



TOWN OF THOMPSON Board of Selectmen

SPECIAL SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday, June 2, 2020

Via ZOOM Online Meeting Portal

MINUTES

The call to order by First Selectman Amy St Onge was at 7:30 PM.

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

Others: Town officials and Department Heads, Recording Secretary Dotti Durst

I. Approval of Minutes:

Motion S. Witkowski seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve the minutes of the 05-19-2020 BOS Special Meeting carried unanimously

II. Correspondence - None

III. Selectmen Comments:

S. Witkowski- praised the BOF for the tough year they dealt with, tough decisions that had to be made due to the virus. The on-line process for re-licensing dogs worked smoothly and hopefully will be available in subsequent years.

K. Beausoleil- the Memorial Day parade was a success, although non-traditional; it was a nice show of respect for the meaning of the day. The Mill redevelopment company wants information about tax incentives and timelines, as provided by statute; hopefully the BOS will be ready to address this at the next meeting, on June 16.

A. St Onge-Thanks to the Fire Departments. A big hit at the parade was the pay loader; thanks to the DPW for their participation. And thanks to the Prescotts.

- Town Department heads met to determine safety for staff and the public during the virus and will remain closed, opening gradually, awaiting the Governor's June 20 re-opening guidelines. The upstairs will be opened for payments after July 1, with precautions in place.

- The Town will look for software that will allow many permits and licenses to be handled electronically.

IV. Citizen Comments: none

- V. 1395 Riverside Dr, consideration of possible sale: A. St Onge- an abutter at 1405 Riverside is interested in purchase, Extended discussion took place with K. Beausoleil reviewing the chronology of events since 2007 when the Town acquired the parcel through foreclosure for \$30,000. Comments provided by UCONN Engineering students about ingress/egress difficulties as well as the elevation of the parcel from water level, making access for kayak trips difficult for some people, was mentioned. Difficulty keeping the parcel clear of abandoned vehicles and major "junk" has been problematic. R. Benoit, DPW Director, was asked for comment. He noted that the town has many small parcels and the maintenance of even the major ones is a manpower challenge. Adding another may not be in the town's interest. K. Beausoleil: advocates for first looking at any legalities/easements/liability to the town. The parcel was targeted for Hydro-power generation and should be considered again. The Conservation Commission and the

Branding or Planning and Zoning Commission may be able to construct a list of benefits to retaining the property. S. Witkowski- the Town would be hard-pressed to take on more right now, with so much unknown. Yes, PnZ discussion may bring in other ideas for the parcel. A St Onge- an Ordinance requires the advice and consent of Planning and Zoning for action on a Town-owned parcel valued at over \$1,000. If they recommend selling it, the matter comes back to the BOS for action.

Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to refer the possible sale of 1395 Riverside Dr to the Planning and Zoning Commission, carried 2-1.
S. Witkowski- yes A. St Onge-yes K. Beausoleil- no

- VI. Resolution to Change Management of the Bar Grant to Tyra Penn-Gesek, Town Planner:
Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Witkowski to accept the Resolution as presented carried unanimously. (for implementation of the final stages of the project).
- VII. Tax Warrant and Mill Rate: a formality by the BOS to endorse the mil rate set by the BOF
Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Witkowski to accept and approve the Tax Warrant as presented by the Board of Finance on June 01, 2020, with the mil rate of 24.23, carried unanimously.
- VIII. New Hires:
Motion S. Witkowski seconded by A. St Onge to approve the hiring of the Assessor as recommended by the interview committee carried unanimously.
Motion S. Witkowski seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve the hiring of the Highway Maintainer as recommended carried unanimously.
- IX. Other Business: n/a
- X. Citizens Comments: R. Benoit will meet tomorrow with an electrician to determine why some fixtures do not work and to confirm that the globes for the fixtures in Riverside Park are still available; he will also see if there are protective devices against the frequent vandalism. The fixtures are an attractive feature of the park, and he would like to see them retained and functioning.
- XI. Tax refunds:
Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to issue refunds to Ashley Ravenelle (\$28.19) and Nissan Infinity LT (\$55.25) for a total of \$83.44 carried unanimously.
- XII. **Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to adjourn at 8:13 PM carried unanimously.**

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.