

TOWN OF THOMPSON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 3, 2015

MINUTES

(Transcribed from the audio recording of the meeting)

PRESENT: Paul Lenky, First Selectman
Kerstin Forrester, Selectman
Shaina Smith, Selectman

OTHERS PRESENT: Andrew Richardson, Recording Secretary (left the meeting
at 9:36PM)
Members of the Public

Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

First Selectman Lenky called the February 3, 2015 Regular Meeting to
order at 7:00PM.

1. Approval of Minutes

(M/S/C Forrester/Smith) to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2015
Meeting with the following corrections:

Forrester:

Page 1:

- ✓ Correction to the correction previously made – the dollar amount was
\$7,454.00, not \$74.54 as specified in the minutes;
- ✓ “Accommodation” should be “a commendation”
- ✓ Renewable Energy is a Committee, not a Commission;
- ✓ Under Correspondence – “ongoing” should be “programs”;
- ✓ The complaint referenced was against the Building Committee, not the
Business Committee;

Page 3:

- ✓ Under the first bullet, re the FOIA complaint - the Special Meeting was not
posted on the website;
- ✓ Under the CTec, Alex Fox – Mrs. Forrester’s stated that the agreement
needs to remove the phrase that “the Town will purchase all power
generated” and replace it with “purchase power needed by the town”

Page 4:

- ✓ For clarity, under the title of snow removal, there were a couple of
grammatical errors Mrs. Forrester is not concerned with; her concern is
with the dumping of snow back on the sidewalks, not just “dump snow”;

and under item 10, re the Girl Scouts, Mrs. Forrester thought the issue with the Girl Scouts was not the trouble generating money, but getting access to places within in the Town of Thompson where they could schedule Scout activities, not generate money; also, in the last sentence, the troop's "ability to raise money for fundraising" should be changed to, "the issue is when they use public buildings such as the school, Library/Community Center the cost is too prohibitive for them to hold activities in Town."

Page 6:

- ✓ Under the server replacement, Mrs. Forrester believed that the discussion was not a brief discussion, that two options were presented for the replacement of the servers and what those options cost, so that should be included. Mrs. Forrester also stated she provided the Board with an analysis of costs for two options: the first being using Quality Data to store information on their cloud host at \$6,000/yr., and the Town would still need to purchase a file server and a temperature control system for that, bringing the total cost of roughly \$37,000. The \$37,000 would constitute the first year investment, with \$6,000/yr. being the ongoing cost; the second option would be that the Town purchase the servers and the cooling unit at a cost of \$16,580, and the servers would have a Capital life of 3 – 4 years. The Board agreed to move forward with the purchase of the two servers and the cooling unity.

Citizens' Comments:

- ✓ Under Mr. Baer's comments, Mrs. Forrester was asking for clarity re how the sentence reads re the Girl Scouts where their sales practices are made to be cost-prohibitive – she was confident that it had more to do with the pricing of the Town that made it cost-prohibitive (unions, custodians, etc.);
- ✓ Question on the second bullet under the servers: Mrs. Forrester stated that the motion was to put the server replacement on the Agenda under 15a and it was not heard under 15a but under Selectmen's Comments.

Smith:

Correspondence, Page 1:

- ✓ Under the sixth bullet, re the email received from Lynn Landry, "she had received" should be "the Board had received", and the sentence needs to be restructured a bit re the unpaid tax Motor Vehicle not being submitted s/b "Regarding the unpaid Motor Vehicle taxes not being submitted in a timely manner";

Page 2:

- ✓ Selectmen's Comments:
 - Second bullet, last line, "Mrs. Forrester suggested they give a timeframe" – Mrs. Smith believed that referenced the timeframe for the assessment so that it doesn't drag out, and she clarified, meaning that she had suggested the assessment be completed by the end of the week; Mrs. Forrester noted that she had stated the Board would like to have it completed by the end of the month;

Page 3:

- ✓ Mr. Beausoleil asked if there were any type of tickets – clarify that he meant fiscal reports, because he was discussing budget season; Mrs. Forrester noted that it wasn't a fiscal report, but what was being worked on for the fire departments;
- ✓ Under CTec, "Mrs. Smith asked if the Board signs a letter of intent it would also be signing off on the locations as well before..." – delete "as well before...", and at the end of the section, "Mr. Fox responded it does not need to be zoned as agricultural land" should also include "but used for agriculture";
- ✓ "Mrs. Smith commented that she didn't know how much the scour protection of the abutments would come to and asked that the Town..." remainder of the comment s/b "could carry out this part of the project" instead of "would have to do that somewhere else", and add at the end that highway personnel can do the scouring for this particular bridge;
- ✓ Last sentence under sidewalk snow removal discussion, "Mrs. Smith suggested that the Board of Selectmen contact other highway departments" – add that she also suggested/stated "other towns"

VOTE to accept w/corrections: unanimous.

Mrs. Forrester then suggested to the Recording Secretary that, should there be uncertainty when preparing meeting minutes, the Recording Secretary contact member(s) of the Board for clarification(s).

January 21, 2015 Special Meeting Executive Session:
(M/S/C Smith/Lenky) to accept the minutes.

- ✓ Mrs. Smith stated that "Ms. Smith" s/b "Mrs. Smith" throughout.

VOTE to accept w/corrections as noted: Lenky – yes; Smith – yes; Forrester – abstained because she wasn't there.

2. Correspondence

- P. Lenky:
 - i. Confirmed date for next union meeting;
 - ii. Notification from Shawn Johnston, CL&P, that as of 2/15/15 Connecticut Light and Power (CL&P)/Yankee Gas will be operating under the name Eversource and that CL&P will not appear on new bills;
 - iii. Memo re what the Town has received to date re payments to be made for the oil spill;
 - iv. Email from Sgt. Joseph McCusker, Troop D, to introduce himself as the liaison for the Town of Thompson. Stated that "if you are having any issues please reach out to me."
 - v. CT Dept. of Emergency Management pre-assessment survey of recent snow storms, which is to be filled out by the Town's Emergency

Management Director and the Town Highway Foreman to provide total cost for the two storms;

1. Mr. Lenky noted that the survey is to be returned by Friday, February 6.
 - vi. Advisory from the State of CT re State roadway resurfacing postponements, which listed roads which were postponed; Mr. Lenky noted that the Town of Thompson is only affected by Rt. 200 to Rt. 131 – 2.7 mi.
 - vii. Letter from Atty. St. Onge re 650 Associates watermain easement on Riverside Dr., North Grosvenordale,. 650 Associates wants an easement to put in some hydrants, with the Town being responsible for installation. Negotiations re easement language are ongoing.
 - viii. Grant award notification from CT DECD re \$218,000 Historic Brownfield Revitalization funding application. Mr. Lenky clarified that the Norwich Bulletin report the grant was for apartments in the Sanitary Dash Risom Mill is incorrect, and continued, stating that the grant is for environmental and structural assessment of the building for the purpose of revitalization of the building/property.
 - K. Forrester:
 - i. NECCOG agenda/minutes from prior meetings; Mrs. Forrester reiterated re concerns about consolidating functions that the Town truly look at what the cost will be both short term and long term because more certainly than not, when governments start adding layers it becomes a cost, and when they start looking at consolidating office functions, again, nothing seems to go away, so she advised caution with such proposal(s)/discussion(s).
 - ii. Interstate Reliability Project weekly update – installing mats, tree trimming, performing side line tree trimming in the vicinity of Quaddick Town Farm Road and Elmwood Hill Road.
 - iii. A Thank You from Recreation to Leo Adams for participating in the bonfire.
 - iv. Emails for agendas/minutes from various Town boards/commissions/committees, etc.
3. Selectmen's Comments
- K. Forrester:
 - i. EDC – went to the last meeting to discuss the economic identity project and members were very appreciative for the advice and somewhat excited about the project. She expressed her thought that members are all in agreement that the Town lacks an identity, and wondered how to start that. Mrs. Forrester suggested that the Town Planner be encouraged to attend the meetings, and suggested that the Board of Selectmen alternates Selectman attendance at EDC meetings to help the Commission and answer any questions; would be one meeting every three months per Board member, which Mrs. Forrester thinks would be helpful.

- ii. Status for TEEG building – Mrs. Forrester understands the snow storms consumed all of the Highway Department’s time, but asked if anything has been done to look at 65 Main St., to which Mr. Lenky responded he notified the Building Inspector, who will perform an assessment of the building with the Public Works Director.
- iii. Volunteer applications – Mrs. Forrester noted that nothing has been submitted to the Selectman’s office to-date, which needs to be done.
- iv. Comment re a question asked by Sally White, about the pictures on the Town website which rotate, and Mrs. Forrester noted that those photos are the same photos that have been on the website for quite some time, and that the pictures have not been changed.
- v. Need to move Other Business up to 13a. Sent a note to Ms. Rebello to make sure that the change is reflected on agendas going forward, and Noel Lafayette, NE Solar, will be here toward the end of the meeting, and wants to add him to the agenda under Other Business. **(M/S/C Lenky/Smith)** to move Other Business to Item 13a. **Motion carried unanimously.**
(M/S/C Smith/Lenky) to include Noel Laffayette under item 13a Other Business. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- P. Lenky
 - i. Letter from Little League requesting to use Town Hall on February 12 from 5:30PM – 8:30PM for registration. Mr. Lenky stated he would like to include that under Other Business. **(M/S/C Forrester/Smith)** to include the matter under item 13a Other Business. **Motion carried unanimously.**
 - ii. Bids have been received for Phase III Pineview Court, and Mr. Lenky stated he would like opening of the bids to be added to Other Business. **(M/S/C Forrester/Smith)** to add Bid Opening – Phase III Pineview Court to item 13a Other Business. Discussion on the motion: Mrs. Smith asked if the applicants were aware bids would be opened that evening, to which Mr. Lenky responded they were notified. Mr. Lenky clarified that all that would be done at that time was that bids would be opened and the bids recorded. He continued, stating that subsequently a meeting would be scheduled with the Board of Selectmen and the Housing Authority to review the bids and make a decision to award. **Motion carried unanimously.**
 - iii. Mr. Lenky thanked Jim Gagne and Anthony Berkhardt from Tolland, CT, and noted they came the day after the previous week’s storm and volunteered their time, spending eight hours helping to widen the streets at “the lots”, asking for nothing in return, and that assistance freed up Town resources to be used elsewhere. He stated the Board should send letters of appreciation.
 - iv. Mr. Lenky stated he and the Town Planner met with Dollar General’s Engineer the previous Thursday, preliminary plans were reviewed, and that he was impressed with the proposal. He continued, stating that

- the matter will be brought before the Planning & Zoning Commission, and that an August opening date is desired.
- v. When the Town was doing the guard rails, the supplies were exhausted and subsequently replenished. He continued, stating that Mr. Adams was contacted by a Highway Department in Southern CT which told him that if Thompson brings a container down, they will load it, providing Thompson with approximately 500 guard rails that the Town can use next year for replacement(s).
 - vi. COMMENT BY MRS. FORRESTER RE MR. LENKY'S COMMENT iii: She stated that the reason that Mr. Gagne and Mr. Berkhardt from Tolland came was that they saw the TV news report that showed Mr. Lenky shoveling, and they were so impressed to see a First Selectman out there shoveling and removing the snow that they were excited to come up and help, so, give credit where credit's due.
- Mrs. Smith:
 - i. Expressed thanks to the Highway Department and First Selectman for shoveling in the wake of the snow storms. She noted that road conditions were as good as could be considering the amount of snow received.
 - ii. The Girl Scout leader came to the Board of Selectmen at the last meeting asking if the Board could consider looking at either possibly budgeting some funds for non-profit organizations to utilize the Community Center, and the Board also discussed looking at the Community Center itself to see how accessible it is to the public. She provided copies of the Room Use Policy and Regulations to the Board, as well as the job description for the Evening Custodian. She noted she also had the job description for the Morning Custodian, but that the subject matter (Girl Scout use) seemed to apply more to evenings. She reviewed the documents and pointed out the following: the Library and Community Center rooms can be used for non-profits, under User Hours and Fees – there are rooms available at no fee for approved functions during the approved and stated hours; the fee charged is \$25/first 2 hours, and Mrs. Smith believed it was misstated that the fee charged is \$50 at the last meeting, and then \$15/each additional hour. The check is made payable to the Custodian (that was brought up by Mr. Baer), but this could be discussed with Payroll to create a new system by which the group's dollars would then go through our Finance Department. The document also stated that every effort will be made to accommodate reasonable requests for rooms outside of normal hours. She stated she'd spoken with Allison and, when looking at Fridays, the building closes at 5PM, which is when the Custodian does his "heavy cleaning" of floors, etc., but she (Allison) said she and the Evening Custodian are more than open, if aware ahead of time that a group is interested in utilizing the space during that time that the "heavy cleaning" could be postponed to the following day or do it at some other time. She (Allison) also stated she is open to the Girl

Scouts discussing with her an “overnight” within the Library itself, which has been done in the past.

Mrs. Forrester noted that it had been brought up that, in the past, the kitchen facilities could not be used, to which Mrs. Smith responded that “cooking” was not allowed, but “reheating” was permitted. Mrs. Smith further noted the refrigerator and stove are Town-owned appliances.

Mrs. Smith then voiced her questions about the Policy, if the Board is to support it. She stated there are a few “red flags” for her: who was responsible for creating the Policy, revised June 19, 2014 (to which Mrs. Forrester responded – the Library Board of Trustees), hours, payroll (to which Mrs. Forrester responded her belief that, from an organizational standpoint, paying from an organization to a person on the Town’s payroll is not legal; she stated she knows the IRS considers it an avoidance of matching taxes so it should not be done, and that “we should not be paying employees under the table” essentially by having another organization pay them; she noted the Town is still responsible for them if they are working in the capacity for the Town, so she thinks that is a significant issue).

Regarding a breakdown of the job description, Mrs. Smith questioned what the janitor is responsible for following an event because it appears that the groups are responsible, seemingly for everything from set-up to break-down, trash collection/securing, and she questioned what the responsibilities actually are, whether it’s merely a “turn-key” type of situation, or what. She stated these items could be discussed at a subsequent meeting.

- iii. Mrs. Smith questioned Steve Benoit re the surplus equipment list and asked if any of the fire departments have taken advantage of any of the listed items, to which Mr. Benoit responded that Community and West Thompson are making arrangements to come down. Mrs. Smith asked what the reason for the equipment surplus, to which Mr. Benoit explained that the equipment is no longer used.
- iv. Mrs. Smith then asked Mr. Lenky about the liaison sargeant who reached out to the Town and if he’d responded with any known locations/trouble spots in Town that additional monitoring could be done, to which Mr. Lenky said he spoke with them and it was pointed out to him that the department is short-handed, having one officer covering three towns – Thompson, Pomfret and Woodstock, and that he’d given a number of location suggestions. Mr. Lenky stated assistance was offered the day of the snow storm.

Mr. Lenky stated, regarding Mrs. Smith’s comments about the Town Highway personnel and the job they did, with the magnitude of snow received, the Town Highway did a very good job cleaning up, and when people on the outside tell you that, especially when they come from another

town, the Town of Thompson had the best roads in Windham County, he thinks that very impressive and credit should be given to the Highway crews. He noted that they spent 28 hours on the first storm and, though he didn't have numbers for the second storm, the crews did a very good job and it spoke well for the Town of Thompson. Mrs. Forrester then asked Mr. Lenky if there are policies in place regarding the number of hours crews can be out on the roads before they are required to take a break, to which he responded that if there's a state of emergency it does not apply because, if it's correct, DOT only allows 10 hours on and then requires 8 hours off, but that doesn't apply in a state of emergency. He continued, noting that what was done during the first storm was they would go out on the "6th hour", go out and do what needs to be done, take a break and then go out again, which was like every six hours to keep the roads opened up. Mrs. Forrester stated she was just concerned about crews being out for the duration, to which Mr. Lenky responded nobody drove over eight hours, only driving four hours/six hours "tops", and then resting before going back out. The main purpose was to open up the roads for emergency ambulance/fire apparatus in the event it was needed; and Town Hall, Library, etc., was not the primary concern. The day after the storm crews were out opening up/widening the roads, and he noted that the next morning roads were widened to about 90% of where they were supposed to be. He stated there were minimal complaints but nothing drastic, and that people must realize that, with the amount of snow received, where are we to put it; with the amount of snow received, it's getting very tight.

4. Citizens' Comments (**Limit 3 minutes**)

- Paul Baer: Regarding the article on WINY, the interview about the website and the person who was previously doing it just walked away, expressed his opinion that was not accurate, given the numerous emails that were sent to the Selectman's office, to Finance, to Tonya, reporting the website and issues that were coming up that were causing the website to have problems, such as failure to record/post minutes, proper formats, numerous corrections that had to be made to bring it back in line, and a lack of response from the Selectman's office. After Susanne Witkowski from the Board of Finance thought that it should be a paid position, there was concern about a non-Town employee working on the Town's website, now there is a non-Town employee working on the Town's website getting paid, and Marla Butts said it should be a paid professional doing the Town website, which is very easy for a non-resident to spend taxpayer money. The contract to transfer and upgrade the software apparently wasn't fulfilled because the website's now a mess – there are still a lot of things that don't work, transfer station pages are blank, recordings don't download from the website. He stated another comment made during the interview about the website being congested as a reason for not transferring the files that were loaded to the website to the archives that allowed both the residents and Town employees to easily access the

documents – the Town’s website can support the company that supplies the services, noting that it’s an unlimited storage facility for the website. He stated he was not sure how it got congested, but he noted that the contract was out there and that the gentleman he spoke with when it started was to transfer all the files over, and that the contract wasn’t fulfilled.

He stated the Solar Committee seems to be bypassed with all of the solar presentations.

He noted the agenda posted for the remediation funding should be corrected, to which Mr. Lenky responded it will be.

- Kevin Walsh: Asked the purpose of cleaning the lot next to Cumberlands, to which Mr. Lenky responded the purpose was to open up the area behind to park, to stop destruction and people hanging around down there at night so it’s more visible, as was done across the street, and he noted permission was received from Cumberland Farms for the work. He noted that, after the accident at Cumberland Farms, the Regional Manager was impressed with the work done, and Mr. Lenky also spoke with their engineer and they will be looking at expanding their parking lot for safety reasons, and Mr. Lenky noted that the land was private.

Re funds allocated in the budget for the former Finance Director to assist with the transition for his replacement, Mr. Walsh asked the status of the account. Mr. Lenky replied that he does not believe funds have been depleted but would let Mr. Walsh know. Mr. Walsh stated Mr. Martin would be assisting with the upcoming budget process/workshops, to which Mr. Lenky responded he thought it would only be a couple of days. Mrs. Forrester stated she wasn’t aware Mr. Martin would be assisting. Mr. Walsh stated it was on the website and Mr. Lenky responded that it is his understanding it would be just to get things going and that he wouldn’t be assisting throughout the entire process. Mr. Walsh asked that a status be provided.

Re the Town website, he stated “the anonymous phantom” Mr. Paul Baer did a phenomenal job and that he spent a lot of hours, and suggested that other towns might be a bit envious of the work he did. In quotations on WINY’s Facebook they directed Mr. Lenky’s comment saying that Mr. Baer walked away – the anonymous volunteer walked away from the job. He did not walk away. Mr. Lenky responded he is unaware of who wrote that or called the radio station. Mr. Walsh stated Mr. Baer did not walk away and that, if the comment is true, that is one way of discouraging anyone from volunteering only to be congratulated/thanked, if indeed it is true, by what he considers a “cheap shot”. He stated the website belongs

to the people and it's not to be manipulated by a few individuals and that it's paid for with taxpayer money.

Mr. Walsh asked Mrs. Forrester, re hiring of the Executive Assistant, if that was her daughter, to which she responded it is. He then asked if she would recuse herself, to which she said she had all along. Mr. Walsh, speaking for himself, stated he thinks it falls under the question of appropriate ethics, noting that other towns have very strict guidelines and, though there is not a final product yet, Thompson does have an Ethics Committee working so that can't be referred to. He continued, stating the question comes up of are we serving the community, or are we also self-serving by promoting our own family to take over a paying job within the Town, and that he personally questions that, and thinks it an issue of ethics and character and integrity. He stated that Mrs. Forrester, during the past administration, was a very strong proponent/advocate of good, strong ethics within the Town Hall, and now that we have this situation, unfortunately, involving your daughter, Mr. Walsh questioned, noting that he was not questioning the candidate re her capabilities/abilities/know-how, he finds it kind of hypocritical, over several years having such a strong position in regards to eliminating any sign of "cronie-ism" or violation of ethics, to be personally involved with a family member taking over a position. Mrs. Forrester responded, stating she has not been personally involved at all. Mr. Walsh stated her daughter is there, and she is on the Board of Selectmen. He stated that if Mrs. Forrester were to resign effective immediately until the end of her term then the conversation could be had regarding the hiring of her daughter, he could "buy into that", but the fact that Mrs. Forrester is an elected official and her daughter is ending up in the position, "that's the Chicago way".

- Al Landry: Mr. Landry requested clarification regarding River Mill and the grant. Mr. Lenky responded, explaining that the grant is for identification of storage tanks, pcb's, lead, and do a structural study so that it can be determined what can go in the building and what the building's capacity is. Mr. Lenky continued, stating there's 500,000sf of space in the structure, and a lot of the space isn't being used. He stated elimination of the uncertainty for potential tenants would be beneficial to the Town. Mr. Landry stated that the courtyard is shown on a map he found as a dumping area, next to a culvert, and he hopes it will be checked. Mr. Lenky stated it would be part of the investigation.
- Don Pimental: Mr. Pimental stated that, a couple of years ago, there was a vote on the Building Department hours, and they were changed; however, they're still the way they used to be. Mr. Lenky responded that Mr. Pimental is correct. Mr. Pimental asked if the voted on hours would be established, to which Mr. Lenky stated the Building Department will be going back to five days per week.

Regarding the website, Mr. Pimental stated his hope that everything be put back on the website that Mr. Baer spent so much time to do, noting that it is extremely helpful with research. Mr. Pimental stated that he attended the meetings, and that Mr. Baer did not walk away.

Mr. Pimental expressed his agreement with Mr. Walsh regarding the "situation with Kerstin's daughter" and stated he thinks that should be looked into, and that it's unethical to him.

- Ken Beausoleil: Re previous statements by Mr. Walsh and Mr. Pimental about the hiring, several months ago when this person was hired, it was mentioned at that time that it would not be surprising if that person ended up with the position permanently if it became available. He continued, stating it is not very ethical and he believes the State does have ethics and that there are laws on the books and that they be referred to. He continued, stating that at the January meeting of the Board of Finance, the Board of Finance made it very clear that there was no line item for an Executive Assistant in the budget, and that there were 15 hours for working in the Town Clerk's office and 10 hours for working at the Town Highway Department, and that it must go through the Board of Finance because funds cannot be transferred to fund that. He continued, stating that hours had been increased to 30 from 25, and asked how the person could be hired without proper funding, stating his belief that the matter was to be before the Board of Finance at its next meeting and that hiring this person leaves a "big hole" into whether or not it will even be continued in the next budget. He stated that it is a 5-hour increase, that \$540,000 is needed for remediation at the school, and he believed there is talk about a mil increase in the new contract, noting the budget last year was passed at .29% and that threshold is already exceeded without spending additional monies. In addition, authorization is also needed before a line item can be created, and he stated his belief, re hiring for the position, that the cart is before the horse.
- Paul Baer: Re the WINY interview, stated that Mr. Lenky also wanted to justify removal of the archives based on what other towns have, and it's very convenient to compare to other towns only under certain conditions. He presented the Ethics Policy for Hiring in the Town of Putnam, and suggested the Town prepare itself, pointing out that Putnam has a strict policy about hiring, that no board member would hire a family member of another board member.
- Don Pimental: Mr. Pimental stated he'd gone to Town Hall the previous week to pick up the document, the July 29 document, and he asked who created the document. Mr. Lenky responded that it came from the desk of the Secretary in the Selectman's office, and that when the paperwork came through from the State asking for the information, the information

was verified, and corrected as necessary, by Mr. Adams, and returned to the State. Mr. Lenky further stated the document that is available on the State's website is only updated through December of 2013. Discussion ensued between Mr. Pimental and Mr. Lenky regarding who prepared the July 29 document, and Mr. Lenky noted that the Highway Foreman verified the information prior to finalization of the document.

5. Thompson Conservation Commission – Cemetery Inventory: Carolyn Werge

Carolyn Werge, Conservation Officer, explained that three (3) hard copies of the document were printed and will be available at the Town Library, the Town Clerk's Office and at the Historical Society. She noted it is also published on the Conservation Commission's website.

She reviewed the purpose of the inventory, and noted that Norma O'Leary was extremely helpful with initiating the project. She continued, stating that the document contains a large scale map showing the 23 cemeteries in town, a spreadsheet listing pertinent information such as contact information and the oldest grave stone date for each, and an index, including photographs, of each of the 23 cemeteries. It also contains a copy of the Hale Collection data, and location map, and Mrs. Werge then went on to synopsise the work involved in compilation of that Collection.

Mrs. Werge stated the project started in 2004, with her, Mrs. O'Leary and Mrs. Ellison visiting/photographing all of the cemeteries, which were then incorporated into a map prepared using GIS software. She continued, stating that much research was done and noted that not all deeds were found for all cemeteries.

Mrs. Werge continued, stating that much research was done, though all burials were not able to be identified. She noted it is a very comprehensive document and it pulls fragmented information together and combines it with research.

The Board thanked Mrs. Werge and all others who participated for their hard work. In response to Mr. Lenky's question re whether copies are available for purchase, Mrs. Werge responded that there are no extra copies that are available for purchase.

6. School Guard Rails: Donna Godzik

Mr. Lenky noted that Ms. Godzik was not present, and elaborated on the topic. Mr. Lenky said that the school will be looking into other alternatives and get pricing on guard rails; he continued, stating that a suggestion was made to use boulders, and to make the driveway secure. He stated the subject area is the first corner, coming down from the school, before the drive

straightens out. He stated there is a bank in there and there are some trees remaining; the concern is someone coming around the corner slipping and going over the bank. He stated it is his understanding, from discussions with previous Tourtellotte attendees in the '70s and '60s, only one vehicle went over the bank. He further noted that, back in the '70s and '60s there were hardly any trees on the bank. He stated the Town is being requested to take measures to ensure no vehicle will go over the bank.

7. Windham County Sheet Metal – Fan Replacement

Mr. Lenky stated this agenda item is for discussion purposes only, noting that the topic relates to the fan/heater unit in the foyer, stating the blower fan appears to have been broken for quite some time and when days are really cold, the area down toward the elevator gets really cold. When workers came in to repair the a/c, a quote was requested, and subsequently received, for the fan replacement. He stated that, if the work was specific to putting a new motor below the wheel housing the cost would be \$776; to put in a new complete unit, which is much smaller and more efficient, the cost would be \$2,700. He stated this was currently an action item, but something to consider in the future. Mr. Lenky stated he is not sure if funds are available in the Building Maintenance line item to cover that expense. In response to Mrs. Forrester's question whether the unit was currently working, Mr. Lenky responded that a little heat comes out, but the motor is hanging off the side of the fan so the fan doesn't work properly to blow the heat out. He noted that the malfunction does not affect any other part of the building.

8. Emergency Management Resolution

Mr. Lenky read the resolution and provided copies to the Board: "BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Selectmen at the Town of Thompson that Paul Lenky, First Selectman of the Town of Thompson may enter into and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security any and all documents which it deems to be necessary and appropriate and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Paul A. Lenky as First Selectman of the Town of Thompson is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of Thompson and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents including but not limited to executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents. Dated at Thompson, Connecticut this 3rd day of February 2015."

Mr. Lenky noted that the subject resolution is the same resolution the Board had done last year for Emergency Management.

(M/S/C Smith/Forrester) to approve the Resolution. **Motion carried unanimously.**

9. Ethics Advisory Committee Report

Kathleen Herbert, representing the Committee, provided the quarterly report, stating to date the Committee has written and is working on a drafted Code of Ethics which is still being reviewed section by section for completeness and comparability to surrounding towns and compliance with the Connecticut State Statutes, with a set of definitions. She stated the goal of the Committee is to exceed the timeframe, which the Committee's Charge specifies as one year, to come back to the Board of Selectmen. She stated the Committee has started meeting twice a month as of January 2015, meeting the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month.

She then briefed the Board on a CCM Ethics workshop she attended in December regarding the topic, and that she has distributed copies of the documents she received at that workshop to Committee members.

She stated the Committee is also reviewing other towns' codes, including Putnam, Brooklyn's and Stonington's, which was highly recommended by the Attorney who presented at the workshop.

She stated the Committee is availing itself of the numerous resources available to it.

She then outlined how the Committee is working to accomplish its task.

Mrs. Smith asked how Committee attendance has been, to which Mrs. Herbert responded that it has been excellent. She stated members are very diligent in completing each assigned task, and members come to meetings prepared.

10. Transfer Station Advisory Committee Report

Karen Durlach, representing the Committee, provided a report to the Board, stating that, at the January 22 meeting, the Committee discussed Mr. Lenky's request that the Committee suggest criteria for the Handicap Transfer Station Permit. Committee consensus to suggest the following: Suspend the availability of the Handicap permits until the November 2015 permit year to have policies and procedures in place. What the Committee is concerned about is that permits have already been issued and nobody was advised about it/the public didn't know about it and there could be potential issues. She stated there are sufficient policies that are not defined yet so it should not yet be implemented, and she suggested the Board vote on the suggestion to suspend it until the next permit year. She stated there is at least one permit

that has been issued, and the permit availability is still in place. Mrs. Durlach explained what the Committee discussed/considered. She went on to state that permanent disability status should be determined by the Social Security Administration as recorded at the Assessor's Office; this would keep the benefit programs consistent within the Town Hall. The Committee also suggests only one (1) sticker be issued with this permit.

(M/S/C Lenky/Smith) to suspend the Handicap Permit until the Board gets all the information and ensures it is proper, until November 2015.

Discussion on the motion: Mrs. Forrester noted that when the Board discussed this, Renee Waldron, Recreation Director, suggested that the Board take a look at the forms Recreation has for people who apply due to income status because there was some suggestion that income also plays a part in this.

Mrs. Durlach stated the Committee was trying to figure out what the Board's rationale was for current permit eligibility/ies. She also stated that many who use the transfer station are becoming elderly, and the rates do not sustain the transfer station of late.

Al Landry noted consideration should be given to if the permit would apply to temporary or only permanent, disability.

VOTE ON THE MOTION: Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Durlach discussed other issues the Committee wished to bring to the attention of the Board, including that DEEP requires mandatory recycling reporting and they are overdue. She stated the data must come from the Public Works Department. She also stated there hasn't been a Household Hazardous Waste Day in the community for a number of years. Mr. Lenky stated the Board had discussed this at prior meetings and that it is necessary as soon as possible, and the Board would be working to set a date for it. Mrs. Forrester asked if there was a reason it can't be done annually, to which Mr. Lenky responded the cost.

Al Landry stated that the cost was approximately \$9,000 the last time it was held, and that he believed it's put in the budget every year but spent only every other year.

Mrs. Durlach stated issues that have not been, but need to be, addressed such as bad gasoline and possibly having a paint exchange. Those are the new projects/proposals the Committee really thinks need to be addressed.

Mrs. Durlach spoke to clarification of Senior Permits, and that when talking about Handicap Permits the Town should also set a policy that those also be

issued to the head of the household, not a senior living in a household with able-bodied younger persons. She stated there's a continuing issue about multi-unit permits, and that needs to be enforced, and covered loads for the Transfer Station. She stated the Committee created forms for the Transfer Station employees to report when they thought there was abuse but apparently those forms are not getting used and the Committee would like to see those issues get addressed.

Mrs. Forrester stated she went to the Transfer Station on a Saturday to speak with Elmer, and she asked why they weren't issuing the forms on violations and was told that they didn't have any. Mrs. Durlach stated they do have forms for reporting that are to go to the Public Works Director, who is the only one at the Transfer Station authorized to revoke a permit.

Mrs. Durlach stated her belief that the Ordinance cites fees that are supposed to be reviewed on a regular basis, which hasn't been done for a number of years, and the Committee is not getting financial information to help with that review. Mr. Landry then gave examples of when fees should have been paid, and suggested fees should be reviewed at least every two years, if not every year. He stated that the Transfer Station is well run, and fees are much less than others in the area.

Mrs. Durlach said the Committee is more than willing to work on any issues the Board wished them to work on, to which Mrs. Forrester asked who needs to start the ball rolling on the Local Hazardous Waste Day. Mrs. Durlach stated that the Board has to contact Winston and find out what the rates are, what company you'd want to contract with, figure out a date the Highway Garage could be available, etc. Mr. Landry stated the Highway Garage is pretty well set up and there is space available, and that it's run very professionally the times he's gone up there. Mrs. Forrester stated it is something that needs to be started now to get it going, and Mr. Lenky stated it would take a couple of months to coordinate. Mr. Landry stated that a lot of advertising would need to be done in advance of the scheduled collection date also. Mr. Lenky indicated he would call Winston Averil to arrange a meeting to set it up. Mrs. Durlach also suggested asking about what they're doing with the bad gasoline, noting that hasn't been collected in the past but a regular collection facility may be necessary going forward.

Mrs. Forrester then asked about work on the paint exchange, and Mrs. Durlach responded that a paint exchange had never been done before so it was just a suggestion. Mrs. Forrester asked if the Committee had a model for it, to which Mrs. Durlach responded they do not. Mrs. Durlach stated the Committee's thought that on the day of the hazardous waste collection, any non-acrylic paint that people want to get rid of can be put aside, and if anyone else wants to use them they could just take them, and whatever is left at the end of the day would be taken by the hazardous waste contractor, so the

Town would not be left with disposal responsibility, noting that if it were left at the Transfer Station, the Town would be responsible for its disposal. Mr. Lenky asked if there was a place in Putnam that takes some paints, to which Mrs. Durlach responded that there is a store that does take it. Sherwin Williams was mentioned, and it was noted that they take only certain types of paint.

Mrs. Smith asked if the Transfer Station Advisory Committee had looked at the Station's fees in the past and compared them to neighboring towns of Thompson's size, and then the Committee would bring it forward to the Board, to which Mrs. Durlach responded that the Committee doesn't have the figures of what the Transfer Station is bringing in, and that the financial information hasn't been provided to the Committee in a while. Mrs. Smith made the recommendation that the matter go to the Advisory Committee and, if this Board is comfortable, having the Advisory Committee start looking at a proposal for the new fees, that their recommendation be presented to this Board and then this Board would talk with the Public Works Director. Mrs. Forrester stated the issue should definitely come up during the budget sessions, the review of all fees so the Public Works Director should be prepared for that. Mrs. Durlach stated there are various fees to be considered, and stated as an example the flat fees for disposal of a refrigerator, tires, etc., and total fees taken for the various types of disposal should also be provided. Mrs. Forrester noted that permit fees were raised three years ago.

Mrs. Smith suggested to the Committee, regarding documentation for the Senior permits, to look at adding the verbiage for head of household, and then questioned if the Committee had already been assigned enough tasks. Mr. Landry stated the Committee thought whomever's name is on the lease, or the deed, is the person who should be pulling the permit. He noted that some property owners could create an in-law apartment, which would require two permits, but instead a Senior permit is applied for, which is less expensive than a regular permit. He continued, stating that the Handicap/Senior permit should be either-or, with issuance of both types of permits not allowed.

The Board thanked the Committee for a very good job.

11. Next Step Living Letter Approval

No one was present to represent the agenda item. Mr. Lenky noted that this was done a couple of months ago, in the October timeframe. Mrs. Smith asked why it is being brought up again, to which Mr. Lenky responded he did not know. He continued, stating the letter done previously was sent, and Mrs. Smith suggested contacting them to see if they did, indeed, receive it. Mrs. Forrester asked Mr. Lenky if he had any objections with them, to which he

responded he did not. Mrs. Forrester suggested signing and sending another letter. Mr. Lenky then asked for a motion to approve the Next Step Living Letter of Approval.

(M/S/C Smith/Forrester) to approve the Next Step Living Letter of Approval.
Motion carried unanimously.

12. Approval of New Hire – Executive Assistant Dianna Rebello

Mr. Lenky stated the new hire was selected through an interview process, with five people sitting on the interview panel for interview of the final two candidates. He noted the interview panel approved the selection.

Mrs. Forrester recused herself from this agenda item stating she had not been involved in the process.

(M/S Smith/Lenky) to approve the hire of the Executive Assistant, Dianna Rebello, for discussion purposes.

Mrs. Smith voiced her concern regarding the issues brought up concerning the addition of the hours and the new line item, and asked that Mr. Lenky clarify the Board of Finance concerns with this being a new line item vs. being an existing line item. She stated there is a line item for a position with a different title. Mr. Lenky stated that when the matter was discussed by the Finance Director, she stated to him it was her understanding that the account could be transferred to the new one, stating there was no problem, there was adequate funding to pay the new hire through to the end of fiscal year 2015. Mrs. Smith stated that, for the funds to be transferred, the Board of Finance must approve the transfer, and Mr. Lenky responded that the Finance Director did not state that to him, repeating she told him the funds could be transferred. Mrs. Smith stated the Board does not know the process and asked if she couldn't do that without the Board of Finance's approval, to which Mr. Lenky responded she could not do it on her own but that the funds could be transferred to that account. Mrs. Smith asked Mr. Lenky, re his First Selectman's Report, if he ever made a request to the Board of Finance that the funds be transferred, to which he responded he did not. He stated that the funds transfer was only discussed with the Finance and Human Resources Directors.

Mrs. Smith stated she felt uncomfortable having a new hire without first solidifying that the line item exists for anyone to have those hours, noting that the Board does not want to guarantee someone a position and then not be able to have it there, especially now that budget season is approaching. She stated the Board should have "all of our ducks in a row" and stated she is aware of what the Finance Director had stated to Mr. Lenky but that if there is concern among Board of Finance members regarding whether the line item

exists, this Board should approach that Board for the official approval of the line item before this Board can hire someone. She stated the position is significantly needed, and that the Board is doing a disservice with the current low hours; however the Board should do what is right and make sure it does its due diligence regarding the process. Mr. Lenky agreed with Mrs. Smith's comments. He continued, stating the reason for the increase in hours was due to the fact that a lot of work that was originally the responsibility of the previous Secretary was transferred to HR, and the hours increase allows for that work to be put back where it belongs, which would allow the person working in HR to better perform her responsibilities and not have to worry about tasks subsequently assigned to her because the previous Secretary did not want to perform them. Mrs. Smith stated she does not disagree with that, noting that some responsibilities needed to be added for the new hire.

Mrs. Smith rescinded her motion for the approval of the new hire. Mr. Lenky rescinded his second.

(M/S/C Smith/Lenky) that the Board of Selectmen approach the Board of Finance and request a line item for Executive Assistant, that the line item be added for this fiscal year and fiscal year 2015-2016. **VOTE: Lenky, yes; Smith, yes. Motion passed.**

Mrs. Smith suggested that the request be made as soon as possible.

13. Road Updates

Mr. Lenky stated that, prior to the recent snow events, crews were working on replacing a lot of the broken guard rails before getting ready for the snow and, as he previously stated, in the near future the Town should have an abundance of guard rails. He stated the State is pulling up a lot of its wooden posts and not using them anymore, and that they are taken to the incinerator because they are not being claimed. He continued, stating that Thompson is one of the very few towns still using the wooden posts, and a State contact offered its removed posts to Thompson, at no cost to the Town, if Thompson provides the container. He stated it is estimated that a container can hold approximately 500 posts, and that, if the Town had to purchase posts, the cost would be approximately \$90/200 posts. He noted the surplus posts are in good shape and there is no reason not to accept them; even at a cost of \$150 to pick them up, that is a substantial savings compared to the cost of new posts.

Mrs. Smith asked if the Route 12 sidewalks were going to get plowed following the most recent snow storm, to which Mr. Lenky responded, stating that he talked with all towns at the most recent NECCOG meeting, and that they have an ordinance similar to the Town of Thompson's and, when he asked how they enforce it, they responded that they don't because it's very

difficult to enforce. He then stated he asked if they clean the sidewalks, and was told that they can, but many don't. Mr. Lenky stated it is a difficult situation and that it is a liability no matter how you look at it, noting that there's a liability if the Town cleans the sidewalks and someone slips and falls, and there's a liability if the Town doesn't clean them. Mrs. Smith questioned who the assigned enforcer is in the Ordinance, to which Mr. Lenky responded the Ordinance doesn't specify, but noted it would probably be the Board of Selectmen and that a fine would have to be issued by, he presumed, the Zoning Enforcement Officer, and then the offender would be required to attend a meeting to pay the fine. He stated, with regard to Putnam, he was told that Putnam only clears sidewalks that the Town installed.

Mrs. Smith then asked about parking bans, stating she is aware Putnam has been having an issue with that, to which Mr. Lenky responded Putnam has to issue parking ban(s) for some of its roads because the roads are too narrow. He then noted that Route 12 is a state road, but that the school cleans from the school to Thatcher Road because students walk on that section. He continued, stating that other than that it is the responsibility of the property owners abutting the sidewalk to remove the snow.

Mrs. Smith stated some residents were questioning what the policy is on filling/picking up a bucket of salt, to which Mr. Lenky responded that any Town resident can go pick up a bucket of the sand/salt pre-mix. He noted that what has been happening is that, with the Highway crew on the road and not there to monitor the area, people would fill their pick-up truck or sander, and the five or six yards of sand that should be lasting through the night is gone. He noted there are provisions to change that, and stated as an example the Town of Southbridge keeping its sand in a fenced-in area that is not accessible by vehicle so people have to walk in to get sand. He stated the Town needs to look at ways to change the current situation.

13a. Other Business

1. Noel Lafayette – Mr. Lafayette stated it was his understanding the Board of Selectmen was getting ready to make some decision regarding solar so he was in attendance to answer any questions members may have.

Mrs. Forrester stated she checked Mr. Lafayette's company's website and looked at some of the company's partners, noting that there were two that were questionable. One of them came up as a retailer, to which Mr. Lafayette responded that Dewberry is a multi-billion dollar nationwide engineering services firm that mostly does work for the government. She said she checked the State of Connecticut to ensure that Mr. Lafayette had done the proper filings and found that filings are current through 2013 and she presumed he was working on getting 2014 results filed. She stated that should be done. She continued, noting that she

found the Coalition for Green Capital on the company website and asked if Mr. Lafayette was working with them at all. Mr. Lafayette explained the company's involvement. He stated he is the Government Policy contact person and participates at the Legislative level for Connecticut's association, solarct.org, though that is not indicated on the website because it hasn't been updated.

Mrs. Forrester asked about one of the projects listed on the website, an August 2012 project, that Mr. Lafayette had contacted Dr. Jolin at the school, and why it didn't go forward, to which Mr. Lafayette responded that a proposal was given to Dr. Jolin, and Bill Birch was the Facilities Director, and four years ago nobody was quite sure of the process. He stated that what was decided was to provide a preliminary proposal to Dr. Jolin, who would then take it to the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education, going to the Board of Education first. He continued, stating that process didn't go forward for a number of reasons, including at the time the school group is multi-age, and for a solar system to be on the roof top it has to stay up there for at least 15 years undisturbed; only some portions of the roof had been done in, he believed, 2004, and noted that, even then, subsequent to a heavy snow fall, volunteers went up on the roof to shovel it off and damaged the roof; also, some roofs were facing the wrong direction. He stated that what the company included in the pre-proposal the roofing cost to ultimately result in approximately 500kw. The pre-proposal was approved by Dr. Jolin, and then the pre-proposal went to Kevin Kennedy who was the Town Planner, who was of the opinion that an RFP was required. He noted that his company spent a considerable amount of time and money to prepare the pre-proposal.

Mr. Lafayette stated he would provide a list of references to the Board, and cited Holyoke Electric, and Black Roack Congregational Church and its Director of Finance Ken Brix. He stated the Church project was half completed prior to the snow storm. He stated the Holyoke Electric contact is John Zwirko, and also Brian Buregard who is the number two man in the organization. He provided another contact, Jeffrey Maderos, who owns INO Electrical, in Massachusetts, and noted Mr. Maderos did a project that he sold two years ago to an ice skating rink that produces 550kw.

Mr. Lafayette stated his opinion that the RFP process does not work, but that municipalities select that process because they are nervous. He stated the RFP process involves a significant amount of cost.

Mrs. Forrester stated what Mr. Lafayette's proposal indicates is that the cost would be borne by the company, and that the Town's commitment would be to purchase the power through a power purchase agreement

and a note states "Thompson is a special case as the school switch would be replaced as part of the arrangement", and she asked if that is also part of the cost Mr. Lafayette's company would bear. Mr. Lafayette stated yes, to replace the switch gear, which the company looked at four years ago, would cost about \$80,000. He stated Bill Burch had Paquette Electric check that and the cost was specified by that company, and that he (Laffayette) added \$10,000 for inflation.

Mrs. Forrester then asked Mr. Lafayette what the next step would be, to which he responded that the next step would be for the Board of Selectmen to make a decision, and that he was aware the Board had other proposals presented to it. He noted that his proposal is a bit different because it's on property directly adjacent to the school and to the Town Hall, making it a "behind the meter" project, and stated the other projects are net metering projects which have not yet been done in the State and there's a lot of "bugs" in it; he further stated this is the last year of eligibility for a 30% tax credit. He stated if the project doesn't get done by December 15 the project could still get done, but without the tax incentive. He stated waiting any longer would result in a lower tax credit.

Mrs. Forrester asked if Mr. Lafayette had approached the Town's Land Use Commissions, to which he responded that he reached out to Janet Blanchette, a local engineer. He stated the property has wetlands on it, and that he'd spoken with Ms. Blanchette the day before this meeting, about putting together a scope of work for the project, should the Board of Selectmen decide to move forward. He stated civil and electrical engineering would probably cost his company approximately \$50,000.

Mr. Lafayette then outlined his company's process, which begins with the Board of Selectmen accepting the proposal.

Mr. Lenky asked when Mr. Lafayette wanted a commitment, to which Mr. Lafayette stated the Board would probably want to hire an outside counsel, which he offered to pay for provided the selected counsel has solar experience. He stated the bid has to be submitted to the State soon. He indicated he would draft the contract. He noted that CT Water is also interested in the project if it moves forward.

Further discussion ensued regarding Mr. Lafayette's company's process. He stated he would send the contract to the Board for its review.

2. Little League Approval:

Mr. Lenky stated the Little League has requested to use the Town Hall on Thursday, February 12 from 5:30PM – 8:00PM for registrations if it is available, and he stated he did not believe the Merrill Seney Room is

currently unavailable. Mrs. Forrester stated that as long as someone is at the Town Hall, and Mr. Lenky stated the Town Hall is open until 6:00PM and that he could come in, and Mrs. Forrester stated she could do it but that someone needs to be in the building for liability purposes.

(M/S/C Forrester/Smith) to allow the Little League use of the Town Hall.

Mrs. Forrester asked why the Library/Community Center wouldn't be a better place, to which Mr. Lenky responded it was his belief they had always come to the Town Hall.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Forrester commented regarding the list of businesses, and suggested contacting the Thompson Business Association and the EDC.

3. Bid Opening:

Mr. Lenky stated that bids would be opened, and base bids stated, at the meeting.

- East Coast Wall Systems, 191 Franklin Ave., Hartford, CT; base bid of \$1,509,000;
- Laroche Builders, LLC, 41 Converse St., Stafford Springs, CT, base bid of \$699,672;
- Redstone Company, 1124 Penn Ave., Wyomissing, PA, base bid of \$972,000;
- D/E/F Services Group Limited, 1171 Voluntown Rd., Griswold, CT, base bid of \$729,000;
- Mattern Construction, Inc., 26N Bushnell Hollow Rd., Baltic, CT, base bid of \$729,909.

14. Citizens' Comments *on agenda*

- Kathleen Herbert: Re road updates, she stated regarding the school she received an email from Dr. Jolin and the school is picking up children who normally walk to school, and that the bus driver has authorization to pick up children seen walking in the road and that will be done through the end of this week or as necessary.
- Al Landry: Stated that WINY radio reported Putnam has also been picking up children who normally walk to school that must walk in the road. He stated that in one town children being punished after school are being required to help shovel out sidewalks of the elderly and disabled, noting he thought it was Killingly, and they have been doing that for a long time –

approximately 10 or 12 years. He further stated another town is talking about doing all sidewalks.

Mrs. Smith noted that is a program the high school has, with an actual Director for the students who are punished so they have sort of a curriculum, and that it's not as easy as having children who go to detention necessarily. She stated it is a good suggestion.

- Paul Baer: Stated, regarding the Transfer Station, that it might be time to consider outsourcing to see if it's viable economically.

Regarding the Hazmat collection, Mr. Baer asked if the Board has talked about contacting Averil, and noted there are multiple layers with Hazmat monitoring; he stated, looking at the bills, Averil is contracting with another company contracting with another company for testing because one company doesn't do it, and you talk about layers of government, if the Board looks at the billing there's multiple layers there that the Town might be able to reduce.

Regarding paint collection, Mr. Baer stated there was a program where companies were collecting the paint, mixing it, and utilizing the mixed paint to cover over graffiti in cities, not having to dispose of it.

Regarding the solar project, Mr. Baer stated he is concerned that the Solar Advisory Committee seems to be bypassed, and that it seems that was what made the Renewable Energy Committee not want to be involved, and now it appears that the Solar Advisory Committee's gone by the wayside. He asked if anyone's inquired or is aware of any brownfield or hazardous waste on the property, noting that, if it is the same property, a previously interested developer did not move forward due to being made aware of issues on the site. He stated it seems to be a rush to get into an agreement and it seems he (Mr. Lafayette) doesn't seem to do anything but just put people together, whereas companies the Solar Advisory Committee was looking at actually put in projects. Mrs. Forrester addressed the Solar Advisory Committee comments, stated she asked the Chairman three times and the Secretary once to please call a meeting, and she does not know what else to do. She stated she looks at our neighboring town of Woodstock that got absolutely free solar panels on all of their municipal buildings, and that because Thompson sat back and did nothing we are now at the end of these programs looking at what's going to be available to the Town at a very minimal cost and she wanted to at least bring it to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Baer agreed that if the Committee hasn't pursued it that it needs to go by the wayside.

- Al Landry stated he was on the Renewable Energy Committee and ConnEdison was going to come, at no cost to the Town, and do the

school, and that the price was the same for 10 years. He stated that when the company found out what the school had for a roof it was highly excited.

- Kevin Walsh: Mr. Walsh thanked Mr. Landry for disclosing the information, noting what Mr. Landry said is long overdue, noting that people are aware of what happened in the past, which may in part explain why the Renewable Energy Committee has not been eager to embrace the solar issues that the Town has been talking about for the last couple of years. He stated that, if one reviews minutes from previous meetings, Renewable Energy put in a lot of work with regard to the issue only to have nothing happen. He stated there is a constant philosophy and mantra within the Town that goes something like "There's nothing to see here boys and girls; let's move on now." He stated that "doesn't fly" with him and noted that, when there are issues where you have people who volunteer their time and put in hours and hours only to "get it blown out of the water" and are told "we shouldn't be talking about that; we should be moving on" he stated he doesn't agree with that. He stated that to solve the problem in Town about people becoming involved, the problem must be identified.

Mr. Lenky called a point of order, as discussion ensued between Mr. Walsh and a member of the audience.

Mr. Walsh stated there are problems that need to be identified, addressed, and then yes, the Town can move on, but that there seems to be the philosophy that there are no problems in Town, and that the problems won't get solved. Mr. Lenky commented, stating that the Town is moving forward, and it's been a history in the Town that nobody wants the Town to move forward. He stated that, when business wants to locate in Town, business is not welcome. He stated the rail park wants to expand, which will bring taxes into the Town, which will take time to accomplish, but they've been "put through the hurdles" for everything they've done when all they want to be is a good neighbor. He stated he made a statement that Dollar General wants to come into Town and someone asked him why the Town needs a Dollar General. He stated there are businesses that wish to relocate to the mill but don't because of uncertainty, and that he is trying to create a positive way to bring businesses into the Town and that is the goal. He stated the Town needs to move forward and that there is opportunity in Town, but noted that when people don't want it that "chases everybody else out the door" because it creates bad relations for the Town and the Board is trying to change that. Mr. Walsh stated he agreed with what Mr. Lenky said, but stated the Town "has been down this road" before with the mill and there were some issues that hopefully got straightened out. He stated his hope that those mistakes won't be made the second time around. He stated there are issues that need to be

addressed honestly, up front, dealt with, and then go on. As an example, he referenced the Tourtellotte Trust Fund, noting funds were misappropriated and that there is documented proof of that, and that Town leaders told its citizens that there were some discrepancies that were being taken care of and the Town is going to move on.

- Karen Durlach: Suggested, noting the Town has a new Solar Committee she'd never heard of and that isn't meeting, that the Town had a Renewable Energy Committee that had a lot of engineering talent on it, and that the Town should call in some of those resources prior to making any decision on any current solar proposal.
- Don Pimental: Regarding Item #12 and the hiring of Dianna, questioned how she got the job in the first place and asked if it was posted, to which Mr. Lenky responded a temporary job does not have to be posted, and that it's a position that must be filled as if it's an emergency, just like a business and if work needs to get done the position must be filled. He stated HR brought this to his attention and informed him someone was definitely interested in doing the job as a temporary position and recommended that person for the position. Mr. Lenky stated he reviewed the documents provided by HR, interviewed the individual, and hired her for the temporary, interim, position. He then brought up the janitor's position, noting that he wanted to bring it out and there was "a lot of dirty play in that one", not from the Selectman's office but from people from the outside, noting that the employee stated he would only be out for two weeks, then stated he would be out for a month, so a young girl told her mother she would like to do the job for \$11/hour and said she'd come in every day and clean the Town Hall. He stated she came in and started doing the job. He stated he then "got it jammed in my face" that the position wasn't posted, and he reiterated that it was not necessary to post the position because it was a temporary position. He stated this is where things get out of hand, because they don't understand what they're talking about and "they make up their own rules and regulations and it's not right" and it reflects back to the people who run the Town. He stated that, when some of the things do go through, that people would have the right information before they post on Facebook or other forms of social media/radio. He stated it is getting sickening to listen to, and stated that if someone steps down from a position and someone is needed to perform the work of that position for a short period of time, that position can be filled, and if the permanent employee decides not to return, it would then be posted; temporary positions do not need to be posted. He stated the Secretarial position was vacant for three months and much work was not getting done, and that the situation greatly improved upon the hire of the temporary employee because the workload is being taken care of.

- Paul Baer: Regarding the temporary janitorial position, he asked if there was a relationship with the person, to which Mr. Lenky responded it was her daughter, who heard her parents talking about the issue, and she expressed her interest to her mother. He stated Town Hall employees were aware the position was open but no one came forward to say they knew someone. He stated he would have hired anyone, even if that meant someone else's relative, just to get the job done. He then stated to Mr. Baer that when the interim Secretary was at her desk, he (Mr. Baer) "went in and you walked all over that girl for no reason at all and you had no right to do it." He stated that Mr. Baer went into the office and made numerous inaccurate comments and almost made her cry. Mr. Baer noted to Mr. Lenky 1. that the current agenda item is "Citizens Comments" to which Mr. Lenky responded that he was answering Mr. Baer's question and Mr. Baer responded "that wasn't a question"; Mr. Baer continued, stating 2. that he did not go in the office and go all over her; he stated he went in the office the same way he went up to face Mr. Antonson when he (Baer) brought up the issue at the Board of Selectmen's meeting to tell her that it had nothing to do with her, it had to do with the process. He stated he doesn't care who is hired, that it's the process followed, and there are reasons why other towns have those policies, and Thompson has no Ethics. Mr. Lenky asked Mr. Baer if he were a business owner with an emergency situation would he post that position and screen it out before that person gets back.

Mrs. Forrester called for order.

Mr. Baer stated Mr. Lenky just said the position was vacant for three months, and that doesn't constitute an emergency.

Mrs. Forrester called a point of order.

Mr. Lenky, in response to Mr. Baer's last comment, stated that the person who previously held that position was to come back to work, which was her decision, and the position can't be filled on a permanent basis if the holder of that permanent position states she will return to work, and she did return to work but was unable to work, and she left.

Mrs. Forrester called a point of order, stating that personnel issues can't be discussed.

Recording Secretary Richardson stated to Mr. Lenky that he resigns and that "you can't be yelling at your citizens. It's ridiculous." Mr. Richardson left the meeting at 9:36PM.

Mrs. Forrester stated she would address Mr. Pimental but would address him as a citizen; she stepped down into the audience. Speaking to Mr.

Pimental, she then stated that he went up to Mary Ann Chinatti and told her that Mrs. Forrester was a liar. She stated she wanted Mr. Pimental to show the facts. Mr. Pimental stated that that's easy, that he wasn't going to discuss it but that's easy. He stated that "if you don't want me to call you a...I will show you the facts and you'll be sorry." Mrs. Forrester asked Mr. Pimental to show her the facts. Mr. Pimental responded, saying "You'll be sorry; the both of you'll be sorry." Mrs. Forrester again asked Mr. Pimental to show her the facts, to which he responded that Leo Adams never gave Mrs. Forrester the letter and that she knows it. Mrs. Forrester stated she told him (Pimental) that Mary Ann Chinatti got it from Leo Adams, and Mary Ann gave it to her. When asked by Mr. Pimental how she knew he called her a liar, Mrs. Forrester stated she was told the he (Pimental) went up to Mary Ann and told her that she (Mrs. Forrester) was a liar. He asked Mrs. Forrester if she had proof, and stated Mary Ann said to him Mr. Lenky and Kerstin Forrester do not lie, and he (Pimental) said to her "where is the document they said they were gonna have" and she went into her cabinet. He stated this is ridiculous, and that is why residents don't come to the Town – every time they come to the Town they're intimidated. He continued, stating "She don't wanna give us nothing; they wouldn't let me look at the file; she made me copies" and asked again how could he call her (Forrester) a liar. He then stated he went downstairs and asked her (Forrester) if the copy he got from Ms. Chinatti was what was provided by Mr. Adams, and she stated it was. Mrs. Forrester stated she told Mr. Pimental earlier that Mary Ann Chinatti provided the copy to her, and Leo had given it to her. Mr. Pimental stated that hers (Forrester) was at home, to which Mrs. Forrester responded it was and that she (Chinatti) wouldn't give her the original. Mr. Pimental stated it odd that, during the hearing the Board didn't have its information but speakers had to provide their information, to which Mrs. Forrester responded the Board did have it. Mrs. Forrester then resumed her seat at the table.

15. Tax Refunds:

- Valerie Clark - \$15.72
- Lynn M. or Karen M. Wentworth - \$73.82
- Maureen Desmaris - \$30.62

(M/S/C Lenky/Smith) to approve the tax refunds. **Motion carried unanimously.**

16. Other Business – *Moved to Agenda Item 13a, above.*

17. Adjourn – **(M/S/C Lenky/Smith)** to adjourn at 9:38PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Chinatti, Director of Planning and Development