



TOWN of
THOMPSON

Board of Selectmen

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

p. 1 of 9

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

First Selectman Ken Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Present: Ken Beausoleil
Steve Herbert
Shaina Smith

Staff Present: Tina Fox, Recording Secretary

Also Present: Members of the Public (see attached sign-in sheet)

Ken Beausoleil moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to move agenda item number 12 up to 2(a).

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

The motion carried unanimously.

I. Approval of Minutes

A. **Shaina Smith moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the December 15, 2015 regular meeting as written.**

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

The motion carried unanimously.

II. Correspondence

A. K. Beausoleil presented the following correspondence:

1. Letter and attachments from Carolyn Werge, Conservation Officer, read into the record.
2. Notification of an Inland/Wetlands public hearing on January 6, 2016.
3. Letter from Rick Hayes, Fire Marshall, stating that the official maximum occupancy of the Merrill Seney Room is 83 people.
4. Award notification of \$3,000 from the Connecticut State library, Office of Public Records Administrator.
5. Invitation to the Chamber of Commerce 2016 annual dinner and awards gala.
6. Letter from Liberty Environmental in reference to the claim related to the contamination at the Highway Garage. Liberty Environmental has denied coverage, and the First Selectman will be proceeding further with the claim.
7. Statistics for calls in Thompson from Troop D.
 - a. S. Herbert asked if there were any prior year statistics to compare these statistics to. K. Beausoleil answered that he had not looked into that yet.
8. Correspondence from the Thompson Library: they will be hosting the 14th annual Food for Fines, there is an art display on view from January 4th-January 29th, and there is an adult coloring event on January 25th.

MUNICIPAL BUILDING

815 RIVERSIDE DRIVE · NO. GROSVENORDALE, CONNECTICUT 06255
TELEPHONE (860) 923-9475 · FAX (860) 923-9897

9. Letter from Charter regarding educational government access, in reference to cameras used to film meetings.
 - B. S. Smith had no correspondence to present.
 - C. S. Herbert had no correspondence to present.
- II (A). Voter Numbers Discussion
- A. K. Beausoleil explained that there was a question about voter numbers raised at the previous meeting. He stated that he met with the Registrar and the Town Clerk to discuss why the numbers did not match, and that a correction has now been made and addressed to the Secretary of the State.
 - B. Aileen Witkowski, Head Moderator, stated that the numbers were checked and are now accurate. She stated that she takes the blame because her signature is on the document, and that the explanation for the discrepancy was accepted as amended by the Secretary of the State, from 2,124 total voters to 2,198 total voters.
 - C. Jay Kenney explained that the Town Clerk entered the total number of votes cast for the First Selectman as the total number of voters. He explained that this was inaccurate because there were 'blank' ballots that voted for one race but not for the First Selectman race. He stressed that there was never a discrepancy in the results of any race, but only in the total number of votes cast.
 - D. A. Witkowski stated that the tapes that are printed out of the machine have the actual number of voters at that machine, and if you take that number, plus absentee ballots and same day ballots, that would be an accurate voter turnout number.
- III. Selectmen's Comments
- A. K. Beausoleil presented the following Selectman's Comments:
 1. Dottie Guillette is working in the Selectmen's Office as the Executive Assistant, and she is doing research into Economic Development Commission appointments. K. Beausoleil stated that EDC member terms are supposed to be staggered, but they all expired at the end of December. He stated that D. Guillette gathered information which K. Beausoleil will present to the Town Attorney for an opinion.
 2. Correspondence was sent to the Attorney General's office in reference to the complaint that was filed by Shaina Smith in September.
 3. There is a Transfer Station Advisory Committee meeting on January 28, 2016 at 7 PM, which will be a joint TSAC and BOS meeting. K. Beausoleil stated that he has not been able to get the information compiled on the status of this situation as of yet because we've been working on finishing the audit for the budget, and that has been our number one priority. He stated that within the next few days the audit will be completed and he will get the information, and hopefully the Board will be able to meet with them on the 28th as a special BOS meeting.
 4. The FOI policy was forwarded to Tom Hennick for review.
 5. Fuel tank project at Highway Garage is nearing completion.
 6. The First Selectman is meeting with the Town Attorney, Dr. Jolin, and Bill Birch January 6th at 9 AM to discuss the fuel tank leak at the school.
 7. The Starr Rd. issue is still being worked on. The Town Attorney gathered more information last week. K. Beausoleil stated that the Town Attorney is nearing a conclusion, based on a conversation they had.

8. The website has been upgraded. Mr. Stratos has been working with the Town to get items added and refined. The contract with Mr. Stratos has not been renewed yet. The First Selectman will be meeting with Jim Stratos and will update the Board during the January 19th meeting.
- B. S. Smith presented the following Selectman's Comments:
1. S. Smith presented a draft version of the first column to be placed in the Villager, and asked the other two Selectmen to review it, and asked each of them to contribute a few sentences about themselves.
 2. At the last meeting, S. Herbert brought up standards and protocols that the Town needs to be in compliance with in regards to animal control. S. Smith asked if K. Beausoleil had talked to Merry Bennett about that, to which he answered in the negative.
 3. In regards to the correspondence from Carolyn Werge, S. Smith stated that it would be beneficial if the Board was provided with any correspondence sent to the Town from the former property owners of the properties being discussed.
 4. S. Smith will reach out to Charter to follow-up with the correspondence that the Board received.
- C. S. Herbert presented the following Selectman's Comments:
1. Attended a CCM meeting for newly elected Town officials, which was very informative.
 2. Will be out of Town for the next BOS meeting, and possibly the first meeting in February, also.
 3. Asked what the Board is going to do now about Starr Rd., because the Town has been talking to the Town Attorney for months about it, and the Town is spending money but not hearing anything. K. Beausoleil stated that they are proceeding cautiously and he doesn't want to press the Town Attorney to make a quick decision. K. Beausoleil stated that the Town Attorney has had Attorney Slater's correspondence for about four weeks, and there is a lot to the package.
 4. S. Herbert stated that he received the letter from the insurance company about the fuel tank at the garage, as well as other items, just before the meeting, even though he picked up the rest of his packet at 6 PM the evening before. He asked if he can receive correspondence sooner than just before the meeting. K. Beausoleil stated that there were several items that he wanted to add to the agenda packet, and that S. Herbert came and picked up his agenda packet before K. Beausoleil gave the rest of the items to Tina Fox to make copies. S. Herbert stated that the letter was dated December 23rd, and that he cannot read it and digest it if he doesn't receive it until 7 PM. S. Smith stated that in the past, the entire Board received a phone call once the entire packet had been completed. She stated that some last minute things do come in, but if it pertains to an agenda item, it should be provided before 7 PM the night of the meeting.
- IV. Citizens' Comments (Limit 3 Minutes)
- A. Sally White, East Thompson Rd., stated that she did not think asking the Town Attorney about the Economic Development Commission appointments was appropriate because it is not right that the Town is paying an attorney for what should be done by the BOS or First Selectman. She stated that there seems to be a

material weakness in the process of counting votes, and that there should be a sequence of procedure that should be documented. She suggested that the Board request that the Registrars do an investigation and determine where the failure was, and then sequence the steps that should be taken during election time. In regards to the series of letters read aloud regarding the Fourno and Richardson properties, she stated that the letters often referenced "on behalf of the Commission," but that each of those references is meaningless unless there is a citation to a vote, and for a staff person to say they are writing on behalf of the Commission is empty. S. White stated that it would be a good idea to have a data point to reference in regards to the crime reports presented by Troop D. She added that, in regards to the Starr Rd. issue, it is her sense that a Town Attorney does research and presents an array of recommendations to the Board, but does not make a conclusion, and that if the Town Attorney is leading the First Selectman to say that the Town Attorney is coming to a conclusion, that is out of hand. K. Beausoleil stated that when he said earlier in the meaning that the Town Attorney was nearing a conclusion, it was just a poor choice of words.

- B. Don Pimental, 40 Starr Rd., stated that a title search was done, and the Town doesn't own the road (unimproved portion of Starr Rd.) according to the title search. He stated that the Board read "that fancy letter" from Carolyn Werge aloud, but did not read the letter from Attorney Slater aloud at the last meeting. He said he finds that peculiar, because if the letter from Attorney Slater had been read aloud, then the public would know somewhat what's going on with the information Attorney Slater gathered. He stated that Virginia Ramsey did the title search, and that 19 hours were spent in Town Hall doing the title search. He stated that Carolyn Werge had a lovely story for the Board tonight, but that she forgot to tell the Board that when Mr. Rawson donated land to the Town, he said he was going to buy the Fourno and Richardson properties, and Mr. Rice suggested that the Town buy it "for a song, and I'm not afraid to say it." D. Pimental stated that "you" told Mr. Fourno a story, that you were going to use the land for picnicking and were going to preserve it, but no one told him there was going to be a gravel mining operation right next to it. He stated that no one told Mr. Fourno that Mr. Dave Babbitt gave a letter to the Town of Thompson to receive \$10,000 from Allan Rawson to mine to the borderline of that property and waive the 50ft buffer from the Fourno property. He stated that was not in Carolyn Werge's letter to the public. He stated that Carolyn Werge wants to make it all sound like roses, and "that's bologna and I'm not afraid to say it." D. Pimental stated that there is a conspiracy here and he doesn't like it, and that people in Town Hall are working around "us" and against "us." He said that "you" stole the land. He stated that "you" went and told someone a story, and "you" left out bits and pieces. He stated that Inland/Wetlands meetings get cancelled because of negligence on behalf of the applicant and the Wetlands Agent, and that the wording of the application gets changed from construction of a bridge to construction of a driveway, and "you guys allow it to happen." He stated that there is no mention of a bridge in the legal notice publication, and "you" are misleading the public because of that. D. Pimental stated that the lot used to be all different sizes and "he" changed that as well. He stated that the Board has 65 year of records, including aerial photos and maps, and that someone is trying to ruin his credibility. Lastly, he stated that all Mr. Rawson has is a fraudulent document created in this Town Hall, created in this office.

- C. Kevin Walsh, Blain Rd., asked what K. Beausoleil was referring to when he said that correspondence was sent to the CT Attorney General's office. K. Beausoleil answered that he sent a letter as a follow up to the letter that S. Smith sent in September, and the new letter explained that there is a new administration that will fully cooperate with the investigation. K. Walsh stated that, in regards to the letters that were read into the record, some people have been expressing themselves in such a way that they are the authority, and this has been going on for a long time. He stated that they need to be told by somebody that it's inappropriate. He added that the Board has a choice to disband the Commission/Committee and have just one person "do all the talking," or to tell "them" that they are employed by the Town. He added that he is of the opinion that nobody has talked to "these people."
- D. Rob Mann, 15 Meadow Drive, read aloud an Inlands/Wetlands regulation regarding notifying municipalities within 500 ft of the subject property when there is an application submitted. He stated that the applicant was supposed to notify abutting municipality Wetlands Agents on the same day the application was received by the Thompson Wetlands Agent. He read another regulation aloud regarding the Thompson Wetlands Agent notifying abutting municipalities within 7 days of receipt of the application. He stated that he went to Burrillville, and that Burrillville received their notification from the Wetlands Agent after 7 days, so the Thompson Wetlands Agent did not send it in time, and that Burrillville had no receipt from River Junction Estates. He asked the BOS make sure the Wetlands Agent sent certified letters out on time, and that River Junction Estates proves they notified abutting municipalities.
- E. Paul Baer, Thompson Rd., congratulated the Board on their election. He suggested that an Excel spreadsheet be generated to calculate votes, so that the numbers can be populated without human interface. He stated that the website is "pretty sad," and he was surprised a paid webmaster would put up a website without functioning icons. He stated that the first page is full of icons and gives no identity to the Town of Thompson, and that you can't tell what people are searching on the website. He asked who approved the changes to the website and the look of it. He stated that Inlands/Wetlands minutes indicate that they were not given any clue that there was going to be a change to their website. P. Baer added that the webmaster also does the website for Woodstock, and Woodstock's does not look like Thompson's. He stated that the website should not have gone live until it was functional. P. Baer stated that it appears the Fire Advisory Committee has "died" in the last six months, and it was created because there was a failure to respond to a life-threatening call. He stated that the previous Chair took it upon herself to get involved with the budget, and in the meantime it cost a senior citizen her life, and the Committee still hasn't addressed the problem. He stated that the incident should have been reviewed and addressed, and that you can hear what actually happened if you listen to the tapes. Regarding the HVAC study, P. Baer stated that most HVAC companies have design engineers on staff, and the Town could have had suggestions/proposals from different HVAC companies instead of spending money on studies. P. Baer asked if the BOS would consider putting out an RFP for attorney fees, because the Town does not know if they are getting the best legal representation, and it is a sizeable amount every year. P. Baer stated that a driveway permit was submitted to the last BOS off of the unimproved portion of Starr Rd. He read aloud what a driveway is used for, and the definition of an approved Town street. He stated that Starr Rd. does not qualify for a driveway permit based on the definitions he read aloud. He stated that records at

Town Hall show Starr Rd. being .15 miles in length, and that at the public hearing in December 2014, Kerstin Forrester said Starr Rd. was .339 miles in length and the letter indicating the length of Starr Rd. was submitted by Leo Adams. P. Baer stated that Leo Adams later said that he never gave that report to Forrester, and Paul Lenky later admitted that the report was a forgery. He added that CT Statutes indicate that forgery is a felony. He stated that the former First Selectman violated the Freedom of Information Act twice, which is a misdemeanor. P. Baer added that the Inlands/Wetlands Commission has a hearing coming up for a driveway, but there shouldn't be a driveway permit because there is no improved road there.

- V. Opening of the bids for the Stationary Compactor
- A. K. Beausoleil explained that the bids were to replace a 22 year old Stationary Compactor that was budgeted for under the last administration.
- B. The bids were opened and were read aloud as follows:
1. Reaction Distributing: \$16,260
 2. On The Spot Welding, LLC: \$16,767
 3. East Coast Containers: \$19,000
 4. Jefferson Sanitary Equipment, Cram-a-lot Compactor: \$24,657.10
 5. Jefferson Sanitary Equipment, Marathon Compactor: \$22,000
 6. Boston Baylor and Hydraulics: \$15,335 (without freight costs)
 7. BE Equipment, Inc.: \$18,375, plus a variety of additional items.
- C. **Shaina Smith moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to send the bids to Winston Avril for the purpose of review and providing a recommendation back to the Board of Selectmen.**
 Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.
- VI. Request to close Bates Ave. from Noon to 3 PM on 03-19-16 Discussion
- A. K. Beausoleil read aloud a letter from the Recreation Department, which asked for the road to be closed for the annual Easter Egg Hunt.
- B. **Steve Herbert moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to approve the request to close Bates Ave. from Noon to 3 PM on March 9, 2016, or the inclement weather date of March 26, 2016.**
 Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.
- VII. Appointment- West Thompson Fire Police
- A. **Shaina Smith moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to appoint Stephanie Pratt to West Thompson Fire Police.**
 Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.
- VIII. Emergency Management Resolution
- A. **Shaina Smith moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to approve the Emergency Management Resolution as read.**
 Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.

IX. Assessor Position Discussion

- A. K. Beausoleil explained that there were attempts to hire a full-time Assessor in the past, but it was not successful. He stated that there are a couple of options, including trying to hire someone for the position again at 35 hours per week, asking the Board of Finance to extend the current temporary help to the end of the Fiscal Year, and/or hiring someone for the position and then train them to become a certified Assessor. K. Beausoleil stated that the current part-time Assessor believes the office needs 75-80 hours per week, and the office currently operates on 60 hours per week.
- B. S. Smith suggested that another possibility would be to hire a part-time Assessor who already works as a part-time Assessor in another town.
- C. S. Herbert suggested they ask the Board of Finance for an extension on the temporary help either way.

X. Recreation Director Position

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that he was hoping to have the name of the person that would be hired for this position, but a final decision has not been made yet.

XI. Assistant Town Clerk Discussion

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that Linda Paradise has been appointed as the Assistant Town Clerk by Town Clerk Renee Waldron. He stated that he is not sure if the Board of Selectmen is required to officially approve the appointment.
- B. **Steve Herbert moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to approve the hiring of Linda Paradise as the new Assistant Town Clerk, as appointed by the Town Clerk.**

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.

XII. Voter Numbers Discussion (moved to item II(A).)

XIII. Road Updates: None

XIV. Other Business: None

XV. Citizens' Comments

- A. Wayne O'Brien, 108 Fabyan Rd., stated that the previous Assessor used to use outside firms to do walkthroughs when she was not certified, and that the Board can look into those private companies to see if they know someone for the Assessor position. K. Beausoleil stated that he can talk to NECCOG about it as well.
- B. Paul Baer, Thompson Rd., read aloud a document regarding Town policy and procedures in relation to Town documents, which included a statement about removal of documents being a felony. He stated that there were thousands of records on the Town's website that were removed. He wanted to know who was going to be held accountable for the removal of those documents because someone had to make that decision, and hundreds of hours were originally spent getting the documents on the website. He stated that the removal of those records was a felony, punishable by prison, and that situation will be going to the State Attorney's office, also. P. Baer stated that two years ago, he submitted pictures of telephone poles that had been hit by drivers, and the utility company came out and put a splint on them. He stated that after two years, the poles still haven't been replaced, and if any of them are hit again, there could be wires in

the road. He suggested that the Board put pressure on the utility companies to fix the issue. He stated that there is one pole on Wilsonville Rd., and a couple in Quaddick.

- C. Don Pimental, 40 Starr Rd., showed the Board an aerial map from 1956 that he stated was from Carolyn Werge that Marla Butts sold to him for \$150. He indicated two perfect lines on the map going up to Rhode Island, and stated that he has never heard of an aerial map having perfect lines. He presented a picture of "the farm" from 1951, and indicated his father's house and two barns. He presented a map from 1958 with a legend that shows Starr Rd. as being abandoned. He stated that the DOT has not recognized Starr Rd. since 1977, and before that it was marked as abandoned. Referring back to the 1956 map, he stated that "it is definitely an overlay." He stated that the map "says five acres here," but that "this was a 42 acre farm from 1933 to 1969. It wasn't broken up at that point." He said that someone drew the two perfect lines on the 1956 map. He indicated another portion of a map and stated: "This piece of land says 14 acres. He says, over the years, he never touched it since 2004. It actually comes out to here. It's 15.7. He did alter that property." He asked who is going to find out tomorrow that Marla Butts didn't notify the Town of Douglas or the Town of Burrillville in time. He stated that he does not want Ken Slater to come here tomorrow with his Wetlands Agent if there isn't going to be a meeting. K Beausoleil stated that as soon as he has an answer, he will let D. Pimental know. D. Pimental stated that if there cannot be a public hearing fourteen days after not notifying him, then there certainly cannot be one now, and that someone has to follow up. He stated that he is upset about the wording change from construction of a bridge to construction of a driveway. He asked if the Board is responsible for Driveway Permits, or just the First Selectman. D. Pimental stated that in 2007, part of New Road was not owned by the Town of Thompson, and Bob Messier had to deed it over to Thompson so that eleven of his house lots would be on an improved Town Rd. He stated that tomorrow is an important day, and asked if the Board is aware that "they gave him a temporary bridge." He asked if there is a conflict of interest with Bill St. Onge being involved with Putnam and having some dealings with Allan Rawson in the past.
- D. Rob Mann, 15 Meadow Drive, stated that the application indicated they wanted to remove 60 yards of gravel, or 100 yards of gravel, but that the use of Starr Rd. for earth removal is prohibited. He added that aerial photographs are available through the State of Connecticut State Library.
- E. Sally White, East Thompson, stated that it is simple logic that the public hearing should not be held tomorrow night given that other hearings were cancelled. She stated that if Attorney St. Onge was part of recommending some other hearings not be held, then legal precedence has been set. She stated that it would be ludicrous to hold the meeting tomorrow night. S. White stated that, in regards to a conflict of interest, Mr. Rawson is Chairman of the Putnam School Renovation Committee for Putnam High School, and Attorney St. Onge has a lot to do with that contract. She stated that she suspects Attorney St. Onge was involved with the old armory building being handed over to Mr. Rawson's organization, and the company awarded the contract for the renovation of Putnam high school is the same company that purchased Mr. Rawson's prior business. She told the Board to "tread carefully."

- F. Kevin Walsh, Blain Rd., stated that during the last election cycle, the current majority party made it their business to see to it that they were going to make the lack of trust and confidence that people had with the Town a main priority, and take care of that. He stated that it was just enough to push the current majority people across the finish line, and he plans to hold them to that campaign. He stated that he is concerned that this Board is taking the path of the previous Board because issues are not being handled in an honest way. He added that the First Selectman promised the Town that he'd straighten things out, and he is going to make it his business to ask the First Selectman how he is doing.

XVI. Tax Refunds

- A. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to approve the following tax refunds:**

1.	Lawrence J. and Christopher W. Caron	\$16.51	
2.	Nickolette A. Morin	\$86.30	
3.	Susan M. Robinson	\$24.80	
4.	Bonita Gauthier	\$24.80	
	Ken Beausoleil- Yes	Steve Herbert- Yes	Shaina Smith- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

XVII. Adjourn

- A. **Shaina Smith moved and Steve Herbert 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 9:17 PM.

Tina Fox
Recording Secretary