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SELECTMEN'S MEETING July 16, 2013

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, July 16, 2013, at 7:03 p.m. at the Thompson Town Hall - Merrill Seney Community Room.

PRESENT: Larry Groh, First Selectman; Kenneth Beausoleil, Selectman; Kerstin Forrester, Selectman, John Rice, Phil Thomas, Kevin Walsh, Alvan Hill, Joseph Gaucher, Norma O'Leary, Kathleen Herbert, Paul Baer, Sally White, Jason Bleau – WINY Reporter and other concerned citizens.

1) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to accept the minutes of the Selectmen's Special Meeting of June 27, 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 July 2, 2013, with the following corrections made by Mrs. Forrester and Mr. Beausoleil.

Corrections shown in bold.

Corrections by Mrs. Forrester: #3 Selectmen's Comments - Mrs. Forrester asked if the **Town of Thompson has** received reports from CT Water regarding the status of the fire hydrants and water lines, and Mr. Groh stated that they do not get reports, but they can request reports for the Fire Advisory Committee. Also, Mrs. Forrester asked about CT Water issuing a check to the Town of Thompson for \$70,000.00 to repair their roads and **how will this be handled in the budget?** #5 Marianapolis Sewer Project - Mrs. Forrester asked if the town would write the grant and who would pay for this. Mr. Groh stated that the **Town Planner** would be writing the grant and they would not be reimbursed for this. Mrs. Forrester also asked if the land is considered taxable. Mr. Groh stated that it is not taxable **and Attorney St. Onge explained that the tax lien protects the town's interest until the loan is paid.**

Correction by Mr. Beausoleil: #6 Notice of Reconvened Meeting for Quaddick Lake Association - Mr. Groh stated that he has chosen a paper ballot for voting and will also be present as a **moderator.**

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

2) CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Groh reviewed the following:

1. Letter dated July 1, 2013, from CT Water regarding Proposed Rate Reduction for CT Water Customers.
2. Monthly Calls for Service Report from Connecticut State Police, Troop D Barracks from June 1 through June 30, 2013.

3) SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS:

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1. Mr. Groh commented that he hoped that everyone had a very good and safe holiday weekend. He also stated that the Quaddick Lake Association had their meeting to vote on the proposed new tax district on July 13, 2013, which was voted on by 94 eligible residents; 36 voted for and 58 against.
2. Mr. Beausoleil reminded everyone to be careful of the hot and humid weather. Also, the town library has a cooling room in the community center during regular library hours.
3. Mrs. Forrester asked Mr. Groh if he received a response from the members of the Renewable Energy Committee requesting that they participate with the Solar Advisory Committee on the Solar Project. He stated that he did not ask them to participate but asked them when they would be available to have a joint meeting with the Solar Advisory Committee. He further stated that one member is away and will be available on Friday evenings after August 10, 2013. He commented that the other members have not given him their availability, as of yet.

Motion made by Mrs. Forrester, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to add an Executive Session regarding personnel issues, to agenda item #12A Citizen's Comments.

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

4) CITIZEN'S COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:

- John Rice suggested that the BOS have WINY make an announcement about the cooling center at the town library. Mr. Groh stated that after the meeting he would include this in his statements to Jason Bleau from WINY. Paul Baer stated that he would put the information about the library's cooling center on the town's website.
- Mr. Baer also asked the Selectmen if they received an email from Roger Durand dated July 8, 2013, and if so, why didn't they mention this during agenda item #2 Correspondence. The BOS stated that they did receive the email, and Mr. Groh stated that he only reviews correspondence if he knows that the other Board members have not received a copy. Mr. Baer also asked about the Troop D police report and are there items on the report that need to be discussed. Mrs. Forrester read the disclosure on the report to the citizens. **WARNING: This report may contain information that is deemed confidential under state and/or federal law. Disclosure of this report or any information contained herein to an unauthorized party is strictly prohibited.**
- Paul Baer, Kevin Walsh, Sally White and Kathleen Herbert all made comments regarding the Conservation Committee appointments and who can appoint Commissioners. Mr. Groh read an opinion letter from the town's attorney that states that he was, in fact, authorized to appoint Conservation Commissioners. He stated that Town Ordinance No. 10-011 reads: Vacancies occurring for any reason, will be filled by appointments, made to fill the unexpired portion of such by the Board of Selectmen. The State Statute, which supersedes the Town Ordinance, states that Commissioners are to be appointed by the chief executive officer of the municipality, which in Thompson is the First Board of Selectmen. Questions were asked as to when and if the Town Ordinance will be changed and both Mr. Groh and Mr. Beausoleil stated that it would have to go to Town Meeting. Mrs. Forrester asked if this is the only ordinance with an error, and Mr. Groh stated that they should have the Ordinance Committee review all of the ordinances.
- Paul Baer asked about the extra time needed in the BOS office. Mr. Groh explained that he does not want to have the BOS office closed if the Secretary is not in and he is not in. Therefore, they are asking the BOS to approve the request to bring this item before the BOF for \$1,300.00 to cover the office when it is needed

5) SOLAR PROJECT RFP:

Mrs. Forrester commented that since she just received the draft for the RFP before the meeting and has not had time to review the draft; she wanted to put this item off until the next BOS meeting. Alvan Hill stated that they will be going over the draft line-by-line at the next Solar Advisory Meeting and he just wanted to present the draft to the BOS for tonight's meeting.

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6) CONSERVATION COMMISSION:

Mr. Groh, again, reviewed the Town Ordinance and State Statute. He reiterated that the language in the Town Ordinance must support the State Statute and informed the BOS that the appointment that was made to the Conservation Committee stands. They will pass on the Town Ordinance for correction to the Ordinance Committee.

7) EXTRA TIME FOR SELECTMEN’S OFFICE:

Mr. Groh explained that they need an administrative person to fill in when their secretary and when the First Selectmen is not in the office and that they cannot have the office closed. Mrs. Forrester stated that she understood that they would be cross-training from within the town hall to fill this position and use budget money that is already allocated. Mr. Groh stated the coverage is needed right now and that they still need the money to pay for this person and he spoke with the Finance Director and they came up with a number of \$1,300.00 for this position.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mr. Groh, to request from the BOF approval in the amount of \$1,300.00 to cover the office as needed.

Mr. Groh - Yes
Mr. Beausoleil - Yes
Mrs. Forrester - No

8) DKH DEARY MEMORIAL CANCER FUND:

Mr. Groh reviewed the DKH Deary Memorial Cancer Fund’s cycling event with the Board for the use of town roads on Saturday, August 10, 2013, between 8:15 and 11:15 a.m.

Motion made by Mrs. Forrester, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to approve the use of town roads for the DKH cycling event.

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

9) WEBSITE UPDATE – PAUL BAER:

Paul Baer reviewed the website updates. He explained that there is now an events section for functions such as community fund raisers, Historical Society events, the Woodstock Fair and any other items that the BOS deems appropriate.

He also explained that there is now increased content as far as minutes of meetings and he hopes to keep the website current. He further explained that there are 3 entities that do not use the town website as they have their own websites; the library, recreation and the BOE. Mr. Beausoleil requested that they get a list of these updates from Mr. Baer.

The BOS and John Rice thanked Mr. Baer for all of his hard work.

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

Paul G. or Nancy L. Standrowicz	\$6.73
Paul G. or Nancy L. Standrowicz	\$22.42
Paul G. or Nancy L. Standrowicz	\$51.11

11) OTHER BUSINESS:

No other business.

12) CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

- Kevin Walsh asked about the Belding-Corticelli site and are they planning on moving forward. Mr. Groh stated that as of right now, they cannot do anything with this site until it has a Phase 1 test completed. However, if funds become available again, from grant money for example, than they will move forward with the testing so that they can determine what can and cannot be done with the site.
- Kathleen Herbert commented on the town report and stated that it comes out a year after the close of the year end, and they have to wait for a 1 page health report and why can't they skip the year end on the health report and put it on the following report. Also, she read the first introduction report on TEEG and was appalled at the spelling and grammatical errors.
- Phil Thomas stated that the Fabyan Post Office will be for sale and it also is the location for the Honor Roll for WWII. He will be meeting with the owner and they can take care of part of it through the preservation easement. Mr. Beausoleil agreed to work with Mr. Thomas on this. Also, Mr. Thomas discussed a drainage problem on Walker Road. When they removed the RR tracks in 1989, the bulk of the drainage material disappeared. He spoke with Leo Adams and Mr. Beausoleil about this and can they get it remedied. He also commented that now people are bringing stumps and other debris to that area as a dumping site. Mr. Groh agreed to review this item with Mr. Thomas.
- Sally White asked about the NECCOG/DEEP Air Line Renovation Public Hearing at Putnam Middle School. Mr. Groh stated that there was grant money to stone dust the air line trails through 3 towns; Putnam, Pomfret and Thompson. They will be looking to apply for more grants to fix the bridges in the future.
- Paul Baer reviewed his list: Town hall flag is flown at night not lit. - Sign out front has paint peeling and the Plexiglas is cracked. - Has the CCM contract been signed – **Not signed yet.** - Has the 911 Special Needs forms progressed – **Mr. Groh said to put it up on the website.** - BOS letter is there going to be one this year. – **Yes.** - The Belding-Corticelli Committee stated that all funds were donated for everything that was done thus far. Mr. Baer stated that Thompson paid \$475.00 for the sign on the property by the Small City Advisory Committee. - Will there be water testing on the wells in the Belding-Corticelli area. - Also, System Solutions walked away from their contract and the town has used them and paid them for additional work. - There was a contractor brought in from Charlton, MA to clean out the duct work in the building and why were there any additional quotes. - **Mr. Groh stated that there was mold in the duct work and he authorized the work to be done for the health and safety of the town employees as well as the townspeople who visit the town hall. He further stated that the duct work has not been cleaned in the 10 years that he has been in office. He was given the name of the company by a reference. Also, they did not have to go out to bid since the work required was under \$10,000.00.**

12A) – Added an Executive Session to discuss personnel issues.

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues at 8:47 p.m.

Executive Session ended at 9:53 p.m. – No action taken.

13) ADJOURN:

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:54 p.m.

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

Recorded and transcribed by Patricia Lacasse.