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SELECTMEN'S MEETING May 7, 2013

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, May 7, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. at the Thompson Fire Engine Company – 70 Chase Road.

PRESENT: Lawrence K. Groh, Jr., First Selectman; Kenneth Beausoleil, Selectman; Kerstin Forrester, Selectman; Jason Bleau – WINY Radio; Joseph Gaucher; Shawn Donohoe; Kevin Walsh; Jeff Barske – Town Clerk; Paul Verdini, Stephen Goulter; Christine Campbell; Sally White; Rene Morin – Tax Collector; and other concerned citizens.

1) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to accept the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting of April 16, 2013.

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

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to accept the minutes of the Special Selectmen's Meeting of April 23, 2013.

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

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to accept the minutes of the Special Selectmen's Meeting of April 30, 2013.

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

2) CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Groh presented a letter of resignation from Stephen B. Lewis, from the Thompson Water Pollution Control Authority Board.

He also presented the monthly reports, for both April and May, from the Connecticut State Police in Danielson, Troop D.

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Lastly, Mr. Groh read a letter, for the record, from the Town of Thompson - Transfer Station Advisory Committee, dated April 25, 2013.

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to move this item under 15) Other Business.

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

3) SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS:

Mr. Groh first expressed his sincere appreciation to the Thompson Fire Engine Company for the use of their building to hold their meeting.

Mr. Groh reported that he met today with the Department of Transportation regarding the signage changes to occur on Route 395. The exit numbers will be changing, as well, to correlate with the mileage starting next year. Also, Route 84 and Route 95 will be changing, Route 44 will be changing to Route 47 and the Grosvenor Dale sign will be changed to read Grosvenordale. He brought in maps for anyone to peruse. They will be finalizing everything in July of this year. He stated that one problem will be the affect that this will have on local businesses as directions on their brochures will now be changing. A question was asked as to why they were doing this, and Mr. Groh stated that one reason is because the signs need to be more reflective and also many states throughout the country have been doing this for some time and that Connecticut is one of the last states to do this. The state recommended that they have signs added to indicate area attractions, and Mr. Groh stated that the Thompson Speedway and the West Thompson Dam are 2 that he knew of and asked the citizens if they could give him more ideas. Mr. Beausoleil mentioned the Quaddick Lake region. The project will be going out to bid and they hope to get started next spring.

Mr. Beausoleil stated that the fire danger right now is extremely high, and he asked everyone to be very aware of this and to take every precaution. He stated that a brush fire can take hours to put out and is very difficult to control, and he reminded everyone that you need a permit to burn and to contact the Town Clerk to apply for a burning permit.

4) CITIZEN'S COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Sally White commented that, according to the Freedom of Information Act, the Executive Session mentioned on the agenda should be specific relating to the contract. She stated that the nature of the contract should at least be noted. Kevin Walsh also stated the same. Also, Ms. White stated that the position of the Recording Secretary should have more information. Mr. Groh stated that the Executive Session information on the agenda, as he was informed by the FOI Public Information Officer, Mr. Thomas Hennick, and while at the FOI Workshop, was all that he needed to include. He also indicated that he will call Mr. Hennick personally to confirm this information.

5) APPROVAL OF NEW HIRE – PATRICIA LACASSE:

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Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to approve the hiring of Patricia Lacasse as the new Recording Secretary.

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

6) REQUEST FROM TOWN CLERK:

Jeff Barske, Thompson Town Clerk, stated that on February 1, 2013, his Assistant Town Clerk retired and that she worked 20 hours per week for approximately 17 years. She provided customer service as well as some other duties. He further stated that because of her retirement, the budget under the salary line has a surplus of approximately \$8,000.00 until the end of this fiscal year. Mr. Barske requested that he be allowed to hire someone temporarily from late May until the end of July for approximately 15 hours per week so that they are able to process the approximately 800 dog licenses that will need to be renewed starting in June and throughout the summer. He also stated that a couple of hours during or around the mid-day time-frame are when people come in to the office during their lunch hours. He estimated that this would take about \$2,000.00 of the surplus budget funds. He further explained that they have their Dog Warden does a great job in educating dog owners on the importance of issuing dog licenses and the town issues approximately 1600 licenses per year. Mr. Barske indicated that since the money is still in the budget that he does not have to approach the Board of Finance and that is why he is asking the Board of Selectmen and the BOF will not have the post after July 1, 2013.

Mr. Beausoleil stated that they have already planned on using the funds of \$8,000.00 as a surplus for other items in the budget for next year. Mr. Groh stated that they talked about combining this position with another position within the Town Hall or have cross-training. Mrs. Forrester stated that this would be beneficial since hiring someone from the outside would bring in the liability of unemployment. She also stated that using a “temp agency” would cost more but limit the liability as well. Mr. Barske concluded that maybe they can have someone spend time in his office for the training. Citizens, Stephen Goulter, stated that as a taxpayer, that the Town Clerk is requesting a lot of money to pay someone to make copies and that he has 5 kids who would like to have that job and Kevin Walsh stated that Mr. Barske needs to put in a written request for this position with specific hours and pay, for accountability.

Motion made by Mrs. Forrester, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to look into the possibility of doing cross-training from within the Town Hall for this position in the Town Clerk’s office.

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

7) APPROVAL OF NOTICE OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING:

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to approve the notice of the annual town meeting to be held on Monday, May 20, 2013, as outlined by Mr. Groh.

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

Note: The Board of Finance completed their budget and what is being presented is a .222 million dollar increase during their referendum on May 29, 2013.

8 & 9) REQUEST FOR TRANSFER STATION USAGE – COMMUNITY FIRE COMPANY, INC. AND THOMPSON MEMORIAL VFW POST 10088.

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to combine both requests with general co-operation from the head of the transfer station, for the boot drive and for the selling of poppies.

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

10) REQUEST TO USE TOWN HALL PARKING LOT – THOMPSON TOGETHER, INC.:

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to approve the use of the Town Hall parking lot on Saturday, May 25, 2013, for a plant swap for a non-profit organization.

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

11) RESOLUTION FOR QUADDICK LAKE TREATMENT GRANT:

Mr. Groh received a memo from the Town Planner regarding the Resolution for the Quaddick Lake Treatment Grant. The Grant was in the amount of \$200,000.00 and has a balance of \$53,465.00 and needs to be extended until the end of next year. Mr. Groh outlined the resolution during the meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to accept the resolution as written.

In addition, Mr. Groh stated that the treatment has been going on for a number years. He further stated that there is a meeting on Sunday, July 13, 2013, at the Quinebaug Fire Department to discuss the Quaddick Lake residents starting a new tax district.

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

12) SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT #8 FOR WEST THOMPSON LAKE PROJECT:

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Mr. Groh outlined Supplemental Agreement #8 from the Army Corps. Of Engineers, License #DACW33-3-73-32, to use a portion of West Thompson Road for an additional five years from December 27, 2012 through December 27, 2017.

Motion made by Mrs. Forrester, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to approve the resolution as outlined by Mr. Groh during the meeting.

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

13) EXECUTIVE SESSION – CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS AND POSSIBLE LAND TRANSFER:

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to move the Executive Session to the last item, or item 16.

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

13) CITIZEN’S COMMENTS:

●Sally White stated that when Mr. Groh was outlining the Quaddick Resolution Grant, that he incorrectly cited his BOS term as beginning in 2009; he indicated that he was merely reading the grant and did not write the grant but will look into this; she also asked is there some way that they can get a report that quantifies that the lake treatment is working. Mr. Groh stated that the residents have confirmed major improvements but that the BOS does not have a report and they can request one. She also indicated that when they come out of Executive Session that they are supposed to report what the decision is. Any actions have to be done in public. She asked if the contract was union. Mr. Groh stated that it is not union.

●Stephen Goulter and Paul Verdini discussed an issue with a piece of property that abuts both of their properties on Rachel Street. There was a water tower on this property which was taken down on March 2, 2010. The property is owned by Dudley Sand and Gravel. Mr. Goulter stated that he pulled the permit and it states the work performed was just to remove the tower. He further stated that since then, the land has been used as a dumping ground for fill and other related material. They presented photos from Google Earth. They stated that they left trees uprooted and that there is a deep pit that is dangerous especially since the property has been used by kids for drinking and other related activities. Mr. Verdini also indicated that trees have fallen on his property and he has had to call CL&P to have his power restored. Shawn Donahoe affirmed that there is a 10-foot deeded access along Paul Verdini’s property that was supposed to be used for maintenance only on the water tower and not for a permanent driveway. Mr. Verdini further noted that construction trucks use this access to remove fill and dump other material and they have caused considerable damage to his property in the process. Mr. Groh stated that the work was not contracted by the town but that he will look into this and find out why they have

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not been contacted by the Zoning Enforcement Officer since he was already contacted about this problem. Mr. Beausoleil will also do some research with the appropriate Boards. Mr. Barske stated that he will talk to the Assessor to get a map of the property.

Mr. Verdini also discussed 2 other issues on Rachel Street concerning speeding vehicles and damage to his lawn from school buses and trucks. He stated that the street is clearly posted with 20 MPH signs. He felt that they need law enforcement to try to stop the problem. He also presented photos of the damaged area of his lawn. He indicated that construction trucks cut through and he questioned if the road is zoned for this type of equipment. Mr. Groh stated that they cannot stop any commercial trucks from driving on any road but speeding is a totally different issue. He will contact Troop D about the speeding and also contact the school Superintendent about the school buses. Mr. Verdini also stated that he has called the school and will do so again. Christine Campbell suggested that he attend a Board of Education meeting to state his case about the school buses.

- Celeste Fifield was present and indicated that the West Thompson Independent Fire Association bills are not being paid. Her husband, Fire Chief Dale Fifield, waited at the town hall for over 1 hour and couldn't talk to anyone but he left a list of the bills that need to be paid. Mrs. Forrester indicated that there is process in place for approval. Mr. Beausoleil also indicated that OSHA testing is being tracked or approved by Community Fire Chief James Seney; he then brings them into the BOS and then to Mike Martin for payment. Mr. Groh will look into this problem. Celeste Fifield also indicated that they had to put in a claim for a fire truck that appears to have received damage from a recent fire and it will be inspected soon.

- Sally White stated that she has heard that people going to the Town Hall are being ignored when they need questions answered. She stated that someone needs to take control of the Town Hall.

- One final note, Mr. Goulter stated that unless he receives action that he will take legal action.

14) 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

Alan W. Woodis	\$142.50
Ryder Truck Rental LT	\$ 18.69
Marc D. Cote	\$133.20

15) OTHER BUSINESS:

Town of Thompson - Transfer Station Advisory Committee – The Board discussed the following items as requested by the TSA Committee:

- Recommend speed bump signs or hash marks near the dip in the pavement and 5 MPH signs throughout the area. - Mr. Groh stated that there was a complaint that there is dip in the parking lot and they were asked if they can put up signs. Mr. Beausoleil stated that this is part of the

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drainage system and putting up signs should not be a problem and they can see what they already have available.

- Funding for Capital Equipment such as new trash compactors. - Mr. Beausoleil stated that they already have a mechanism in place that is working well, and if needed, they would have to add it to the budget for next year.

- Increase in enforcement by the staff; raise money to install a security camera at the gate to discourage illegal dumping. - Mrs. Forrester asked what kind of enforcement do they have in place, and Mr. Groh stated that as of right now, they look through citizen's trash and they encourage them to recycle. He also stated that they do receive brochures on recycling when applying for their new permits.

- Utilize violation forms to track problems so that the station has a record of violators that can be turned in to the First Selectmen for action. - Mr. Groh stated that utilizing violation forms has never been improved by the BOS. That if they do not recycle properly their permits can be revoked. He also recommended that they can look into appointing a Board to review the violations. Mrs. Forrester and Mr. Beausoleil want to look at other transfer stations to see how they handle this as well so they can make a better comparison.

- Ms. White asked the Board where is the statute that states that it is mandatory to recycle and Mr. Groh stated that they have an ordinance that states that it is town law. She also suggested that they should advertise since there are people who are probably not aware that it is mandatory to recycle. Mr. Groh agreed that there should be more education on this. It was also suggested that they put this information on the front page of the website with reference to the ordinance. Mr. Morin indicated that if they want to enforce recycling that they should change their brochures.

16) EXECUTIVE SESSION – CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS AND POSSIBLE LAND TRANSFER:

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to go into Executive Session at approximately 9:17 p.m. for the purpose of contract negotiations and possible land transfer.

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

The Board came out of Executive Session at approximately 9:36 p.m.

Some discussion was held. The Board did not take action.

17) ADJOURN:

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

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

Recorded and transcribed by Patricia Lacasse