



SELECTMEN'S MEETING
October 15, 2013

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, October 15, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall – Merrill Seney Room.

PRESENT: Larry Groh, First Selectman; Kenneth Beausoleil, Selectman; Kerstin Forrester, Selectman; Paul Lenky, Leo Adams, Paul Baer, Kevin Walsh, Alvan Hill, Joseph Gaucher, Roger Tremblay, Gina Burns, Carol Larsson, Fred Cote, Linda Jarmolowicz, James Niedzinlowski, Sally White, John Mahon III - WINY Reporter and other concerned citizens.

Larry Groh opened the meeting with a statement that he had made an error on the date while opening the Special Selectmen's Meeting held at noon on October 15, 2013, not 2012. He made the correction for the record.

1) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to accept the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting of October 1, 2013, with corrections made by Mr. Groh. Discussion held – Mrs. Forrester asked a question of Mr. Groh regarding a comment made from the minutes regarding the status of the Probate Court moving out of Thompson and the \$700.00 monthly rent. - **Mr. Groh explained that he asked for a motion for the release of funds of \$700.00 per month paid to the Town of Thompson retroactive from July 1, 2013, at the last NECCOG meeting.** - He explained that the Board would not make a motion until they receive a signed contract for a new site for the Probate Court.

Mr. Groh - Yes
Mr. Beausoleil – Yes
Mrs. Forrester - Abstained

Corrections shown in bold:

#5 Citizen's Comments – Kevin Walsh comment – Kevin Walsh inquired about the town ordinances and bylaws and is every ordinance and bylaw available **online**, and Mr. Groh stated that he did not think so and that this is a task that the Ordinance Review Committee has been charged with completing. Mr. Groh stated that the Board at the NECCOG meeting made a verbal agreement regarding the funds but would not make a motion to **release** the funds to the town.

#8 Request to Use Transfer Station – Cadet Troop 65553 – Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to approve Saturday, November 2, 2013, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for Cadet Troop 65553 to set up a cookie sale booth.

Mr. Groh - Yes
Mr. Beausoleil - Yes

Moved comment after voting: Comment: The Troop will have to coordinate with the transfer station personnel where to set up their booth.

2) CORRESPONDENCE:

1) Report from Paul Baer on website activity showing the statistics for the month of September 2013. The report indicated a monthly history of unique visitors, number of visitors and pages visited. Also the

duration of each visit and what forms are being downloaded including what search words are primarily used and what sites are looked up the most.

2) Memo dated October 1, 2013, from Chairman of the Planning & Zoning Commission, Greg Lee, regarding the resignation of alternate member, Stanley J. Lesniewski.

3) Letter dated October 7, 2013, from Director of Thompson Recreation, Renee Waldron, and President of Thompson Together, Inc., Beth Goldsmith, to Leo Adams thanking him for his support for the Thompson Community Day.

4) Email from Carolyn Werge for the Conservation Commission regarding Potential Liability Issues, dated October 8, 2013. Ms. Werge explained in the email that the Conservation Commission has been gathering all available information about the cemeteries in Thompson to create a comprehensive file. In addition, they are considering cemetery maintenance issues and hoping to have volunteers assist with some of the neglected tasks at many of the cemeteries; however, Commissioners are concerned about the potential for liability issues for the town. - Mr. Groh stated that he understood that a cemetery has recently been discovered in a gravel and mining area. He also suggested that since there is an interest from the community to take care of some of the abandoned and neglected cemeteries that the BOS should think about starting a Cemetery Committee to keep the grounds clipped and mowed and possibly fix broken stones. He asked the Board to set the standards for this project. Mr. Beausoleil also mentioned the concern regarding liability. Mr. Groh asked Leo Adams about the cemeteries in town and he stated that there is a list of about 22 or 24 and they usually have funds in their budget to clean up the major cemeteries for 3 holidays per year. - Ms. Werge attached CT General Statutes cover "care of neglected cemeteries" in Section 19a-308 in her email stating "in any town in which there is a burial ground or cemetery containing more than six places of interment and not under the control or management of any currently functioning cemetery association, which has been neglected and allowed to grow up to weeds, briars and bushes, or about which the fences have become broken, decayed or dilapidated, the selectmen of such town may annually cause such burial ground to be cleared of weeds, briars and bushes, and may cause its fences or walls to be repaired and kept in orderly and decent condition and its memorial stones to be straightened."

3) SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS:

- 1) Mr. Groh had no comment
- 2) Mr. Beausoleil had no comment.
- 3) Mrs. Forrester stated that she was sorry to have missed Community Day.

4) CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

- Kevin Walsh asked whether or not town employees are still using their personal email addresses. Mr. Groh stated that a short answer is no and this is continuing to be addressed. Also, one person has a lot of contacts and they do not want to lose those contacts. Mr. Walsh asked what is the obstacle in making the change over, and Mr. Groh stated that it is more of a personal protection problem and that their personal emails would be subject to the FOI act and would become public record. Mr. Walsh asked about the status of Commissions having their own websites, and Mr. Beausoleil stated that he has some of the information and as soon as he has it ready he will bring it before the Board.

- Fred ??? just moved to town from Worcester, MA, and he wanted to know if he could put a crime watch sign up at the River Mill Village Complex. He stated that he received permission already from the manager and needs permission from the Board. Mr. Groh asked Leo Adams if he had any signs and he stated yes. Fred explained where the sign should be put up and that there is already an existing post.

- Joe Gaucher stated that he had inquired about a house with an open bulkhead at the last meeting and did Mr. Groh look into this. Mr. Groh stated that he knows the status of the property, and further, that he cannot enter the house.

- Alvan Hill asked Paul Baer if the webpage report was NSA approved and certified.

- Paul Baer had a question regarding the Wilsonville and Buck Hill Road paving project and who authorized this, and also it went out to an out of state bid contractor. Mr. Groh said that he would answer this question later on in the meeting. He also asked about the library curbs and pavers still needed to be replaced and it has been a year and what is the status of this. Mrs. Forrester has been waiting for Leo Adams to get a quote on the used curbing and he was also going to provide her with hours of labor needed to complete this project. Mr. Adams stated that he has been out ill and has been short 4 people

all summer. Mr. Baer asked about the Wilsonville/Pompeo Road playground and why are they looking for a metal bender and why not order the guardrails with radiuses. Mr. Adams stated he received a quote for \$31,000.00 to put in a fence with radiuses. Mr. Baer asked about purchasing new posts and fix what is there to protect the playground before there is a tragedy. Regarding the Belding-Corticelli Improvement Committee, he requested that the Chairperson of the Committee be brought in before the BOS to answer questions; specifically the misrepresentation that the Chairperson made at the public information hearing. When the question was asked regarding the development of the property, he stated that he had spoken to the DEEP officials and they assured him that they could develop the property. Also how was the delineation on the drawing put together? He further stated that the DEEP sent an email to the town stating that they cannot do anything on the property until they have a Phase 1 study. Also the Chairperson stated that they had not expended any funds on the project when they had spent \$475.00 on a sign and how did they come up with the maps. Mr. Baer stated that this was a fraud. Mr. Groh stated that the Chairperson has resigned. They will be resuming the Committee in November 2013, and they are going to have to pick a new Chairperson. Mr. Groh stated that Mr. Baer should ask the new BOS about this after elections. Mr. Baer asked if the CCM contract was signed and returned. Mr. Groh stated that it was returned and that he was contacted to provide more information. Mr. Baer asked about the town library spending \$2,000.00 to have shrubs trimmed, spending \$75.00 per month for a pay phone and \$60.00 per month for bottled drinking water. Mr. Groh stated that the BOS has no control on how the library spends their money. He also stated that the pay phone is a good thing since there are some people who do not have cell phones. He further stated that Mr. Baer should attend one of the Library Board of Trustee meetings. Mr. Baer stated that one thing that the town should consider is an internship program and that this could assist the town and save money. He also suggested that the BOS needs to re-evaluate the number of positions at the town hall. He further stated that the Recreation Department has been spending money on items like pizza for a staff meeting, doughnuts for the custodial staff, doughnuts for training, breakfast for the staff and \$800.00 on a sound system. He further commented that they could be using this money towards a Phase 1 study to ensure the safety of wells in the Belding area. He also commented that they need to look closer at how the Recreation Department handles contracts, for instance; one of their contracts was for a concert and the check was written out to J.P. Beausoleil and the contract is only signed by the town. Also the language in the contract states that if the event is canceled due to weather the band gets to keep 50% of the deposit. Also, the contract is for a band but the check is made out to an individual.

- Kevin Walsh stated that in regards to the money that some departments in town are spending for doughnuts, pizzas, etc. when there are lower-income residents who are in need of oil for the winter is sending a message of disrespect to the town.

- Sally White asked about the Planning & Zoning alternate position appointment and requested that the BOS explain the method that will be used for alerting the 2 parties and how will they alert the BOS. Mr. Groh commented to Mr. Beausoleil and Mrs. Forrester that they notify their respective town committees that there is a vacancy for a P&Z Commission alternate position. He was not sure whether the opening is a Democratic or Republican seat, but he would have to be elected from one or the other party and then that person is brought before the Board of Selectmen. If this is not done in 30 days then the BOS can appoint whoever they want. She inquired how a new Chairperson will be selected for the Belding-Corticelli Improvement Committee and Mr. Groh stated by the BOS as this is an advisory committee. She commented that the cemetery found in the gravel and mining area has been known by the residents of East Thompson for decades and decades and that this is not new information and every cemetery in town has been known for ages by the natives and that this is misinformation from the Conservation Commission. She further commented that it is the town's responsibility to care for the cemeteries and the town should be more engaged and that there should not be any abandoned or neglected cemeteries. Mr. Groh stated that he understands what she is saying but now there is a group of people who want to step forward and care for the cemeteries and he thinks that it is great that there are people who want to take care of them. And she further stated that what Mr. Baer has uncovered is very disturbing and very irresponsible and she hopes that this gets published in the media.

- Paul Baer asked about the 2 people who have resigned and can they be removed from the website. Mr. Groh stated yes.

5) REQUEST TO USE TRANSFER STATION – PACK 66:

Mr. Groh read a letter from Boy Scouts - Pack 66 regarding their request to set up a booth to sell First Aid Kits at the Transfer Station on November 2, 2013, from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to allow the Boy Scouts - Pack 66, to set up a booth to sell First Aid Kits at the Transfer Station on November 2, 2013, from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.; with normal safety precautions.

Mr. Groh - Yes
Mr. Beausoleil – Yes
Mr. Forrester – Yes

Comment: They must discuss with the transfer station workers where to set up their booth.

6) APPOINTMENT AS CONSTABLE – ALAN PRATT:

Mr. Groh stated that he received an email from Alan Pratt requesting that he, again, be appointed to the position of Constable. Mr. Groh went on to explain that state legislation took away all of the powers and responsibilities of constables which is the reason why Mr. Pratt resigned in the past. They no longer have arresting rights; however, it was suggested by Steve Benoit, Emergency Management Coordinator, to appoint a constable so that they can help out during emergency situations such as directing traffic and to help out with security in emergency shelters. Mr. Beausoleil asked the Board about Alan Pratt since he has not met him, and Sally White commented that he volunteers at Day Kimball Hospital and has a full time job and a family; he served on the Economic Development Committee for a number of years. He is a pleasant fellow and a big guy with a very gentle yet powerful presence and is well liked throughout the town. He works at one of the oil companies and on his day off from his job, he does maintenance and repair work at Day Kimball Hospital and is very active in the community. Mrs. Forrester inquired about getting a list of the constables. Mr. Groh answered he is not sure of how many there are on the list, but a suggestion will be coming before the BOS to change the number from 7 to 12 appointees.

Motion made by Mrs. Forrester, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to appoint Alan Pratt to Constable; term to expire November 18, 2013.

Mr. Groh - Yes
Mr. Beausoleil – Yes
Mrs. Forrester - Yes

7) APPOINTMENT TO WPCA ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Mr. Groh stated that Renee Waldron is a community member and also, her home is tied into the sewer line, and she has expressed an interest in becoming a member of the WPCA Advisory Committee.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to appoint Renee Waldron to the WPCA Advisory Committee for a term indefinite.

Mr. Groh - Yes
Mr. Beausoleil – Yes
Mrs. Forrester - Yes

8) WILSONVILLE ROAD AND BUCK HILL ROAD PAVING:

Mr. Groh reviewed the paving situation of Wilsonville and Buck Hill Roads. He stated that Leo Adams was present to explain what is happening on these 2 roads. Mr. Adams explained that both roads were in really bad shape and he went on to explain the 3 different methods in detail that were considered to prepare the roads for paving. He concluded that the first method would leave a hump in the middle of the road so paving would not completely cover this, the second method would leave small stones that would have to be removed and the final method would leave a flat base of about 3 inches and they can easily pave over this. Mr. Beausoleil asked if this was the same method used on Pompeo Road and Mr. Adams stated yes. It was also stated that the town's Highway Department would be doing the actual paving of the roads. Mrs. Forrester asked about the cost to do both roads and did he get a price up front. Mr. Adams stated that Wilsonville Road is \$83,000.00 and Buck Hill is \$33,000.00. Mrs. Forrester questioned

Mr. Adams about the process of getting quotes first before notifying the BOS and that they should have been part of the process. Mr. Groh commented that it was not Mr. Adams fault and that he takes the blame for this on not bringing this up before the BOS but in the future it should be done correctly. Mr. Groh further stated that he added this item to this agenda so that he could advise the BOS of what was happening with the paving project.

9) EMS PLAN:

Mr. Groh and Mr. Beausoleil both stated that they had a few suggestions to make on the plan. Mr. Groh commented that the plan needs an expiration date. He also commented about American Ambulance Service for the Paramedic Provider and that NECCOG goes out to bid every 3 years for this service. He further stated that there is a study going on right now and they are looking at doing the service in-house and a number of other things. He asked is it much of an issue to change that section if needed. Mrs. Forrester stated that they can add an addendum if needed. They also agreed that they review the plan on an annual basis. Mr. Groh inquired if the information on the fire chiefs is correct and that they have signed the original. Mrs. Forrester stated yes the information is correct and they did sign the original. Mr. Beausoleil stated that first responder certificates for their PSA all expire at various times. He further stated that when they recertify that they are forwarded to update the plan. The BOS agreed to an annual review and to add addendums and certifications as needed.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to approve and authorize the First Selectmen to sign the EMS Plan with the inclusion of an expiration date of 5 years from October 2013.

Mr. Groh - Yes
Mr. Beausoleil –Yes
Mrs. Forrester - Yes

10) TAX REFUNDS:

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to refund the following overpayments as recommended by the Tax Collector, Rene Morin.

Mr. Groh - Yes
Mr. Beausoleil –Yes
Mrs. Forrester - Yes

Megan L. Borowski	\$7.17
Richard G. Dubuque	\$131.92
Andrew P. Guzman	\$5.74
Jeffrey L. LaBonte	\$4.69
Evan M. Touchette	\$18.59

11) OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Groh stated that he would like to hire a temporary Zoning Enforcement Officer since he is not sure of the return date of their current ZEO. He explained that there are certain Zoning Board of Appeals time constraints involved with signing off some of the building permits and there are reports that have to be done. Also, currently, the Town Planner has been tasked with some of these issues and he does not want to see her fall behind. Mr. Beausoleil asked if the ZEO reports to the town planner and Mr. Groh stated yes. They would need to get approval from the BOF to do this. Mrs. Forrester inquired if he had someone in mind and Mr. Groh stated that he knows of someone who has CAZEO certification with the knowledge to handle this type of responsibility. He also stated that he is not looking for a motion to approve this right now. Mr. Beausoleil stated that they need to keep the day-to-day operations going and put someone in place so that they do not run into the Zoning Board of Appeals time constraints. Mrs. Forrester agreed.

12) ADJOURN:

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:33 p.m.

Mr. Groh - Yes
Mr. Beausoleil –Yes
Mrs. Forrester - Yes

Recorded and transcribed by Patricia Lacasse.