



TOWN of THOMPSON

Board of Selectmen

**Minutes: Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 19, 2016
Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall**

p. 1 of 7

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Present: Ken Beausoleil
Shaina Smith

Absent: Steve Herbert

Staff Present: Tina Fox, Recording Secretary

Also Present: Members of the Public (see attached sign-in sheet)

I. Approval of Minutes

A. **Shaina Smith moved and Ken Beausoleil seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the January 4, 2016 special meeting as written.**

1. S. Smith asked if Aileen Witkowski's name was spelled correctly in the minutes, and if the motion to move agenda item 12 up to 2(a) needed to be included under agenda item 12.

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

B. **Shaina Smith moved and Ken Beausoleil seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the January 5, 2016 regular meeting as written.**

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

C. **Shaina Smith moved and Ken Beausoleil seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the January 11, 2016 special meeting as written.**

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

D. **Shaina Smith moved and Ken Beausoleil seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the January 12, 2016 special meeting as written.**

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

II. Correspondence

A. K. Beausoleil presented the following correspondence:

1. Letter from Renee Waldron resigning from her position as Recreation Director.

B. S. Smith had no correspondence to present.

III. Selectmen's Comments

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

1. Upon reviewing the EDC ordinance, it was noted that the EDC appointments are done by the Chief Executive Officer, so K. Beausoleil reappointed the previous members as well as a new member, with expiration dates spread over five years.
2. Regarding the Eversource poles that were mentioned at the previous meeting, Shawn Johnston was contacted and said that Eversource should come out to remove their lines within the next 30 days, after which AT&T and Charter can then come in and remove their lines. Residents can contact Eversource directly with the pole number and location for future complaints.
3. There will be a joint Special BOS Meeting and Transfer Station Advisory Committee meeting on January 28th.
4. Will be getting the statistics from Troop D to compare to prior years, and will distribute those to the other Selectmen when they are available.
5. Contacted Merry Bennett, who stated that the Animal Control facilities are up-to-date on requirements, and they are inspected once a year.
6. Gave S. Smith an edited draft of the Selectmen's Update for the Villager.
7. Will go in front of the Board of Finance for an extension on the temporary position in the Assessor's Office, and still looking into a permanent resolution for the Assessor's position.

B. S. Smith presented the following Selectman's Comments:

1. Asked if the Selectmen's Update for the Villager can be put on the website, to which K. Beausoleil responded that he will work on that.
2. Thanked K. Beausoleil for checking with Merry Bennett on the Animal Control facilities.

IV. Citizens' Comments (Limit 3 Minutes)

- A. Kevin Walsh, Blain Rd., asked about the meeting with the BOE and Town Attorneys, and Dr. Jolin on January 6th. K. Beausoleil answered that Town Attorney St. Onge was given information regarding the oil spill at the school, and he is now reaching out to the other people who have been involved for additional information. K. Walsh stated that at the Inland/Wetlands public hearing, Attorney St. Onge gave an opinion as to the status of Starr Rd., and asked if the Board of Selectmen received that letter. K. Beausoleil answered affirmatively. K. Walsh asked that the letter be read into the record because Attorney St. Onge's opinion is significant. He stated that there are Town employees who use their position to state whether or not Starr Rd. is a Town owned road, and that the letter from Attorney St. Onge needs to be read aloud "so we can shut some people up finally in regards to their proclamation of Starr Rd." K. Beausoleil stated that he did not bring the letter to the meeting with him.

- B. Paul Baer, Thompson Rd., stated that the American flag is being flown at the Town Hall at night without lights, and lights on the flag would be appropriate. He stated that former Selectman Kerstin Forrester "took over pretty much everything," having oversight on the solar project and the HVAC library system, which had two years of delay and resulted in spending \$6,500 on a consultant. In regards to the website, he stated that there is no Agent of the Elderly, the icons are inoperable, some Town personnel believe the website looks like "fecal material," files are missing, Board of Selectmen labels are put on inconsistently, there are no 2016 recordings, there is a tab for budget reviews but there are no years listed and no 2015 files, Carolyn Werge's personal email is listed on the Agricultural Commission's page, and he wanted to know if the Town is going to continue to fund a separate Conservation Commission website. He asked that the Transfer Station Advisory Committee investigate the possibility of issuing a pass to be able to just drop off recyclables, and outsourcing the services of the Transfer Station. He stated that some members from various Commissions don't show up to meetings, yet they carry on as members. He stated that the driveway application for River Junction Estates, LLC should be denied due to Attorney St. Onge's opinion that there is no street there.
- V. 630 Riverside Dr. Brownfield Grant: Public Informational Update
- A. Janet Blanchette stated that she is the Chairperson for the Belding Corticelli Improvement Committee. She introduced Wayne Bugden of CME Engineering to give a project update on the Belding Corticelli mill environmental study being funded by grant money from the State.
- B. Wayne Bugden explained that part of the purpose of the environmental study is to determine how much actual contamination is at the site, and to eliminate uncertainty. The study addresses some of the following questions: 1. Where are the areas of concern? 2. Are those areas contaminated? 3. How bad is the contamination? 4. What are the alternatives for the clean-up? 5. Are there flood plains? 6. What are the feasible options for redevelopment? Phase 1 of the assessment involved file review, reconnaissance, interviews, and reviewing historical documents, photos, maps, etc. Phase 1 was finished in November and a report was issued, identifying 17 areas of concern. The combined Phase 2/Phase 3 started in December, and these two Phases are being done at the same time for efficiency. Phase 2 determines if there is any contamination and Phase 3 determines how bad the contamination is. Some of the tests/techniques that are used are shallow soil sampling for contaminants on the surface, PCB contamination sampling, ground penetrating radar, soil boring, test pits, and monitoring well installations. He stated that CME is trying to maximize the value of the grant, and believes they will come in under budget. Soil contamination has been found, and they are now in the process of figuring out the extent of the contamination. Most contamination was found dearest to the river, but it is fairly well concentrated, and future redevelopment will likely take place closer to the road. There was concern that a portion of the property on the west side of the river may have been a drum dump, but nothing has been found to indicate that drums were being dumped and covered with soil. Lab data has started coming back from samples, so now they will be working to find the limits/parameters of the contamination. The reports should be completed by early to mid spring, at which time there would be another informational meeting with input from the Committee, Town, and owner of the property.

- C. S. Smith asked what criteria is used to determine how bad the contamination is. W. Bugden answered that they use Connecticut standards for residential and/or commercial/industrial properties.
- D. S. Smith asked if there is any possibility the excavator is disturbing the already existing contamination. W. Bugden answered that when the soil is excavated, it goes on top of a plastic sheet, and then gets put back into the hole the way it came out. They take every opportunity to try to limit any further contamination.
- E. S. Smith referenced a picture of a toy car that W. Bugden presented as something that was found at the site, and asked if the area is well secured in terms of residents accessing the site, because the toy looked like a recent toy. W. Bugden answered that he believed it was an old toy, and that if it is new, it probably washed onto the site from the river.
- F. Paul Baer, Thompson Rd., mentioned a map in Town Hall that shows contamination levels throughout that site. He asked if CME was aware of the map, and asked how it compares to what CME has found. W. Bugden stated that the data being referenced came out when the mill was being shut down. He stated that the data looks like the shallow soil samples were impacted probably by the residue from coal burning. Some lead and other heavy metal concentrations are shown in shallow soils, but they dissipate with depth, and it is not really defined to one area.
- G. K. Beausoleil asked if the project will be effected by snow fall. W. Bugden answered that CME is done with most of the critical testing and the treacherous sites. He stated that there are more test pits and borings to be completed, but the snow won't be a problem for that. He added that they were doing similar drilling last winter, and that the project is right on track schedule wise and expected to come in below budget.

VI. Award Bid for Stationary Compactor

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that the consultant Winston Avril recommended Sanitary Equipment's bid for the Marathon RJ 450 at \$21,827. He explained that it was a higher bid, but is still the best machine to go with, and is expected to last more than 20 years. K. Beausoleil stated that the bid comes within the budget and that he recommends going with this purchase.
- B. **Shaina Smith moved and Ken Beausoleil seconded the motion to award the bid for the Stationary Compactor to Sanitary Equipment in the amount of \$21,827 for the Marathon RJ 450.**
 - 1. S. Smith asked about the timeline for when the Transfer Station will be using the new equipment, to which K. Beausoleil responded that he wasn't sure.
 - 2. S. Smith asked what was going to happen to the existing compactor, to which K. Beausoleil answered that it is being kept to use it for parts.

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

VII. Award Bid for and/or Discuss TWPCA Phosphorus Removal System Upgrade

- A. Stan Kruzel, TWPCA Chair, stated that the bid was received at \$553,666. K. Beausoleil stated that he has paperwork that has a different amount at \$533,666. The Board briefly discussed the discrepancy and decided to not take action on awarding the bid until the discrepancy was resolved.

VIII. TEEG Emergency Power Request - \$2,500

- A. John Rice explained that TEEG acquired a 100 KW generator for free. TEEG had a lot of donations of both equipment and man-hours to get the generator installed. The last piece of equipment that is needed to get the generator up and running is a switch and some items to go along with it. He explained that TEEG would be able to be used as an emergency shelter because the building has refrigeration, showers, and large rooms to accommodate people in the event of an emergency. John Rice also noted that in the last six months, TEEG has provided services totaling \$247,000, and the Town gives TEEG \$30,000 per year to run the facility.
- B. **Shaina Smith moved and Ken Beausoleil seconded the motion forward the request from TEEG in the amount of \$2,500 to the Board of Finance for the switch for the generator.**
1. K. Beausoleil specified that the amount would not exceed \$2,500, and any excess money that is left would be returned.
 2. S. Smith asked what the miscellaneous other parts are. J. Rice answered that included in the \$2,500 is a heater, a 110 line, and a switch to start the engine.

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

IX. Recreation Director Discussion

- A. K. Beausoleil read a letter aloud from the search committee for the Recreation Director, recommending Angela Hachey for the position.
- B. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to hire Angela Hachey for the Recreation Director position.**
- Ken Beausoleil- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
- The motion carried unanimously.**

X. Appointments- Housing Authority, Community Fire/Police, Redevelopment Agency and Small Cities Advisory Board

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that they are still looking for someone to fill the position of Agent of the Elderly.
- B. **Shaina Smith moved and Ken Beausoleil seconded the motion to appoint Barbara Pickett as an alternate to the Small Cities Advisory Board, term to expire November 9, 2020.**
- Ken Beausoleil- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
- The motion carried unanimously.**
- C. **Shaina Smith moved and Ken Beausoleil seconded the motion to approve Shirley Houle and Mercedes Robbins as members of the Small Cities Advisory Board, term to expire November 9, 2020.**
- Ken Beausoleil- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
- The motion carried unanimously.**
- D. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to appoint Matilda Deotte to the Housing Authority, term to expire October 31, 2020.**
- Ken Beausoleil- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
- The motion carried unanimously.**

- E. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to appoint James Leite to the Housing Authority to fill the vacancy of Gertrude Leite, term to expire October 31, 2016.**
Ken Beausoleil- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.
- F. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to appoint Ernest Vandale to Community Fire/Police with a term limit correction to now expire November 21, 2017.**
Ken Beausoleil- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.
- G. A member of the audience asked about appointments to the Redevelopment Agency, as listed on the agenda. T. Fox answered that the "Small Cities Advisory Board" should have been read and appointed as "Redevelopment Agency and Small Cities Advisory Board," as it is one entity.
- H. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to add corrective language to the Small Cities Advisory Board appointments to read "Redevelopment Agency and Small Cities Advisory Board."**
Ken Beausoleil- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.
- XI. Road Updates: None
- XII. Other Business
A. S. Smith asked if the Board should officially accept the resignation of the Recreation Director. K. Beausoleil stated that there is no need to because the Board has no choice but to accept it.
- XIII. Citizens' Comments
A. Paul Baer, Thompson Rd., stated that he is perplexed as to why more and more decisions are being made by consultants, and that he would hope the Highway Garage could review the purchase of the compactor on their own. He stated that the Transfer Station alone has three layers of consultants, adding that the testing at the wells is sourced out to different agencies. He stated that he thought there would be a road update for Starr Rd. He requested that the application for a driveway permit from River Junction Estates, LLC be added as an agenda item because there is no Town road there. He requested that the Board of Selectmen send a letter to the Board of Education Chairman requesting that if the BOE conducts budget hearings, it should not conflict with a BOS meeting, adding that the BOS should attend the meetings, and Town citizens should be able to attend, as well.

XIV. Tax Refunds

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

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|----|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. | Michelle L. David | \$94.12 |
| 2. | Theresa J. Duby | \$28.09 |
| 3. | Richard K. Keefe | \$19.09 |
| 4. | John Michael J. Shennette | \$348.19 |
| 5. | Toyota Motor Credit Corp | \$450.86 |
| 6. | Charles K. and Denise J. Young | \$182.21 and \$10.02 |
| 7. | Vault Trust | \$164.80 |

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

XV. Adjourn

A. **Shaina Smith moved and Ken Beausoleil seconded the motion to adjourn.**

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

B. First Selectman Ken Beausoleil adjourned the meeting at 8:20 PM.

Tina Fox
Recording Secretary

