



## MINUTES

### TOWN OF THOMPSON

#### ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2020 \* 8:00 AM

MERRILL SENEY COMMUNITY ROOM – TOWN HALL

PRESENT: Al Landry, Dick Trudeau, Celeste Guimont, JoAnn Hall

ALSO PRESENT: Tyra Penn-Gesek, Town Planner; Donna Hall, Recording Secretary

Al Landry, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:02 AM.

- 1) Accept Minutes of 08-13-2020 Ordinance Review Committee Special Meeting  
Dick Trudeau would like his name corrected from Richard Trudeau to Dick Trudeau throughout Minutes, also Minutes should read Amy St. Onge, First Selectperson, however, Al Landry remembers this coming up in the past & he believes the correct language is First Selectman, regardless of sex, etc., some discussion followed. Tyra Penn-Gesek, Town Planner, will check into validity of language.  
A Motion was made by JoAnn Hall to accept the Minutes as discussed & corrected, seconded by Dick Trudeau. All in favor, Motion carries.
- 2) New Business
  - a) Review Proposed Blight Ordinance  
Tyra Penn-Gesek, Town Planner, was present to review the proposed ordinance with members & answer questions. Al Landry noted depending upon Tyra's research of the correct language, the verbiage of First Selectman/woman/person will need to be corrected throughout this ordinance. Al also requested a copy of the verbiage once Tyra found it in her research. Section 1, was reviewed & OK. Section 2, was reviewed & OK. Section 3, was reviewed & OK. Section 4, was reviewed & OK. Section 5, was reviewed & OK. Section 6, item C., Al Landry feels a date should be added to this section instead of "on an annual basis", as in so many past instances reviews never happen. Dick Trudeau suggested December 31<sup>st</sup>. JoAnn Hall suggested June 30<sup>th</sup> to coincide with fiscal year-end, Celeste Guimont was comfortable with either date. Discussion ensued. Dick Trudeau suggested the verbiage "annually by June 30<sup>th</sup> of fiscal year". Members agreed to this change. Dick asked if JoAnn was comfortable with Section 2, item D, the bullets of blight factors. JoAnn is happy with this corrected section. Section 8, item B.6, Al questioned the first sentence "Any owner who does not admit to liability...within fourteen days of the date of the first citation shall be deemed to have admitted liability". Al feels this

should state "from date of receipt of citation". Discussion ensued, members agree, Tyra will make the change. Section 8, Item C.3, Al questioned the first sentence "The presence of the Officer..." which officer, Blight, Hearing??? Discussion ensued, will change to read "The presence of the Blight Officer..." Section 9, was reviewed & OK. Section 10, was reviewed & OK. Section 11, was reviewed & OK. Al questioned the cost of a Blight Officer, due to the cost to the Town, & doesn't want to incur more expenses to tax payers, this should be a part time position. Al is also concerned for a Blight Officer on people's private property, accident or injuries occur, worker's comp issues, etc. Discussion ensued. Al suggested when this is brought to Town Meeting, it should be a live meeting, held at the school, so more people can attend, because the last proposed Blight Ordinance was overwhelmingly defeated & there were so many people that attended, a lot of people couldn't get into the meeting. Celeste feels this is a much easier ordinance to read & absorb. JoAnn feels this is a reasonable document. Dick recommended forwarding this Blight Ordinance to the Board of Selectmen for Town Meeting, but to table it until we can have an open live meeting that people can attend. Celeste would like to keep this project going, but would also like an open, live Town Meeting for people to voice their opinions. Al is still concerned about the salary of a Blight Officer & a Hearing Officer; he also agrees to wait for an open, live meeting for people to attend.

A Motion was made by Dick Trudeau to approve the proposed Blight Ordinance with the changes they've previously discussed & to table the proposed ordinance until such time as a live Town Meeting can be held, seconded by JoAnn Hall.

Dick Trudeau – Yes

Celeste Guimont – Yes

JoAnn Hall – Yes

Al Landry – No

Motion carries.

b) Review Amended & Proposed #10-005 Budget Ordinance

Donna handed out the existing Budget Ordinance & the proposed amended budget ordinance. Al likes the idea but is concerned about the State MBR mandates. Celeste spoke with Orla Rafferty, Finance Director, who stated the Board of Ed knows their budget cannot be lower than the State MBR, Orla also stated the cost of a referendum is between \$5,000.-\$6,000. each. Celeste stated the cost of the referendums just keep increasing & lately we've been having 3 or 4 each budget season. Dick stated we never receive the State budget on time either. Al stated if the school budget passes then the government budget will have to be cut further & further. Discussion ensued.

A Motion was made by Celeste Guimont to forward the proposed #10-005 Budget Ordinance to the Board of Selectmen, seconded by JoAnn Hall.

Dick Trudeau – No

Celeste Guimont – Yes

JoAnn Hall – Yes

Al Landry – No

Motion failed, Celeste withdrew her Motion, JoAnn withdrew her Second.

Further discussion ensued. Al suggested reaching out to the Board of Education, the Board of Finance, & the Board of Selectmen, to request their input, Members agreed.

A Motion was made by Celeste Guimont to send a letter to the Board of Education, the Board of Finance, & the Board of Selectmen, requesting their input prior to the Ordinance Committee's next meeting date of 10-08-2020. All in favor, Motion carries.

3) Old Business

- a) Recreation Commission Ordinance #10-039 (awaiting more info from Recreation Commission) No news.
- b) Code of Ordinances History Book Update by Celeste Guimont  
Celeste stated all the history ordinances have been researched & completed. Yayyy, thank you so much Celeste for all your work!!! Donna will need to the end of October to review, organize, & prepare the current ordinance book & the historical ordinance book. Celeste will then organize & create the History Book, Table of Contents, etc.

4) Citizen's Comments – None

5) Member's Comments

Discussion ensued regarding the next ORC meeting. There will not be another scheduled meeting until we get feedback from the various boards that we're reaching out to. The ORC normally meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month, the next meeting will possibly be Thursday 10-08-2020 or Thursday 11-12-2020.

6) Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Donna M. Hall,  
Recording Secretary