



Town of Thompson
Board of Selectmen Special Meeting- Minutes
Thursday – June 22, 2023
Merrill Seney Room- Town Hall
and via ZOOM Online Meeting Portal

- I. The call to order by First Selectman Amy St Onge was at 7:00 PM
Roll call: First Selectman Amy St Onge; Selectmen Susanne Witkowski & Ken Beausoleil.
Members of the public in person and via Zoom, Members of Boards & Commissions.
- II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- III. Approval of Minutes:
- A. **Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the minutes of the 06-06-2023 BOS Regular Meeting with modifications carried unanimously: # IX, New Hires: K. Beausoleil abstained from voting, having not been in the interviews. # XIII Citizens' Comments:** ~~Chief Grauer, Thompson Hill Fire Station/Fire Engine Company~~
West Thompson Chief Whipple reviewed the need for a water rescue vessel. And: K. Beausoleil offered copies of the data provided by Finance Director W. Steglitz regarding the Fire Department expenses for the Fire Tax District process to collate the data the Finance Director has been able to collect and make it available as the process moves forward
- B. **Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the minutes of the 06-13-2023 BOS Special Meeting carried unanimously.**
- IV. Correspondence:
- A. The DESPP Report of Services (May 2023) was read aloud, detailing 187 calls for service.
- V. Selectmen Comments:
- K. Beausoleil noted the budget process to be complete; observed the sad situation with the submersible
 - S. Witkowski advocates sending some budget line items out to bid, looking for possible savings: Town Attorney Services, Insurance, EMS (since the town remains within the cancellation window), as well as looking at the transfer station fee schedule to help cover costs there.* She asked the status of the letter which was distributed in town; A. St Onge noted the matter is on-going with the State Police.
 - A. St Onge noted the Polish Band in the Park, weather permitting, followed by a weekly series of other performers
- VI. Citizen Comments: none
- VII. Putnam EMS: Tammy Szyrka provided details of calls, of mutual aid and of event coverage.
A Quinebaug incident was reviewed. S. Witkowski and K. Beausoleil asked follow-up questions.
- VIII. DPW Director Joe Tkacik was unable to be present on this rescheduled meeting date but will be present in July. He provided data which was read by A. St Onge, listing the intense July Roads Improvement Plans which include full-depth reclamation and re-grading, then applying a binder and final topcoat. The research done by Datacorp of all town roads identified the roads in greatest need; they will be present at a BOS meeting, ideally jointly with the BOF, to make a presentation. A map and work plan are posted in the DPW garage both for the public and for staff. The work will be tracked using GIS and an on-going upkeep plan, specific to each road, will be implemented.
- IX. TEEG Request: An expansion of the TEEG Food Market necessitates digging test pits at some locations, and identifying a possible location to determine if a grant application may be submitted. John Rice, representing TEEG, and the TEEG HR Director were in attendance to review the need and

review some of the complexities of the process. They answered BOS questions and confirmed the project to be 100% grant funded if approved.

Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Witkowski to allow on-site testing as specified by the TEEG Board of Directors carried unanimously.

X. "Fill the Swing" request:

Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the MRFES PTO request to conduct a "Fill the Swing" playground expansion fundraiser at the Transfer Station on August 12 and 26 (8-2:20) carried unanimously.

XI. "Wallace Holder Summer Food Drive" request:

Motion S. Witkowski seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve the Blue House Staffing request to hold their food drive the at Town Hall Parking Lot on Fridays (July 7 and 21, August 04 and 18 @ 9-12 noon) to benefit TEEG carried unanimously.

XII. Poet Laureate: Karen Durlach, Tuft Hill Road, was present to advocate for the appointment of a 2-year honorary (volunteer) Thompson Poet Laureate, as regional towns have done, given that there is increased interest; this person would co-ordinate events with Recreation, Arts activities/groups and other organizations and act as ambassador. The consensus of the BOS was positive; after discussion it was agreed to post the opportunity on the Town website and *facebook* page and to solicit people who might want to serve in this capacity. One person who might step up was present and offered support. The results will be reviewed by the BOS and a decision made in time for Community Day at which the person's appointment can be announced.

XIII. Other Business: none

XIV. Citizen Comments: none

XV. Tax Refunds:

Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve a Tax Refund to Katie M. Berube, as presented, in the amount of \$6.83 carried unanimously.

XVI. Adjourn:

Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to adjourn at 8:06 PM carried unanimously.

To view and hear the complete meeting, click or copy/paste to your search bar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/CdgfcVeeXghC_wQT13f4RfrF4Wlozg4vZA88jNdVx5E4_2aJfwHoIwia5hwzL5Xj.GIJuYobzWmYGMOrQ Passcode: 41bHPE+3

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

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.