



SELECTMEN'S MEETING
September 17, 2013

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, September 17, 2013, at 7:09 p.m. at the Town Hall – Merrill Seney Room.

PRESENT: Larry Groh, First Selectman; Kenneth Beausoleil, Selectman; Kerstin Forrester, Selectman, Paul Lenky, Lorraine Pasqualetti, Judith Nedzweckis, Janet Jacobson, Linda Jarmolowicz, Nicholas Swearer, Joan Swearer, Michael Olson, Linda Olson, Roger Tremblay, James Nicdzialkoski, Susanne Witkowski, Bill Witkowski, Lisa Lynch, Stacy Lynch, Kevin Walsh, Alvan Hill, Christine Campbell, Joseph Gaucher, Kathleen Herbert, Paul Baer, Sally White and other concerned citizens.

1) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made by Mrs. Forrester, seconded by Mr. Groh, to accept the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting of September 3, 2013, with corrections made by Mrs. Forrester.

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

Corrections shown in bold:

#2 Correspondence – Memo from Greg Lee, Chairman of the P&Z Commission dated August 27, 2013, stating an anticipated budget **overrun** of \$2,800.00. #3 Selectmen's Comments – Mr. Groh stated that in the next few weeks they should see road repair work happening **at Wilsonville Road and Buck Hill Road**. #4 Citizen's Comment's – Kevin Walsh asked if gas, meals or parking were expensed **by the town**. Mr. Groh asked if they could forward the **RFP** to them as well.

2) CORRESPONDENCE:

1) Invitation from Hull Products to the BOS.
2) Letter from Thames Valley Council for Community Actions, Inc., dated September 5, 2013, regarding Town of Thompson Senior Services. Mr. Groh stated that this is a budgetary item which is partially funded by the town and that this item is time sensitive. Mrs. Forrester suggested that they add this item to #12 Other Business.

Motion made by Mrs. Forrester, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to add this item regarding the senior program to #12 Other Business.

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

3) Information regarding a statewide paint recycling program; drop-off sites, fees and publications.
4) A cover letter and a petition regarding the Thompson International Speedway Expansion Project which requests that the community is informed of the scope of the project, to express their concerns regarding the impact that it will have on the community and environment and to request that physical modifications and proposed uses be made to the plans to reduce the noise. Mr. Groh stated that the speedway has been working on this project for about a year and that they have received approval from the Inland

Wetlands Commission. Mrs. Forrester asked if they ever came before the BOS to make a presentation and do they have to submit plans to the town. Mr. Groh stated that they should come before the town to build a new track but this is an existing track. Mrs. Forrester asked should they come before the BOS when adding events. Mr. Groh stated that he was not sure. He also stated that this is a Planning and Zoning question and may fall under prior use. He stated that they have been in to speak with the Zoning Enforcement Officer and he needs to speak with him as well. Mr. Beausoleil also stated that he has seen the plans in the Wetlands Department and that they are quite extensive. Mrs. Forrester asked about a noise ordinance and Mr. Groh stated that there is no noise ordinance in Thompson, but the state has one that specifies quiet after 10:00 pm. Mr. Beausoleil stated that all of the departments have been notified of this petition.

5) Monthly Calls for Service Report from Connecticut State Police, Troop D Barracks from August 1 through August 31, 2013.

6) Notification that there will be a presentation on September 25, 2013, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at QVCC on hunger awareness.

7) Notification of a FOI hearing scheduled on October 3, 2013, at 2:00 p.m. at the FOI Commission regarding a complaint against the Solar Advisory Commission. Violation dates were December 28, 2012, and January 29, 2013. No agendas or minutes were noticed by the Commission.

8) Letter dated September 5, 2013, from the Town Attorney regarding the Trinity Agreement discussed on July 2, 2013.

3) SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS:

1) Mr. Groh had no comments.

2) Mrs. Forrester requested to add the Solar Advisory Committee's RFP to #12 Other Business.

Motion made by Mrs. Forrester, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to add the Solar Advisory Committee's RFP to #12 Other Business.

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

Mrs. Forrester asked if the town vehicle, which had failed brakes, had been repaired. Mr. Groh stated that it was at Thompson Automotive and is in process of repair.

3) Mr. Beausoleil commented that he has started to gather some of the information on the department's website costs and renewals. He still has several questions regarding the breakdown of the costs. Will add to October 15, 2013, agenda both website and policy information.

4) CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

•Joan Swearer respectfully requested that the cover letter and petition regarding the Thompson International Speedway Expansion Project be read aloud for the record. Mr. Groh did so (cover letter and petition attached to minutes). She also requested a special meeting for this item. Mr. Beausoleil stated that maybe they should have the Town Attorney look at this as well. Mr. Groh also stated it might be too early for that. Mr. Groh commented that if they are going to have a lengthy discussion, that they should have more of a public hearing type of meeting so that everyone can voice their concerns. Mr. Groh stated that he wants to compile more information. The BOS will look into this and advise as to their plans on how to handle this.

•Sally White stated that maybe the BOS should introduce themselves since there are many new faces at the meeting. They did so.

•Mike Olson from Quaddick Town Farm Road wanted to comment on the noise issue at the speedway. Mr. Groh reiterated the fact that Thompson does not have a noise ordinance and the state statute is quiet after 10:00 p.m. He asked what happens if the race runs later. Mr. Groh suggested that he call the state police. Mr. Olson commented that he did call the state police before and they told him "that it's the speedway; what do you want?" He also has some concern regarding his property value.

•Lisa Lynch stated that she signed the petition and they also have concerns about the noise and property value. She also wanted to know why there has not been a lot of communication to the public.

Mr. Groh stated that everything on this project is public information. She stated that the Planning and Zoning and the Building office shared very little information with her.

- Joan Swearer stated that a 110 foot bridge is being built at the speedway.
- Paul Baer commented that it is nice to see so many people at the meeting and it would be nice to see this at every meeting. He also stated that there is a Noise Committee that can be reactivated. He also stated that the road course is an expansion and that they are eliminating parking and the camping area.
- Paul Lenky stated that the town can propose a noise ordinance. Mr. Groh also stated that they can only propose a noise ordinance that is more rigid than the state noise ordinance. The BOS can propose a noise ordinance and then pass this on to the Noise Committee.

The BOS will have a Special BOS Meeting on Tuesday, October 8, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. either at the Library Community Center or the School Auditorium depending on what is available. Mrs. Forrester requested that all members of the Boards, Commissions or Committees involved with this project be present as well.

●**Nick swearer stated that we granted a wetlands permit before the DEEP permit was granted which is not the correct procedure. Mr. Groh will look into this.**

- Kevin Walsh stated that when they hold the meeting on October 8, 2013, that the BOS attend the meeting totally prepared for any and all questions. Mrs. Forrester stated that there will be other Board, Commission or Committee members present to answer some of these questions. Mrs. Forrester suggested that citizens send in their email or call in their questions prior to the meeting.
- Mike Olson inquired if the Conservation Commission did an assessment on the plans and will there be a Cease and Desist Order issued to stop construction until they have their meeting. Mr. Groh stated that he will look into whether they have the proper permits in place but they cannot issue a Cease and Desist Order without due cause. He stated that if the Zoning Enforcement Officer is in tomorrow morning he will talk with him.
- Joan Swearer stated that construction on the speedway begins at 6:00 a.m. and the state statute states that construction can begin at 7:00 a.m.
- Roger Tremblay inquired about an employee and he is being represented by the Town Attorney. Mr. Groh stated that the Town Attorney is not representing him; he has a private attorney.
- Paul Baer inquired if the labor attorney is working on a policy regarding this type of situation and what is the status on the policy. Mr. Groh stated that the labor attorney is working on a draft.
- Nick Swearer stated that the town should have a code of ethics policy put in place.
- Paul Baer stated that the town's email addresses are all available. Mrs. Forrester stated that they should make sure that everyone uses the town email and not their personal email address since their personal email used for town business would then become public record. Mr. Baer asked if the CCD Prescription Drug Card contract had been signed. Mr. Groh stated that the Town Attorney has an issue on one item. Mr. Baer also stated that regarding the Check-My's-Benefits website, he received approval from the National Council on Aging to add a link to the town website. He stated that there still seems to be an issue on uploading files to the town website; they are not using the correct format. Lastly, he inquired if a work order has been issued to fix the corner of Pompeo Road and Mr. Groh said that it has been put on the list to be completed.

5) CONSERVATION PRESERVATION EASEMENT AGREEMENT:

A Conservation Preservation Easement Agreement for the WWII Memorial in front of the old post office on Fabyan Road was reviewed by the BOS. The Board agreed to move forward with the agreement.

Motion made by Mrs. Forrester, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to approve the Conservation Preservation Easement Agreement for the WWII Memorial.

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

6) YEAR-END TRANSFERS:

Mr. Groh reviewed the budget transfers for fiscal year 2013.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to approve the increase and decrease of the budget transfers for fiscal year 2013

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

7) STREET LIGHT REQUEST – MAIN STREET:

Lorraine Pasqualetti, who is part of the Main Street Neighborhood Watch, requested that street lights be placed on poles #208 and #209 on Main Street. She stated that the area from St. Joseph's Church to the library, and also the grotto area, have had some safety issues with speeding traffic, kids riding around on scooters checking out cars in the church parking lot and walking up the steps of the grotto on bingo nights. Also, there have been pets hit by cars in this area. Mr. Beausoleil also stated that this area is a prime walking area.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to speak to CL&P regarding sending out a representative to add street lights to poles #208 and #209. **Discussion: Main Street Neighborhood Watch came in with this request with the intent to better their neighborhood.**

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

8) WPCA ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Mr. Groh stated that the WPCA is currently doing a phosphate study on the town's water supply. There are a couple of options that they need to consider which would include hooking up to Putnam's water system or upgrading their own water system. Mr. Groh stated that he would like to start a committee to examine the water study and then review what the costs would be for the different options. Also, Putnam just did upgrades to their water system. He recommended that the committee include a Chairperson from Finance, the Finance Director, a community member (preferably who uses the system), a selectmen (Kerstin Forrester volunteered to be the Board of Selectmen representative) and a Chairperson from WPCA. Mr. Beausoleil stated that this is something looming in the future and they should be proactive about this right now. Mrs. Forrester inquired about the company doing the study; Paul Lenky stated that they are using a private company and they should be done around October 1, 2013. Sally White commented that she would like to have people on the committee other than staff members. Mr. Baer also stated that he has a concern with this as well and asked that the committee be open minded about their positions. Mr. Groh agreed with him. Kathleen Herbert stated that all the more reason that this committee needs neutral personnel if they want to get just the facts. Mr. Beausoleil recommended that they add 2 more community members to the committee for a total of 7 members.

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to form a WPCA Advisory Committee to consist of 7 members; Chairperson of finance, Finance Director, 3 community members (preferably who use the system), a selectmen and a Chairperson of WPCA. Discussion: Rene Morin and Kathleen Herbert will be added as community members with 1 other community member vacancy and Kerstin Forrester from the Board of Selectmen.

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

9) EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY RESOLUTION:

Mr. Groh read for the record the Emergency Management & Homeland Security Resolution.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to approve the resolution as read.

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

10) EMS PLAN:

Mr. Groh briefly reviewed a draft of the EMS plan that has been proposed by the Fire Advisory Committee. Mr. Groh stated that since he just received the copy that morning, he is not prepared to take any action tonight. Mr. Beausoleil also wanted to read it through. To be placed on Agenda for the October 15, 2013, BOS meeting.

11) 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

Henry E. or Dena S. Baskin	\$19.10
Ann R. Johnson	\$21.94
Mark T. or Deborah Kennett	\$59.05
Jennie L. Laurent	\$9.79
Michael T. or Victoria J. Martin	\$11.28
Numa Tool Company, Inc.	\$30.58
Henry R. Piacentini	\$9.60
Sandra B. Poitras	\$27.13
William W. Reinholdsten	\$94.39 and \$53.36
Daniel O. Todd	\$22.64

12) OTHER BUSINESS:

12a) Town of Thompson Senior Services - Mr. Groh read the letter from TVCCA, Inc. regarding Town of Thompson Senior Services for the record. Mr. Groh reiterated that sometimes getting meals on wheels is not just for nutritional reasons but this service also provides the only outside contact that some people actually have. TVCCA, Inc. indicated that this program will be cut by 4.5% which will impact the number of days they are able to deliver meals to homebound participants. They will get 2 hot meals per week plus frozen meals for the other days. Mr. Groh stated that they have to consider either that they can get volunteers to take over or do they provide funding for some of the days. Mrs. Forrester stated that they need to find out what the cost is to do this and she stated that the town was funding between \$8,000.00 and \$9,000.00 and this has been reduced to \$6,000.00. Mr. Beausoleil also stated that they should contact them and find out what the cost would be and look into other funding; he also suggested that they send a letter to Congressman Joe Courtney. Susanne Witkowski asked if they know how many seniors are receiving meals and is it actually 5 days per week. The BOS were not sure. She also recommended that they find out if some are not capable of heating and preparing the frozen meals. Also, a question was asked about the fees paid by the participants and it was stated that the fees are based on the participant's income. Sally White asked if the local churches are aware of this change and are there other community groups who could help out. Mr. Groh stated that he will meet with Tim Grills, the Director of Nutrition Services, and will advise the other Selectmen what the cost would be and what other options could be available.

12b) Solar Advisory Committee RFP – Mrs. Forrester reviewed in detail a proposal from CCM Energy regarding the solar panels for 5 town buildings. She also stated that they need to move forward as they have an October 1, 2013, deadline. Mr. Groh stated that it looked advantageous. Mr. Groh asked if they had the agreement and Alvan Hill stated that they would need the authorization signed before they get the agreement. He also emphasized that they have an October 1, 2013, deadline to get the agreement.

The Board agreed to have a Special BOS Meeting at the end of the week. Mrs. Forrester stated that she will have the agreement for the meeting.

13) ADJOURN:

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:17 p.m.

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

Recorded and transcribed by Patricia Lacasse.