



**TOWN of**  
**THOMPSON**

**Board of Selectmen**

**Minutes: Regular Meeting**  
**Tuesday, April 5, 2016**  
**Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall**

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The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Second Selectwoman Shaina Smith called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Present: Shaina Smith  
Steve Herbert

Absent: Ken Beausoleil

Staff Present: Tina Fox, Recording Secretary

Also Present: Members of the Public

- I. Approval of Minutes
  - A. **Steve Herbert moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the March 15, 2016 meeting with the following correction:**
    1. Page 5, Section XII(C): "...things go amuck..." instead of "...thins go amuck..."Steve Herbert- Yes                      Shaina Smith- Yes  
**The motion carried unanimously.**
- II. Correspondence
  - A. S. Smith presented the following correspondence:
    1. Invitation from Auxiliary for VFW for Annual Community Recognition Day event on Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.
    2. Letter sent to abutters of 44 Emil Dr. notifying the Town of a ZBA application, public hearing to be held April 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM/
    3. Northeastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours invitation for Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>.
    4. Letter from Attorney Ken Slater dated April 1, 2016 regarding River Junction Estates, LLC driveway permit application, read aloud.
    5. Ordinance Committee minutes
    6. Flyer from Byrnes Insurance Agency
    7. Building Department permits for February.
  - B. S. Herbert had no correspondence to present.
- III. Selectmen's Comments
  - A. S. Smith presented the following Selectman's Comments:
    1. Marianapolis project will be continuing hopefully later in the week.
    2. The Town and school attorney's met on March 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss the oil spill at the school.

3. The Quaddick Rd. Bridge contract was awarded to Old Colony and will be reviewed and signed.
  4. S. Herbert stated that he had emailed K. Beausoleil about adding these items to the agenda, and asked him to describe items 2 and 3 in more detail. He stated that he is concerned about missing the deadline regarding the oil spill, and would like to know what the time frame actually is for the bridge
- B. S. Herbert had no Selectmen's Comments to present.

IV. Citizens' Comments (Limit 3 Minutes)

A. Paul Baer, Thompson Rd., stated:

1. He sent the BOS an email regarding Old Colony's past performance being sued for working too slow, and the First Selectman assured him that all questions would be answered before any contract was signed. The Town of Southington suspended their contract with Old Colony because of work delays.
2. To have people still violating FOIA is inexcusable. A Commission flagrantly violated the FOIA when a member was informed they shouldn't do something and they did it anyway. They need more training. PZC violated Executive Session rules and a complaint is being filed. They violated not voting to put something on the agenda and "they will be going to Hartford."
3. In Hartford, they are trying to pass legislature that will allow Boards to shield people from information if a lawyer is present at a meeting. The BOS was requested to submit a letter to contact their legislators.
4. He submitted a FOIA request to the First Selectman for two memos from Attorney Steve Byrnes and the First Selectman stated that he cannot find them. If he cannot find them within a short period of time, he should contact Attorney Byrne's office to provide them.
5. Town needs to create a policy for vetting companies they do business with. It is easy to request companies supply a certificate from the Secretary of State saying that the company is lawful to do business in CT. A company called Green Environmental is two years behind in their filings and cannot get a certificate of existence. That company did the work at the school that is alleged to have caused the oil spill. This a repeated offense that the Town commits, and with the State in financial trouble, they will be looking at whatever they can to get money. The State may not want to give taxpayer money to a Town doing business with companies they shouldn't be.
6. A policy in the Town of Thompson says the BOS is the authority for work on Town roads. The BOS is the authority for selling cookies, distributing poppies, etc. It is not in the First Selectman's purview to write a letter of authority.

B. Christine Campbell, 861 Thompson Rd., stated:

1. Regarding the Inland Wetlands Commission public hearing for River Junction Estates, LLC., the Town Attorney's opinion is that "it's not a Town owned road," and she feels the application should be denied until the applicant can prove differently.
2. Burrillville, RI has a proposed power plant. There is bad data about the power plant, including cancer causing chemicals, a 31 mile radius of pollution on a 0 wind day, polluting the water, destroying wetlands, kill 16 protected species, loss of real estate value, and it's not going to save money on utility bills or taxes. She asked what a citizen should do in this situation to oppose the power plant.

- a. S. Smith suggested the company should do a presentation at a Thompson meeting, or provide Thompson with some documentation. S. Herbert stated that the concerns would be better addressed at the State level.
- b. C. Campbell stated that there is a public hearing on May 23, 2016 at the Burrillville High School that she will be attending.
3. Regarding the BOE reaching a contract with the bus drivers that allows the BOE to seek RFPs for outsourcing the buses, she asked how the taxpayers should get involved and "stay ahead of this before the decision is made to sign a contract." She stated that she plans to get a petition to have a Town meeting. She asked if she should talk to Ken Beausoleil about the situation.
  - a. S. Smith suggested that she ask the Town Clerk how many signatures would be needed for a Town Meeting.
4. Regarding the PZC meeting Paul Baer referred to, she asked if a Commission addresses personnel issues, is the employee being discussed supposed to be in the Executive Session.
  - a. S. Smith stated that the employee is usually notified that they are on the agenda and invited to attend the Executive Session.
  - b. C. Campbell asked if the entire Commission is supposed to be in attendance for the Executive Session. She stated that when the public was asked to leave the room, the most recent members of PZC were told to leave the room as well because they were not on the Commission when that situation took place.
  - c. S. Smith stated that she will look into whether or not members can be excluded.
  - d. P. Baer stated that the person who stated that the Commissioners who were not on the Commission at the time of the incident should leave the room was the employee being discussed, and if you look at section 1-231 of the FOIA, it states members of the agency can attend the Executive Session, plus anyone the agency invites.
5. Library and TEEG were closed the previous day due to inclement weather. She asked who calls for those agencies to be closed and if they get paid when they are closed. She asked if they should only close for a state of emergency, and asked if the First Selectman tells them to close.
  - a. P. Baer stated that the Library Director makes the decision to close the Library.
  - b. C. Campbell asked if there is a plan for weather cancellations, and stated that she would like a policy in place that states whatever causes Town Hall to close should be what causes the Library and TEEG to close.
6. Asked who is in charge when Ken is away, to which S. Smith replied that she was. C. Campbell asked if S. Smith would be attending the Inland Wetlands Commission meeting the following night. She also asked who would help out at the BOF meeting.
7. Asked if the oil spill at the school can be on the next BOS agenda because the deadline is fast approaching.
8. Regarding the letter from Peter Vanghel read at a previous meeting, she asked if something was properly approved by the Town, how a renewal can be denied if both projects were approved. His applications were complete and when he applied for an extension, PZC hired an engineer because they questioned his plans. She spoke to John Rice after the PZC meeting because the letter was on the agenda, but nothing was spoken about at the meeting.

Mary Ann Chinatti decided to have her Executive Session in private, and when the Commission came out of Executive Session, there was a vote of confidence for M. Chinatti and the Chairman. C. Campbell stated that John Rice told her after the PZC meeting that PZC forgot to bill for the \$1,200. She asked if someone has an approved plan, how the Town can then say no, and asked what she can do from here. The project was going to be two 55+ housing and was going to bring in money for the Town.

- a. S. Smith stated that Mr. Vanghel reached out to the Board and they will be speaking to him separately.
- C. Wayne O'Brien, 108 Fabyan Rd., referring to the proposed power plant in Burrillville, stated that "Thompson better get in front of it," because they will build the power plant right at their Town's border so that the pollution ends up in Thompson, and they do not care what happens to Thompson.
- D. Sharon Recore, 46 Townes Lane, asked for an update on the status of the letter S. Smith wrote to the State Attorney's Office regarding an investigation.
  1. S. Smith stated that she did not speak with that office and has no update.
- E. Don Pimental, 40 Starr Rd., stated that in reading previous minutes, he felt that he was misunderstood. He stated that one set of BOS minutes attributes something his father Jim Pimental of 30 Starr Rd. said as being something that D. Pimental said. He also stated that once when he was referring to Starr Rd. and the minutes indicated New Rd. He asked for copies of the meeting minutes, and stated that he does not want to have to get the minutes from Mary Ann Chinatti because she is the Town planner. When asked by S. Smith, he stated that the minutes he is referring to are September 9<sup>th</sup> and the following October, and that the inaccuracies all pertain to Starr Rd. He stated that four members of PZC had to leave the room during the Executive Session, and that he is not sure if they had a quorum. One PZC member left during the session, and he asked if PZC still had a quorum after that person left. He stated that he is against the Burrillville power plant. D. Pimental discussed the Inland Wetlands Commission public hearings for the River Junction Estates, LLC applications, stating that the Town has spent over \$7,800 with Attorney St. Onge, and D. Pimental has spent in the area of \$21,000 on legal counsel. He mentioned the Town making a mistake by allowing a garage to be built on a piece of property on Stawicki Rd. that turned out to be on another person's land. Starr Rd. does not extend past the cul-de-sac, which was proven two years ago. He mentioned that girl scouts have to ask for permission from the BOS to sell cookies, but Mr. Rawson was able to put an application in to put water bars up with a letter from the previous First Selectman. He stated that "the last day of his office he did this to us. Someone needs to hold him accountable. Shouldn't have been allowed to abuse his power." Referring back to the PZC meeting, he stated that Mary Ann Chinatti abused her power. He added that the member who walked out of the meeting should have told the public that this is improper. He stated that he appreciates what the Board is doing, but they have to open their eyes. He has never lied to the Board. The Board needs to hold people accountable for their actions. He stated he knows right from wrong, and the Town has come together as a community to help one another.
- F. Rob Mann, 15 Meadow Dr., discussed the proposed power plant in Burrillville. He stated that they plan to take a well that has been capped since 2002, which \$7 million was previously spent trying to filter contamination out of the well, and use it as cooling water for the power plant. He is afraid they will ruin the aquifer for the Town. They plan to treat the water with a carbon filter, then spew emissions into the air which are cancer causing chemicals.

He presented a graph indicating where pollutants will be. What isn't emitted through the air will be sent to the water treatment plant, and the water will contain MTBE, which cannot be filtered at through the water treatment plant. People in Burrillville are terrified at the idea of uncorking the contaminated well. A real estate agent said property values will go down 40-50%. He stated that his house is three miles away from the proposed plant, and people who live on Quaddick are even closer. He stated that people need to write to the Town of Burrillville to give them input.

1. S. Smith asked if there was a deposit and/or contact on the land in question. R. Mann was not sure.
  2. S. Smith asked when the application was filed. R. Mann stated that the date is in the file.
- G. Wayne O'Brien, 108 Fabyan Rd., stated that the federal government had gas companies come up with that chemical and put it in the gas. He stated that 1 drop pollutes a thousand gallons of water and it is very cancerous. He stated that once the chemical is there, it stays there, and the Town better get out in front of it.
- H. Paul Baer, Thompson Rd., stated:
1. It is possible to filter out MBTE. The company that proposed the project is out of Chicago and their report showed minimal impact on wetlands and listed species that were going to be affected. He suggested requesting information from Burrillville, and mentioned that Burrillville has already requested other information from Thompson.
  2. On two separate occasions, members of respected Boards or Commissions have been angry at Mr. Baer and told to calm down. That would not end well for the Town if it escalated. There should be a policy in place that it's business, not personal. Members of agencies should know the rules. The BOE spent thousands of dollars on a law firm related to a FOIA violation only to be told they were in violations.
  3. Regarding the oil spill at the school, P. Baer asked who found the contractor, how were they vetted, and were they recommended.
- I. Rob Mann, 15 Meadow Dr., stated the proposed power plant is going to use both natural gas and oil, so there will be huge tanks on the property. There will be a huge ammonia tank and hydrogen tube. The Burrillville fire department is not prepared for the project, and East Thompson fire has to respond to Burrillville to help them out.
- V. Appointments- Recreation, WPCA
- A. **Shaina Smith moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to reappoint Cynthia K. Antos to serve as a member of the Recreation Commission for the Town of Thompson, term to end April 15, 2019.**  
Steve Herbert- Yes                      Shaina Smith- Yes  
**The motion carried unanimously.**
  - B. **Shaina Smith moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to reappoint Robert J. Monahan to serve as a member of the Recreation Commission for the Town of Thompson, term to end April 15, 2019.**  
Steve Herbert- Yes                      Shaina Smith- Yes  
**The motion carried unanimously.**

- C. **Shaina Smith moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to appoint Michael J. Krogul to serve as a member of the Water Pollution Control Authority for the Town of Thompson to fill the unexpired term of Shawn Brissette, with a term to end November 19, 2019.**

Steve Herbert- Yes                      Shaina Smith- Yes

**The motion carried unanimously.**

VI. Request- Little League Parade

- A. S. Smith read aloud a request to close Main St. on April 16<sup>th</sup> starting at 11 am to last approximately 30 minutes for the Little League Parade.

- B. **Steve Herbert moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to close Main St. on April 16, 2016 starting at 11:00 AM for approximately 30 minutes for this activity.**

Steve Herbert- Yes                      Shaina Smith- Yes

**The motion carried unanimously.**

VII. Other Business: None

VIII. Citizens' Comments

- A. Don Pimental, 40 Starr Rd., stated that there was a driveway permit application from River Junction Estates, LLC that the previous Board decided to take no action on, and then it was on an agenda two weeks later. He stated that the current Board has not "pulled that funny business." He asked the Board to go back and read some old minutes. If the Board says they are closing Main St. for the parade, citizens don't expect to come to the next meeting and have the Board say they've changed their mind. He stated that the Board hasn't been misleading. He mentioned an interview that Marla Butts had with WINY radio stating that Mr. Lenky gave consent for River Junction Estates, LLC on his last day in office.

IX. Tax Refunds: None

X. Adjourn

- A. **Shaina Smith moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to adjourn.**

Steve Herbert- Yes                      Shaina Smith- Yes

**The motion carried unanimously.**

- B. Second Selectwoman Shaina Smith adjourned the meeting at 8:10 PM.

Tina Fox  
Recording Secretary