



TOWN OF THOMPSON
Board of Selectmen - Minutes
Special Meeting: Wednesday - November 08, 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 with all Selectmen present. Roll call: First Selectman Amy St Onge, Selectmen Ken Beausoleil, and Susanne Witkowski. Tyra Penn-Gesek (Director of Planning and Development), Members of Boards and Commissions and the public, Recording Secretary Dotti Durst
- 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 10-17-2023 BOS Meeting carried unanimously.**
- IV. Correspondence:
 - DESPP Services, September 2023, was read aloud by the First Selectman
- V. Selectmen Comments:
 - K. Beausoleil * election day went well on a pleasant day. He congratulated all participants, and thanked those who were not successful this election cycle * closures at Town Hall and the Transfer station this weekend will impact the citizens * Mr. Roland "Pete" Lajoie (at 98 years of age) was recognized at the Elementary School as a World War II Veteran and as the only surviving Thompson resident from this conflict, followed by enjoyment of the work of the Culinary students.
 - S. Witkowski: candidates were strong, making for tough choices at the election.
 - A. St Onge: 34% of registered voters turned out, quite a strong showing in a municipal election. * The timer has been replaced on the park lights and now they are functioning properly. After K. Beausoleil mentioned it, the newish controls were examined and found to be defective. * A fire alarm here at the Town Hall on 10-29 at 1 AM brought out Quinebaug, Community and Thompson Hill Fire Departments, so quickly that two of them arrived on-scene even before she did (and she was only a short distance away, A. St Onge noted). All three stations received strong praise. The elevator system had malfunctioned and is currently inoperable. A series of repairs will begin with a roof leak and then the hydraulic loader. * CT Water is asking for an 18% price increase. Those in Thompson who use the company will have access to Public Information sessions, in person in Lebanon (Monday, 11-27@5:30) and via Zoom (Monday, 12-14 @ noon). All available information will be on the town website. * The Turkey Trot is coming soon; spaces are still available, and on Saturday, the Veteran's Day ceremony at Oscar Swanson Park. * The Middle School Girl's Soccer Team won the Conference Championship, foretelling a positive High School team! * Poet Laureate Steve Veilleux has been recognized for his poem *Twilight on Thompson Hill*.
- VI. Citizen Comments:
 - Kevin Beno, American Self-Storage owner, asked the BOS to consider carefully the negative impacts to residents and businesses of a proposed Ordinance which would encourage a tax deferral for a new business.
 - Valerie Clark, Alm Road, thanked K. Beausoleil for his statements.
 - Sally White, E Thompson Road, regarding Mr. Beno's comments, noted the long-time business owners and taxpayers, hopeful that the BOS takes the negatives of a tax waiver proposal under consideration. A. St Onge: yes, I take the Mr. Beno's comments very, very seriously.

- VII. School Entrances RFP – Open Bids: Two bids were received. Pellerin Construction, Clinton, CT and ADFORM Interiors, Manchester, CT. Both were opened and handed to Brian Santos who then headed out to the Building Committee meeting.
- VIII. Property Reappraisal and Revaluation 2024 RFP – Bid Awards: Assessor Paul Hopkins noted that the two bids were both thorough and well-prepared. However, the bid from Municipal Valuation Services, LLC had the following advantages: * it was the lowest bid * it met the contract requirements for finest details of Thompson's needs * the over-all quality of the proposal was excellent. The Committee recommends acceptance of this bid. **Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Witkowski to award the bid for Thompson's Property Reappraisal/Revaluation to Municipal Valuation Services, LLC carried unanimously.**
- IX. Staffing:
Motion S. Witkowski seconded by K. Beausoleil to approval the hiring of Brian Bohenko as the Town Hall Maintainer/Custodian carried unanimously.
- Motion S. Witkowski seconded by K. Beausoleil to accept the resignation of Michael Quesnel, Library Custodian, two weeks from October 13, 2023 carried unanimously.**
- ** Lynn Landry, Clerk in the Tax Office,** has submitted notice of her Retirement effective February, 2024: regrets were expressed by the BOS about the loss of Lynn Landry from the town hall after 13 years, as she prepares for retirement. Her cordial personality with residents, willingness to step in to be helpful wherever she could and her watchful eye on the outdoor landscaping will all be missed. The BOS wish her well.
- X. Appointments:
Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the appointment of Dan Malo as Wetlands Agent, retroactive to September 13, 2023 for an indefinite term of office, carried unanimously.
- XI. Mission Statement:
Discussion by the BOS about adopting a Mission Statement for the Town Hall itself, given that many Departments/Agencies do have Mission Statements, resulted in agreement with the concept. K. Beausoleil: if adopted as presented, it can be amended and/or expanded.
Motion S. Witkowski seconded by K. Beausoleil to adopt the Mission Statement for the Town Hall as proposed on November 08, 2023 carried unanimously.
- XII. Town of Thompson Acquisition of Property - Sand Dam Road: At the previous BOS meeting, the proposal regarding the purchase of this parcel adjacent to the East Thompson Memorial Train Wreck Site was approved for return to the Planning and Zoning Commission for clarification of the parcel, which was done by the P & Z Commission through a new Motion. Now the BOS and town can move forward with acquisition of the parcel which will be accessed from E Thompson Road, on which a replica of the historic railroad engine turn style will be built. Grant funds will be used but no town funds. A town meeting will be held providing public information and a call for a vote of support.
Motion S. Witkowski seconded by K. Beausoleil to grant approval to move forward to a town meeting the acquisition of Parcel A on Sand Dam Road, as defined by

latitude and longitude in a warranty deed for the BOS, for expansion of the East Thompson Memorial Train Wreck Historic Site, utilizing \$5K in Grant funding, carried unanimously.

XIII. XIII. Discussion of Fees and Fines Schedules took place. *Inland Wetland fees as well as Flood Protection are due for examination; simultaneously, the Fire Marshal should review that fee schedule. * Inspections of Solar Panel installations have resulted in notifications of additional work being needed. A proposal for an Installation Fee may prevent as many call-backs and then reduce re-inspections. * The Animal Control Officer has noted the costs to the town of Roving dogs which have been picked up. A proposal for a Redemption fee when the owner comes to claim the dog, an Advertising fee to make the public and owner aware that a dog has been brought in, and a daily Boarding fee for unclaimed dogs which were found roaming can all be considered. It was noted that Fines flow to the State; this would instead be a fee, which would flow to the Dog Fund to cover costs. The Selectmen will review the various proposals prior to the next BOS meeting.

XIV. Other Business: none

XV. Citizen Comments:

- Sally White, E Thompson Road, asked for confirmation of the address of the land being purchased (Agenda XII) and the use of ARPA funds for it. Town Director of Planning and Development: The Tourism And Outdoor Recreation aspect of the ARPA Grant requirements, Infrastructure projects, as well as Development of Economic Drivers all qualify the project for the \$5K grant use. To clarify the parcel: the property owner's address is on Sand Dam Road, but the parcel being split off will be accessed from E. Thompson Road.

XVI. Tax Refunds:

Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the tax refunds as presented for a total of \$ 2,174.26 carried unanimously.

Honda Lease Trust	\$446.26	Nissan Infiniti LT LLC	\$38.53
Krasinski, Vanessa C.	\$57.24	Salce, Jeffrey W.	\$1,134.90
Vault Trust/Ally Financial	\$497.33		

XVII. Adjourn:

Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to adjourn at 7:41 PM carried unanimously.

To hear and see the meeting, use the link to the Zoom recording

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/tVugo7drRCgX5JBn7rVOktgzVNk7pMwaL8_TraFqL_iKt2xUFoGwwxLCXOYgk7yuf.p5t07mLEbESWoQ-N Passcode: 2+MKL8^w

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

These minutes have not yet been approved by the Board of Selectmen. Please refer to the next meeting's minutes for approval of and/or amendments to these minutes.