B. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to appoint Paulette Hamel and Richard Trudeau to the Ordinance Review Committee, term indefinite, and for the Ordinance Review Committee to consist of Paulette Hamel, Richard Trudeau, Al Landry, Charlie Paquette, Celeste Guillamont, and Jo Ann Hall.**
Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.
- C. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to remove from the Ordinance Review Committee Richard Boss, Beverly Kennedy, Claudette White, Ted Gagne, Ted Smith, and Alan Pratt.**
Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.
- D. S. Herbert asked if there was still a vacancy on the TWPCA Board, and stated that he knows someone who may be interested.

XI. Other Business

- A. Awarding of Quaddick Rd. Bridge Bid
1. K. Beausoleil read a letter aloud from CLA Engineers stating that the low bid of \$377,108 from Old Colony Construction was acceptable.
 2. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to award the contract to Old Colony Construction, subject to meeting a time-frame acceptable to the First Selectman.**
Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.

XII. Citizens' Comments

- A. Paul Baer, Thompson Rd., mentioned Town ordinance 10-009 regarding conflicts of interest. He stated that there are multiple violations of the ordinance for BOE and BOF. He stated that a BOF member has a close family relative working for the school system, which is a violation of the ordinance. He stated that the IT services are contracted to a member of PZC, which is a violation. He stated that there is a BOE member whose close relative is a teacher, which is a violation. P. Baer stated that 20% of the BOF has close ties with the BOE, which does not make for a check-and-balance of the finances in Town.

- B. Don Pimental, 40 Starr Rd., stated that he asked for a Mylar in the Assessors Office, and Diana Couture provided it for him. He stated that he asked D. Couture how lot H seemed to grow, and she stated that the when "he got his subdivision, that he merged into his other land when he got his site work." D. Pimental stated that he wanted the Board to know that did happen, and "that's why it is a 0 New Rd. address." D. Pimental stated that you don't get to look at the Mylars unless you ask, and that the Board made the right call denying the driveway application. He stated that it took place in 2006 and should be addressed. He stated that he did a lot of research, and he asked the Board to look at the Mylars because this should have been settled a long time ago. He stated that something has been "whited-out" and land has been added in. He stated that someone needs to speak up and tell the Commission tomorrow that the Board saw the Mylars. He asked the Board to speak publicly about what they've seen.
- C. Wayne O'Brien, 108 Fabyan Rd., stated that there are a lot of good people in Town Hall, and that sometimes things go amuck, but that the employees do a lot of good work and help the citizens.

XIII. Tax Refunds: None

S. Herbert asked that K. Beausoleil get correspondence and information to him sooner than right before the meeting.

XIV. Adjourn

- A. **Steve Herbert moved and Ken Beausoleil seconded the motion to adjourn.**
Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.
- B. First Selectman Ken Beausoleil adjourned the meeting at 8:42 PM.

Tina Fox
Recording Secretary