



**TOWN OF THOMPSON**  
**SELECTMEN'S MEETING - Minutes**  
**Monday, August 30, 2021**  
**Hybrid Meeting-Town Hall and Zoom**

I. The call to order by First Selectman Amy St Onge was at 6:00 PM in the Town Hall, with all three selectmen present. Members of the public were present as well as logged in via Zoom. A. St Onge reviewed the protocols for participation.

Roll call: First Selectman Amy St Onge, Selectmen Susanne Witkowski and Ken Beausoleil.

Others: Tyra Penn (Town Planner), several Fire Department Chiefs/personnel and EMS personnel, many members of Boards/Commissions and of the public, Recording Secretary Dotti Durst

II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The First Selectman asked the assembled audience for a moment of silence respecting the loss of 13 American military personnel lost in the line of duty.

III. Citizens' Comments: Both those who in attendance at the Town Hall and those in attendance via Zoom could speak about possible uses of the American Rescue Plan Funds.

-Matt Herman, Green Acres Lane: advocated for the Option 4 use of the ARPA Funds, to support the Fire Departments and the EMS. The concept of Direct payments to those heavily impacted by Covid-19 was reviewed. He noted that Ken Beausoleil, spoke on WINY those Directly Impacted by Covid-19 include many seniors, small businesses, and others. He advocates for Essential Workers, Fire and EMS personnel and all who lost wages or their jobs.

- Planner T. Penn reviewed this newer provision, which allows a community to utilize funds as leverage for grant applications and other open-ended choices, noting that the final details have not yet been made public.

- John Rice, 39 E. Thompson Rd: asked for support for "Tourism" at the Train Wreck site as an historically interesting aspect of Thompson; this and the Train Museum have active community support/involvement, with various entities working collaboratively. In addition, he encourages "Healthy Childhood" support for reconstruction of the high school track, which has had public use as well as by school students and is currently rather dangerous.

-Justin Yong, Fairway Dr (speaking as a member of the public and making no other representation): Prepared a PowerPoint presentation which was shared on the screen with all in attendance (and at his request is attached as an addendum to these minutes). He proposes a full-time, paid EMS service for Thompson, citing demographic data, serving 100% of the population as well as guests/visitors including those at the Speedway; he estimated costs to establish the new facility at about \$500,000. The current system, established in 1942, offers no over-night facilities for staff and has other shortfalls. He reviewed the current possible liability to the town, while not having oversight of activities of the entity, it being under private control, although with some amount of annual town funding. The DPW location is equidistant per GPS to all parts of town. He supports the Track replacement and the Trails Train Wreck site upgrade but puts his priority on the need for EMS Services.

- Roger Durand, 209 Brickyard Road: asks for start-up costs and other aspects of an EMS facility. He proposes a Public Services Complex, consolidating to one facility. He asks for quick action to get the Community Fire Department and EMS equipment inside.

-Kathleen Herbert, 122 Wilsonville Road: supports the consolidated EMS concept asking who would manage it. She asked how it would be handled if an ambulance must be replaced.

- Shawn Brissette, 342 Lowell Davis Road: Notes that this seems to be a rapid pace for major decisions, wondering about slowing it down, noting the value of long-term planning. He supports the idea of an ambulance/EMS system under town control; because of income from fees and insurance, it could be structured so it would break even. A. St Onge noted that for the first decisions the town has until October 31 for the preliminary ARPA reporting deadline.

-T. Penn: Thompson falls into the group called a Non-entitlement Unit and thus has the October 31 submission date

Seeing no other requests by those present at the Town Hall nor by any of those present via Zoom, The First Selectman closed Citizens' Comments at 6:42 PM.

IV. Use of ARPA Funds (American Rescue Plan Act/Covid Relief Funds): Discussion and Possible Action. The Selectmen noted the Community Forum and other feedback.

-K. Beausoleil: reviewed a written proposal and reviewed it, with amounts proposed to be allocated. The situation with the Community Fire Department must be addressed (\$107,000 known stabilization costs + \$23,000 for engineering totals \$130,000). Ambulance services (PPEs and upgrades \$75,000). Fire Departments (PPEs and Scotts- \$75,000 each X 5 for \$375,999). The WPCA has been in operation for 45 years, serving about 1,200

households. We need long-term system upgrades (\$753,576.40). The Train Wreck site does merit financial support (20% match- \$155,144.19), as well as 65 Main (\$244,000), as does the engineering costs for the school Track (\$72,000) and for the Bull Hill Recreation area (\$50,000). In addition, Thompson should provide funds under the ARPA Healthy Child provision (\$200,000), and under the Direct Assistance provision (\$570,000) for some of our Covid-impacted residents. The Salt Shed replacement is important (engineering work \$50,000). Two recent ideas: the Library needs a generator to be able to provide Community Shelter space in emergencies (\$50,000), and the Merrill Seney Room, here where many activities take place, similarly needs air conditioning (\$50,000).

-S. Witkowski: the ARPA funds give Thompson the opportunity to make changes that affect taxpayers in a positive way. Consolidation of Public Safety Services is a good idea. Residents have previously discussed a single, consolidated fire department in a central location. This is the chance to select big projects that make a difference.

– A. St Onge: The idea of a consolidated fire response system has appeal, possibly with auxiliary or substation locations. The Chiefs need to come together to determine the future structure of their town-wide service. Funds may be leveraged under Option 4 to find appropriate State and other Grants. Yes, Public Safety consolidation could be a positive, a bold vision, including EMS and several other aspects including even a Resident State Trooper in the future. The Salt Shed will be encapsulated to prevent run-off, but all of the Connecticut water supply has to be a priority. The possibility of grants or matching grants for other projects such as 65 Main are interesting. She praised the careful and complete work done by Planner Tyra Penn.

– K. Beausoleil: these funds should be used for engineering and preliminary work for projects that Thompson would be doing anyway, and as has always happened, will become part of the Capital Projects list.

Discussion of the process to make the American Rescue Plan Fund decisions: there is \$2.7 M available, but some should be set aside for Contingencies. The hope is to make decisions soon, get proposals out to bid and contractors as well as supplies lined up. The entire nation is doing the same thing right now and competition may result.

**Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to move to further discussion regarding Option 4 for maximum potential leveraging of the ARPA Funds carried unanimously.**

**Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to utilize \$155,144.10 for Aid to Impacted Industries for work at the Train Wreck and Airline Park carried unanimously.**

**Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to fully fund engineering and design costs at the track at Tourtellotte Memorial High School in the amount of \$72,200 carried unanimously.**

**Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to fund Water and Sewer Control infrastructure upgrades in the amount of \$681,500 carried unanimously.**

**Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to utilize \$1,367,000 for engineering/design costs to create a Public Safety complex and the Salt Storage facility at the location of the DPW.**

Discussion: the Public Safety complex could house, for example, Emergency Services, the Fire Marshal, EMS services, and others. K. Beausoleil: space is tight at that site, with the parking for school busses, as well as construction equipment and the required well radius. S. Witkowski: yes, some shifting may be needed. A. St Onge has contacted the DPW Director about the concept. **Motion carried, 2-1 with K. Beausoleil voting nay.**

**\*\*Amy St Onge: \$500,000 remains not allocated. If the Fire Departments propose a consolidation plan, these funds could be so directed. It would make the town stronger and Fire Services stronger if there were collaboration from all 5 Departments. K. Beausoleil: there would need to be buy-in from all 5 departments. At a meeting next week, we will receive input from the 5 chiefs. K. Beausoleil: Community has to be situated soon.**

**Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to hold aside \$500,000 as contingency funds for future consideration including possibly to address the needs of the Fire Departments carried unanimously.**

Planner Tyra Penn will monitor other possible grant opportunities.

NOTE: A PowerPoint presentation created by Justin Yong is posted as an addendum to these minutes.



08-30-2021 J Yong  
ARPA Funds EMS.pp

V. Adjourn:

**Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to adjourn at 7:26 PM carried unanimously.**

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

To see and hear the meeting, click on this link or copy/paste into your search bar:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/tAHk8HaZZCVIpDx37IY5k75FVgu1E7BjHTvR9A\\_xl-vcG6Yri8HgpzHBvrGpUgb3\\_oIFb7QbeNLI8xIU](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/tAHk8HaZZCVIpDx37IY5k75FVgu1E7BjHTvR9A_xl-vcG6Yri8HgpzHBvrGpUgb3_oIFb7QbeNLI8xIU) Passcode: ehKt@0tH

*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.*