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Cheryl E. Darling
TOWN CLERK

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
September 3, 2013**

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, September 3, 2013, at 7:24 p.m. at the East Thompson Fire Department.

PRESENT: Larry Groh, First Selectman; Kenneth Beausoleil, Selectman; Kerstin Forrester, Selectman, 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. Beausoleil, to accept the minutes of the Special Selectmen's Meeting of August 12, 2013.

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

Motion made by Mrs. Forrester, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to accept the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting of August 20, 2013, with corrections made by Mrs. Forrester.

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

Corrections shown in bold.

Corrections: #4 Citizen's Comments - Mr. Baer **did present a photo of the broken posts at the Wilsonville Playground on Pompeo Road.** He also presented a photo showing mold on ceiling tiles at the town hall. He stated that town employees went to **an event at Fenway Park sponsored by a vendor to the town.** **Comment added in made by Mr. Baer - Mr. Baer also stated that all Boards, Commissions and Committees must treat all citizens equally.** Kathleen Herbert stated that the mowing has not been done and there is roadwork repair needed and since there are personnel shortages at the garage that maybe they should contract out this work. She saw this person by the bridge on Fabyan Road **there was a town truck with 2 idle mowers there as well.** #9B Transfer Station Advisory Committee - No decisions were made unless they advised the BOS, thus their position was as an advisory committee. **They are an advisory committee to the BOS.** 9C) K&R Automotive Service burned down in the month of March 2013 - Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to abate K&R Automotive Service (Richard Desrochers, Principal Owner) from date of fire to October 1, 2013, as stated by State Statute Section 12-64A Subsection C, to be determined by Tax Assessor and Tax Collector. **Mr. Groh - Yes, Mr. Beausoleil -Yes, Mrs. Forrester -Yes.** Along with typographical errors not stated.

2) CORRESPONDENCE:

1) Email from Attorney William St. Onge regarding Master Municipal Agreement Construction Projects dated August 20, 2013. - Mr. Groh explained that this is a document from the DOT and Attorney St. Onge was to make suggestions to streamline the document. Mrs. Forrester felt that spending the money to

have Attorney St. Onge review the document since they cannot change the document was a waste of money. BOS will review at a later date.

2) Letter from the U.S. Pain Foundation dated August 20, 2013, thanking the BOS for recognizing September as Pain Awareness Month.

3) Copy of a letter from William St. Onge to the State of CT Department of Housing regarding Grant No. SC1314101, Town of Thompson, Small Cities/Community Development Block Grant Program dated August 22, 2013.

4) Memo from Greg Lee, Chairman of the P&Z Commission dated August 27, 2013, stating an anticipated budget balance of \$2,800.00. – Mr. Groh read the memo for the record. No action taken at this time.

3) SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS:

1) Mr. Groh thanked the East Thompson Fire Department for opening their doors for the September 3, 2013, BOS meeting. Secondly, he wanted to inform the BOS and the public that they applied for their FEMA reimbursement from the February snowstorm. He was informed by the Emergency Management Director and the Finance Director that they received \$27,435.77 in reimbursement. Lastly, he did look into the Fenway Park event and he explained that there were a couple of department heads who were invited to attend but not solely for one vendor but it was more of a convention setting with a lot of vendors who had supplies that were available for everyone to see. All of the vendors collectively rent an area together for customers to visit. He reiterated that this was not for one person or persons that gave someone free tickets to see the Red Sox but it was a convention. In addition, Mr. Groh discussed the prescription program. He did read the contract and he had a few questions. He had the town attorney review the contract. Mr. Groh read the opinion letter from the attorney. In general, the contract appears to have very limited duties on the town. The only issue was under item #9-1 which he suggested that they add an inclusion to make sure that this does not interfere with any other prescription programs. He also wished everyone a very good Labor Day weekend.

2) Mr. Beausoleil stated that Mr. and Mrs. Morin's driveway had been repaired.

3) Mrs. Forrester asked a question about the staffing at the town garage because there are still a lot of areas where the grass has not been cut. Mr. Groh stated that there have been 2 people out mowing in the past 2 weeks. She asked if they fixed the posts. Mr. Groh stated no. She asked if there was a plan or a date to fix the roads. Mr. Groh stated that in the next few weeks they should see road repair work happening.

4) CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

- Sally White asked a question regarding the Vanghel affordable housing development; could we have learned from other towns with similar development rather than go to Attorney St. Onge. Was NECCOG the least expensive? Regarding the Pain Foundation, Shaina Smith is on the Board of Directors. Is there a possible conflict in that the BOS seems to be supporting a current candidate for the Selectmen? We did not support this organization last year; why this year. Regarding the Fenway event; is the mileage paid by town for attendees.

- Christine Campbell asked if there was an increase in reported burglaries. Mrs. Forrester stated, not according to the monthly report from the State Police.

- Kevin Walsh made a comment on the Fenway event. He asked if gas, meals or parking were expensed. Mr. Groh stated that no meals were expensed. Regarding the letter from P&Z relating to some items that are coming down the road from the HUD programs. Towns are going to be told that they will have to start accommodating lower income residents. Mr. Groh commented that there are 2 different types of affordable housing. There is housing where a working person with lower income purchases a home and then there is housing that applies for renters such as assisted living. He discussed the reimbursement money from the February storm. He wanted to know how this procedure works and what kinds of damages are reported to get this money. Mr. Groh stated they are asked to report, for example, what equipment is used to clean up storm damage and how long is the equipment used.

- Alvan Hill stated that they should receive today a written document (RFP) from the Solar Advisory Committee and he asked them to please consider it. Mr. Groh asked when the document came in and he stated this morning. Mr. Groh also stated that they wait to discuss this until the new BOS is in place.

- Kathleen Herbert respectfully disagreed to wait to have the new Board look at this and she stated that they need to move ahead. They need to get this proposal to the Town Planner now and then maybe get

the new Board to make the final decision. Mrs. Forrester agreed with this statement. She stated that the RFP is complete and ready to go out. They agreed to look at the new RFP before sending it out. Mr. Groh asked if they met with the Renewable Energy Source Committee. Mrs. Forrester stated that they never heard from them. Mr. Groh asked if they could forward the FRP to them as well. Mr. Groh agreed to put this item on the agenda in 2 weeks.

•Paul Baer stated that agendas are not being added to the town's website and that they are in violation of the FOI. He asked why, if they received additional funds for the BOS office coverage, was the BOS office closed. Mr. Groh stated that sometimes there are unforeseen situations that can't be helped and the office will be closed. He commented about a benefits checkup program online which provides a form that can be filled out by the residents and the website provides information as far as what benefits are available for qualified individuals. The Board agreed that he put this information up on the town's website. Mr. Baer stated that he wanted to make a complaint to the FOI about the housing authority issue and Mr. Groh stated that he if wanted to make a complaint that he put it in writing and forward it to the BOS. He is still looking for the report and video on the mold cleanup. He also wanted to know what the cost was and Mrs. Forrester stated that it was \$15,330.00. He has been asking for the updated membership list for the Fire Advisory Committee and Mrs. Forrester stated that she thought that she sent it in to the Town Clerk's office but she will look into this. He asked about the EMS plan and he thought that this was top priority on the list. Mr. Groh stated that just because an item is not at the top of the list on the agenda does not mean that it is not top priority. He stated that the chairperson is new and is working hard on this item. Mrs. Forrester stated that she had a personal emergency and had to cancel their meeting and she fully expected to have it done by now. Mr. Baer asked if the vandalism situation at the library has been reviewed and Mr. Groh stated that he was not sure. Also a comment was made that all town employees and volunteers should use the town's email system instead of their own personal email since FOI can request their personal emails; it becomes public record. Mr. Baer stated that the library paid \$2,000.00 for trimming and mulching. Why did they not use a town business rather than one from another town? Could they have found volunteers? Mr. Groh suggested that he contact the Library Board of Trustees.

5) TRANSFER STATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Mr. Groh reviewed the Transfer Station Advisory Committee situation regarding no action taken to establish neither the committee nor their charge 13 years ago. Mr. Groh stated that there is no denying that the Committee has been active for 13 years and that they have saved the town a lot of money. Mr. Groh read from a letter dated August 29, 2013, from the TSA Committee stating that during the August 22, 2013, TSA Committee meeting, the following members expressed interest in continuing to be members; Paul Horanzy, David Ostrowski, Karen Durlach, Al Landry and Lynn Landry. Kevin Racine expressed interest in becoming an alternate member. They recommended that the Committee consist of 7 members and 2 alternates with 4 members constituting a quorum. They reviewed their mission statement from August 2003. Mr. Groh read the mission statement for the record. Mr. Groh stated that now that they have established membership and a charge, he suggested a motion.

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to establish the Transfer Station Advisory Committee of 7 members and 2 alternates with 4 members constituting a quorum.

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to amend the original motion to officially establish the Transfer Station Advisory Committee of 7 members and 2 alternates with 4 members constituting a quorum. Discussion: The TSA Committee is just being officially established now since it was never officially established 13 years ago.

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

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to appoint to the Transfer Station Advisory Committee formally Paul Horanzy, David Ostrowski, Karen Durlach, Al Landry and Lynn Landry as members and Kevin Racine as an alternate member. Discussion: There will be 2 member vacancies and 1 alternate member vacancy.

Mr. Groh - Yes

Mr. Beausoleil - Yes
Mrs. Forrester – Yes

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to accept the charge as read by Mr. Groh during the meeting. Discussion: Mr. Groh stated for the record that this charge was fine-tuned from minutes that were written back in 2003.

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

6) CONSERVATION COMMISSION WEBSITE:

Mr. Groh stated that he met with Paul Baer who inquired about the second website that the Conservation Committee has established. Mr. Groh stated that all of the information on their own website should be on the town website and Mr. Baer agreed to do this. Mr. Groh had a discussion with the Conservation Commission officer about information getting updated on their website and not updated on the town website. They expressed their concerns about this. They wanted to know how they can make sure that the updates take place on both websites. It was suggested that there be a link from one website to the other. Mr. Groh agreed to this instead of the duplication. He does not want to waste money that has been already spent on the website but this should be revisited in the future. Mr. Groh, for the record, wanted everyone to know that Mr. Baer did this under his instruction. Mrs. Forrester stated that they should create a policy stating that the town should not fund any other websites other than the town's website. In addition, Mr. Baer reiterated that he has published a format for reports and agendas for the website and requested that everyone use this format to ensure consistency and ease in retrieving the documents.

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to not fund any other separate website to any department that is under the BOS control.

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

Mrs. Forrester stated that she will write a policy on how to handle the separate websites and a timeline on consolidating the websites when they expire. She also asked for the next payment due dates and what they are for. She asked for everything that is associated with the websites and all costs. Mr. Groh stated that he would like to put website expiration dates and costs on the next agenda.

7) TAX REFUNDS:

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

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

Debra J. Marcinczyk	\$13.88
Callie E. Parker	\$15.25
Kevin P. Boligan	\$13.02
Marie L. Davis	\$34.64
Honda Lease Trust	\$75.62
Renee M. Langlois	\$152.03
Wayne F. Langlois	\$6.25
Nancy M. Leblanc	\$8.11
Alice M. McDonald	\$11.27
Roger R. McDonald	\$15.14
Jason E. Nichols	\$15.20

Thomas P. Popiak	\$4.91
Margaret A. Sali	\$59.68
Margaret L. Sellers	\$44.62
Margaret L. Sellers	\$50.44
Margaret L. Sellers	\$3.37
Felicia E. Kruzel	\$86.43

8) OTHER BUSINESS:

No other business.

9) ADJOURN:

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:37 p.m.

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

Transcribed by Patricia Lacasse.