



TOWN of **THOMPSON**

Board of Selectmen

**Minutes: Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 20, 2016
West Thompson Fire Department**

p. 1 of 6

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

First Selectman Ken Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Present: Ken Beausoleil
Shaina Smith
Steve Herbert

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 September 6, 2016 regular meeting with the following corrections:**

1. Page 1: the date should read Tuesday, September 6, 2016.
2. Page 2, Section 3(A)(7): "...offices to get through" rather than "...office to get through."
3. Page 2, Section 3(A)(9): Capitalize first word.
4. Page 2, Section 3(A)(10): Meeting being discussed was on the 7th, not the 10th.
5. Page 1, Section 3(A)(3): "...acknowledged that the Town of Thompson took a stand..." rather than "...acknowledged that Thompson took a stand..."
6. Page 1, Section 3(A)(4): S. Smith wanted to clarify who Renee King is. K. Beausoleil stated that she is a resident who has been attending meetings regarding the proposed power plants.
7. Page 2, Section 3(A)(7): "...still has..." rather than "...still have..."
8. Page 2, Section 3(A)(8): S. Smith asked who the request in writing was made to. K. Beausoleil stated he asked Mary Ann Chinatti to get that from the State Historical Preservation Society.

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

B. **Shaina Smith moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the September 7, 2016 special meeting with the following correction:**

1. Approximately half way down the first page, "...how it would be fed..." rather than "...how it would be feed..."
2. Note that the special meeting was regarding "Solar Energy Projects."

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

C. **Steve Herbert moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the September 15, 2016 special meeting as written.**

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

II. Correspondence

- A. Social Media classes being held by Connecticut Chamber of Commerce September 28th and 26th at Quinebaug Valley Community College.
- B. Letter of commendation from Deb Angell concerning Joshua Butts. The letter was read aloud.
- C. Statistics from Troop D regarding incidents in Town. The Selectmen's Office will be putting the statistics together to compare multiple years.
- D. Small Business Association Economic Disaster loans are available due to draught in Connecticut.
- E. A letter from the Town of Southbridge, MA, on behalf of the Southbridge Town Council, expressing gratitude to the Thompson fire departments that helped with two fires in Southbridge on August 28th.
- F. There will be a drive-through flu shot clinic on October 16th at the Putnam Middle school with 100 free shots available, and the CT Department of Health is looking for volunteers for the program.

III. Selectmen's Comments

- A. K. Beausoleil presented the following Selectmen's Comments:
 - 1. Charlene and Frank Langlois were granted an award from Connecticut Economic Resource Center (CERC) for their work at 1020 Riverside Dr.
 - 2. Regarding the Quaddick Rd. bridge, there will be a meeting with the project's engineer on September 23rd. The bridge is tentatively scheduled to open at the end of the month.
 - 3. Leo Adams and the Highway Department recently worked on Porter Plain Rd. and Babula Rd., and no top coat will be needed to finish the roads, which will save the Town some money. Other roads to be worked on in the near future include Gore Rd., Sand Dam Rd., Blain Rd., Gaumond Rd., Elliott Rd., Oak Hill Rd., Reardon Rd., Linehouse Rd., and Fabyan Rd.
 - 4. The Marianapolis Sewer Project is still being worked on. A proposal from the project's contractor is being reviewed by the engineer.
 - 5. It was discovered that the back parking lot at Town Hall is owned by CT Water. Plans were submitted to CT Water to be reviewed. Once approved by CT Water, the Board will need to vote to send the acquisition of the land to the Planning and Zoning Commission, and then there will need to be a Town Meeting.
 - 6. Thompson Community Day is September 25th.

IV. Citizens' Comments

- A. Al Landry, 33 Randall Rd., suggested moving agenda item number 10 to begin now.
- B. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to move agenda item number 10 to agenda item number 4(a).**
 - Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes**The motion carried unanimously.**

IV(B). Town Fire Departments Discussion on Budgetary Needs

- A. John Sharpe, Pasay Rd., Chief of Community Fire Company, stated that he asked to be able to speak about underfunding to the fire departments. He discussed various equipment that his department has that can no longer be used or will soon no longer be safe to use including fire hose, air bottles, personal protective equipment, self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), and turnout gear. J. Sharpe also provided approximate pricing for some items. The departments are thankful for the amount the Town gives each department every year, but that amount barely covers their fixed expenses. Community Fire Department has not been approved for a FEMA grant since 2004. The 911 system, paramedic ambulance service through NECCOGG, and hydrant system are listed under the Fire Departments, making the Fire Departments' budget look larger than it is. The total amount of equipment that is expiring and needs to be replaced is \$72,780 for Community Fire alone.
- B. S. Herbert suggested that the fire departments receive further help to prepare for the budget process so that it would be easier to follow their needs. He also stated that the Board deeply appreciates their work.
- C. S. Smith suggested the fire departments continue to come to BOS meetings throughout the year to keep the Selectmen aware of their needs.
- D. A suggestion was made to have the Town Planner look at possible available grants.
- E. Lisa Sharpe, Blain Rd., stated that there is potential right now for personnel to be at an emergency scene with gear that has been expired for between 2 and 10 years.
- F. Jeff Kimball of West Thompson Fire Department stated that they are in the same boat as Community in that they have various items of equipment and gear that need replaced.
- G. K. Beausoleil stated that each department would need to provide hard numbers for the Board to move forward with a plan.
- H. Don Pimental, 40 Starr Rd., stated that the Town is looking at spending \$200,000 on a roof when that could be given to the fire departments instead.

V. Minutes and Digital Recordings of Minutes Discussion

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that in addition to minutes being filed within one week of a meeting, a record of motions needs to be filed within 48 hours of a meeting. Tina Fox, Recording Secretary, stated that motions are always filed within the time frame, and she will begin sending the motions to the Board when filed. K. Beausoleil stated that it is the Boards option to choose to begin condensing minutes. A few months ago, there was a comment made that could have been libel or slander. He suggested that statements can be paraphrased, or omitted prior to submitting to the Town Clerk.
- B. The Board briefly discussed the issue of minimizing minutes, and agreed to not make a decision at this time, pending discussion with Tom Hennick and/or Town Attorney St. Onge.

VI. Republican Town Committee Request

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that he spoke with some former Selectmen and was advised that political campaigning has never been done within the fence of the Transfer Station, and the feeling was to keep politics off of Town property.

- B. S. Herbert brought up the issue of safety. K. Beausoleil stated that no one has to campaign at the Transfer Station, and if someone feels it is unsafe, they do not have to go there.
 - C. S. Smith asked if it is an unspoken rule that Town committees do not campaign on Town property, to which S. Herbert pointed out that the road is still Town property.
 - D. Al Landry, 33 Randall, suggested making a resolution stating that no campaigning can be done on Town property.
- VII. Road List
- A. K. Beausoleil stated that there is nothing new to report at this time regarding the road list that Leo Adams is working on.
 - B. S. Herbert stated that he spoke with L. Adams and believes L. Adams understands what type of cost analysis the Board would like to see.
- VIII. Solar Projects Discussion
- A. K. Beausoleil stated that there were presentations by C-TEC Solar and SHR Energy at the solar informational meeting. He stated that he has not yet had a chance to review the SHR Energy proposal in full.
 - B. S. Herbert stated that renewable energy is part of our future, but choices still need to be evaluated.
 - C. S. Smith suggested a joint meeting between the BOS and Board of Education (BOE) to discuss the project. She stated that the previous administration did not sign a contract with SHR Energy.
 - D. K. Beausoleil stated that he will reach out to the BOE for a possible joint meeting.
- IX. Town Hall Building Maintainer Hire
- A. K. Beausoleil stated that he met with Leo Adams and Lee Post to review candidates.
 - B. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to hire Peter Ernst for Town Hall Building Maintainer.**
 - 1. S. Herbert stated that the Town would be hiring a permanent person for tasks that can typically be done using outside services with less expense.
 - 2. S. Smith asked who the position would report to, to which K. Beausoleil stated that the position reports to the First Selectman.

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- No Shaina Smith- Yes

The motion carried.
 - C. S. Herbert stated that he has no objection to this person in particular.
- X. Town Fire Departments Discussion on Budgetary Needs: Moved to Item IV(A)
- XI. Belding Corticelli Improvement Advisory Committee Name Change/Charge Modification Request
- A. K. Beausoleil stated that the Belding Corticelli Advisory Committee (BCAC) did a great job with the Brownfield study at 630 Riverside Dr. It was suggested that, instead of forming another separate committee for the Brownfield study at 929 Riverside Dr. that is beginning, the BCAC name be changed and their charge modified.

- B. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to approve the modification as follows: Name changed to Mill Sites Redevelopment Advisory Committee, charged with: 1. Research ways to improve/enhance/promote the Town's historic mill sites, and search for funding and grants to accomplish same; 2. Serve as the lead for the ongoing 630 Riverside Drive (Belding site) grant funded brownfield project, for which the assessment phase is nearing completion; 3. Serve as lead for the 929 Riverside Drive (River Mill/North Grosvenordale Mill) grant funded brownfield project, which is just beginning; 4. Provide quarterly updates of any ongoing work to the Board of Selectmen.**
 Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.

XII. Town Meeting/Referendum Discussion

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that there must be a Town Meeting to approve the \$200,000 grant for the roof at the Ellen Larned building. The Town meeting will be just before or just after the federal election. He will narrow down a date further.

XIII. Ordinances Discussion: Inland Wetlands Commission, Conservation Commission, Emergency Management, Constables

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that he would like to include these ordinance changes at the upcoming Town Meeting. The Ordinance Review Committee will be meeting on Thursday, September 29th to review the ordinances.
 B. The Board briefly discussed some of the proposed changes.

XIV. Other Business: None

XV. Citizens' Comments

- A. Al Landry, 33 Randall Rd., stated that \$200,000 is too much money for a roof. He stated that the representative from SHR Energy spoke about providing 95% of the electricity for the school and Town Hall, but the proposed system would only provide 17%. He never got a straight answer about anything he asked. He really believes in solar energy but does not trust that man. He hopes the previous administration did not sign a contract that the citizens do not know about.
 B. Wayne O'Brien, 108 Fabyan Rd., asked about the Quaddick Rd. bridge. He stated that businesses are going to hurt because of the delay. He thought there was some kind of punishment if the contractor did not complete the project on time. K. Beausoleil stated that if the contractor owes the Town something, the Town will enforce it. W. O'Brien asked why there was not a contingency to help businesses being affected. He stated that the Board was warned ahead of time that this would happen.
 C. Don Pimental, 40 Starr Rd., stated that minutes can be basic because the recording is legal and binding. He asked when the Board will get the program so that recordings can be available immediately after a meeting because he does not like to go through Mary Ann Chinatti to get a recording. He stated that the proposed roof is going to referendum, but he was told that John Rice would get different bids for the roof. He is going to do whatever he can to vote the roof down. He heard he has to contact Joe Lindley just to see the building. He knows the fire departments protect us and he hopes the Board will do something about their budget.

XVI. Tax Refunds

A. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to approve the following tax refunds:**

1.	Dennis A. Bernard	\$27.94
2.	Dianne M. Beukema	\$22.21
3.	Andre C. and Cheryl A. Desrosiers	\$7.68
4.	Double D Electrical Contractors	\$22.93
5.	Daniel P. and Katheryn K. Durand	\$15.77
6.	Honda Lease Trust	\$33.56
7.	Paul F. Lane	\$9.12
8.	Jennifer P. Langlois	\$14.70
9.	Daniel P. and Mark A. Leone	\$18.37
10.	Paul Misliv	\$3.52
11.	Richard D. Novick	\$4.20
12.	Rachel K. Wexler	\$20.90

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

XVII. Adjourn

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

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

B. First Selectman Ken Beausoleil adjourned the meeting at 9:23 PM.

Tina Fox
Recording Secretary