



TOWN of THOMPSON

Board of Selectmen

Minutes: Regular Meeting

Tuesday, May 3, 2016

East Thompson Fire Department

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The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

First Selectman Ken Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Present: Ken Beausoleil
Shaina Smith
Steve Herbert

Staff Present: Tina Fox, Recording Secretary

Also Present: Members of the Public

I. Approval of Minutes

A. Shaina Smith moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the April 5, 2016 meeting as written.

1. S. Smith asked if the letter from Attorney St. Onge that was read aloud was attached to the official minutes. K. Beausoleil answered that he would attach the letter to the minutes.

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

II. Correspondence

A. K. Beausoleil presented the following correspondence:

1. Community Connectivity Program for bicycling official letter for grant approval is moving forward.
2. Chamber of Commerce meeting on Tuesday, May 17th in Putnam.
3. Information regarding Fireman's Abatement and who received it.
4. Letter form Heather Santos concerning Burrillville power plant.

III. Selectmen's Comments

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

1. Emergency Management Director Steve Benoit has a form available for people with special needs during evacuations and power outages. The form is available on the website and at Town Hall. Mr. Benoit is hosting an Active Shooter Class at the Library on June 18th from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, and it was suggested that the BOS attend the meeting.
2. Bids for Phase 4 of the Gladys Green project will be opened on May 24th at 11:00 am.
3. Meeting for the Community Connectivity Grant on May 16th form 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM.
4. The contract for the 929 Riverside Dr. Brownfield Grant has not been signed or awarded as of yet.

MUNICIPAL BUILDING

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5. Dollar General is open, but there will be a grand opening on May 7th at 8:00 AM.
6. Economic Development Community is working with NECCOG on its branding assignment.
7. The final report for the 630 Riverside Dr. Brownfield Grant project should be ready on Friday, and a public informational meeting will be held.
8. The contract for the Quaddick Road Bridge was signed the previous day. The bridge will be down during three school days in September.
9. Tentative date for Town meeting is May 16th at 7:00 PM at the Library, and the Referendum is tentatively scheduled for May 25th from noon to 8:00 PM.

IV. Citizens' Comments (Limit 3 Minutes)

- A. Al Landry, 33 Randall Rd., stated that our Town leaders should be demanding the State to have their budget finalized by January so that Towns know what they need to do for their budget. He also stated that he may go out of business when the Quaddick Road Bridge is closed.
- B. Christine Campbell, Thompson Rd., asked for clarification on the Town Meeting and Referendum dates. She asked what the mill rate increase is currently at, to which K. Beausoleil stated that it is being clarified on Thursday. She asked for an update on the recovery efforts related to the oil spill at the school, to which K. Beausoleil stated that the Town Attorney and BOE Attorney are still going over information. She asked for an update on the bus outsourcing, to which K. Beausoleil responded that he has heard nothing on the subject.
- C. Wayne O'Brien, 108 Fabyan Rd., asked that when a meeting is going to have a change from its normal venue, the BOS should announce it at the prior meeting.
- D. Sharon Recore, 46 Townes Lane, asked if there would be a news release about the temporary closing of the Quaddick Road Bridge to let citizens know when it is going to happen. She stated that four businesses depend on that bridge. K. Beausoleil answered that the contractor will be responsible for detour signs, notification of police, etc., and that the Town will put a notification in the Villager.
- E. Al Landry, 33 Randall Rd., stated that an incredible amount of traffic coming to and from Rhode Island uses the bridge, and that there should be a sign up ahead of time so that people can be prepared for detours.
- F. Don Pimental, 40 Starr Rd., suggested that the Board email the Town of Burrillville so that they can pass the information on to residents about the bridge being out. He asked if the workers on the bridge would be working 8, 10 or 12 hour days. He stated that if they increased their hours each day, they could get the bridge done sooner.
- G. Rob Mann, 15 Meadow Dr., stated that there will be a meeting on May 10th at the Burrillville Middle School, and May 23rd at the Burrillville High School regarding the proposed power plant.

- H. Paul Baer, Thompson Rd., stated that it is prevalent that Thompson's elected officials get opinions and council for numerous decisions, but not everything needs an opinion from the Town Attorney, and just because an opinion is given, doesn't mean the Board has to agree with it. He stated that elected officials should step up to the plate and make decisions. The First Selectman is a non-voting member of all Boards, and he should participate and give input rather than being a silent spectator and sitting by silently. The State is cutting \$300,000 but Thompson is increasing spending. The BOS should make a resolution to demand the State get its budget in order before the Town's must put their budgets together, and take the resolution to NECCOG and get them to push our elected officials. Thompson is spending money on non-required certifications that should be at the expense of the employee, plus wages and travel expenses for the employee. P. Baer asked if the Fire Advisory Committee has met or has a Chairperson yet. The Fire Departments should consider how they would like to consolidate because consolidation will come at some point. He suggested hiring a consultant to look at consolidation. P. Baer asked for a time-line on when the website will be up to standard, and asked if RFPs will go out for website services because the person doing it now is stringing the Town along. One of the Conservation Commissions charges is to advise the Inland Wetlands Commission, but they have been silent on the Starr Rd. issue. A Conservation Commission member hasn't attended a meeting in two years, and there may be other people interested in serving on the Commission. Inland Wetlands Commission still has vacancies. In regards to the EDC's branding assignment, Thompson should be cleaned-up before it is branded/marketed. Thompson does not need another department and/or another director to sell something that isn't sellable. Starr Road issue has been a waster of time, and if the rules had been followed, it wouldn't have gone on for four months. He asked why the Town has not gone out to bid for legal service.
- I. Kevin Walsh, Blain Rd., stated that he has heard from the First Selectman that he is over-worked, and the citizens bring forth concerns that the Board doesn't seem interested in addressing. He asked what is happening during the First Selectman's workday that has him so overwhelmed that the simplest of concerns can't be addressed. He stated that the First Selectman says that he is busy but never tells citizens what he is doing that is making him busy. When the First Selectman ran for office, he made commitments to address certain issues, but there has been no feedback as to where he is with that. He stated that the First Selectman will never get anything done if he is disorganized.
- J. Jennifer Bennett, 17 Paula Lane, asked what she needs to do to get a 5K to raise money for soccer approved.
- K. Dianne Keefe, 18 Johnson St., stated that no roads would need to be closed for the 5K and one was held a couple of months ago that went very well.
- L. Christine Campbell, Thompson Rd., asked if the 5K could be advertised on the website.
- V. DEEP Resolution
- A. K. Beausoleil read a resolution aloud that he stated allows the Town to work with DEEP, for example for the grants for the Quaddick Lake treatment.
- B. **Steve Herbert moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to approve the DEEP resolution as read.**
- Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
- The motion carried unanimously.**

- VI. Burrillville, RI Power Plant Forum Discussion
- A. K. Beausoleil stated that available dates for an open meeting are May 17th, 19th, 24th or 26th. A meeting will be scheduled on either May 24th or 26th, to be announced at a later time.
- VII. Ordinance Review: Inland Wetlands Commission, Conservation Commission, Constables
- A. K. Beausoleil stated that he is comfortable with the proposed change of separating Inlands and Conservation and moving the Ordinance forward. S. Smith stated that the Town Attorney already reviewed this draft, unless something has been changed. S. Herbert found a reference to Woodstock in the draft, and there was discussion as to why the Ordinance said Woodstock in one location.
- B. K. Beausoleil stated that the proposal is to increase the number of constables to a total of 12. There was discussion regarding re-wording the Ordinance so that it makes more sense, the change to a 6-year term, and who constables would be reporting to.
- VIII. Quaddick Road Bridge Update
- A. S. Herbert stated that he believed at the last meeting, K. Beausoleil stated the company would have to start the project within 10 days of signing the contract. K. Beausoleil stated that there was some confusion, and it is once there is a final okay on the project, then the company must start work within 10 days.
- IX. Town Record Access Policy Discussion
- A. K. Beausoleil suggested adding wording so that the policy indicates requests can be in writing and/or on the official request form.
- B. S. Smith suggested deleting item 'c' completely.
- C. There was discussion regarding the ability to scan documents, and whether or not the Town should track who is accessing documents via a sign-in sheet.
- X. Executive Session (Discuss possible property purchase by the Town; Discuss health of Town employee)
- A. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to go into Executive Session at 8:35 PM.**
Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.
- B. The Board entered Executive Session at 8:35 PM and came out of Executive Session at 9:34 PM.
- XI. Other Business
- A. K. Beausoleil stated that applications for the Secretary/Clerk position are due on Monday, and his recommendation is to have the BOS, Leo Adams, and the Executive Assistant review the applications, because those are the people who will be working with the individual.

B. Ken Beausoleil moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to include the Board of Selectmen, Leo Adams, and the Executive Assistant to review applications for the Secretary/Clerk.

1. S. Herbert asked if the First Selectman changed the job description, to which K. Beausoleil answered that the description was changed regarding who the position answers to, and to include "providing support to the BOS" and "other duties as assigned."
2. S. Herbert asked if a job description change needs approval by the BOS. K. Beausoleil answered that he felt it was appropriate for him to change the description, and he will consult the Board in the future.
3. S. Herbert again asked if the change needed approval by the BOS, to which K. Beausoleil responded that it is a grey area.
4. S. Smith suggested approving the final job description in open session prior to interviewing, and S. Herbert agreed that if the job description is changing, the Board should have a discussion.

Ken Beausoleil- Yes

Steve Herbert- Yes

Shaina Smith-Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

XII. Citizens' Comments

- A. Christine Campbell, Thompson Rd., asked how the Board would get the word out about the presentation related to the power plant, and asked if it could go on the website. She stated that on March 10th, she emailed the Selectmen's Office inquiring about putting a link to the budget on the website. On April 25th, six weeks after the initial email, she received an email from the Executive Assistant stating that the link cannot be put on the website. She stated that she would like to know why.
- B. Al Landry, 33 Randall Rd., presented the legal notice from the Town Meeting the previous year that included Ordinances. There was no Emergency Management listed on the legal notice.
- C. Christine Campbell, Thompson Rd., asked why the Ordinance about the constables is being discussed again if it already failed once at Town meeting, and asked why 12 constables are needed if Thompson is a tiny Town.
- D. Rob Mann, 15 Meadow Dr., asked if the proposed Ordinances would need a Referendum vote, to which K. Beausoleil stated that they would be voted on at Town Meeting.
- E. Paul Baer, Thompson Rd., stated that it would be critical to include in the Ordinance for the constables to include language regarding who could direct them. He stated that the BOS voted to not allow any entity to have their own website, but Conservation is still pushing for their own website when it could be included on the Town website. He stated that FOIA violations are still a problem despite the fact that there were three training sessions in Town by Tom Hennick. There were serious violations at a PZC meeting that the First Selectman was present for and partook in. He suggested another training session that people are required to attend. He stated that State statute dictates that the Town cannot destroy public records without authorization from the State, and there is a mandatory form that all employees and officials must sign to certify that they understand the statute. He asked to see the signed forms from all Town employees, and suggested a training session on public records.

XIII. Tax Refunds

- A. **Shaina Smith moved and Ken Beausoleil seconded the motion to approve the following tax refund:**

1) Christopher L. Prescott \$433.76

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

XIV. Adjourn

- A. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to adjourn.**

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

- B. First Selectman Ken Beausoleil adjourned the meeting at 9:49 PM.

Tina Fox
Recording Secretary