



SELECTMEN'S MEETING December 4, 2012

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, December 4, 2012, at 7:32 p.m. in the Merrill Seney Community Room.

PRESENT: Lawrence K. Groh, Jr., First Selectman; Kenneth Beausoleil, Selectman; Kerstin Forrester, Selectman; Jason Bleu – WINY Radio; Alison Boutaugh, Director of the Thompson Public Library; Donna Grant, Executive Director of TEEG; Joseph Gaucher; Kevin Walsh; other concerned citizens.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to accept the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting of November 20, 2012.

<i>Mr. Beausoleil</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Forrester</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Groh presented a letter from the Thompson Little League thanking the Town for their support during the season. At the Little League World Headquarters in Williamsport, PA, Thompson Little League Program was recognized as one of the top five safety programs in the country.

Mr. Beausoleil stated that this award reflects the dedication of the organization and the community.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Groh presented a letter of resignation as Recording Secretary for the Board of Selectmen from Lynn Landry, effective with the submission of the December 18, 2012 meeting minutes. Mr. Groh thanked Mrs. Landry for her three and one half years of service to the Board. Mr. Beausoleil and Mrs. Forrester each expressed their sincere regrets that Mrs. Landry is leaving this position and commended her on a job well done.

Mr. Beausoleil reported that the antennas were installed at Town Hall on November 29, 2012 for Emergency Management. Radio issues are being resolved and one connector needs to be finished. Mr. Beausoleil also reported that Mr. Adams, Director of Public Works, has boarded up the town-owned building at 65 Main Street and has shut off the water from the street.

Mrs. Forrester reviewed the school paving issue. While researching the budget documents, she found that Mr. Adams referred only to the driveway at the school, not to the parking lots, as well as several roads in the community. She noted that the paving of the school driveway was omitted in the presentation to the Board of Finance and the budget report, so there was no mention of either the driveway or the parking lots for the school. The omission of the driveway was an apparent oversight. Mrs. Forrester provided copies of information from Finance Director Michael Martin concerning capital improvements included in the Budget.

Mr. Groh reviewed some of the previous capital requests from the Board of Education and stated that, typically, requests are passed on to the Board of Finance.

Mrs. Forrester stated that she was told by Mr. Adams that the Board of Education did request parking lot pavement while Town employees were paving the driveway. Because paving of the parking lots was no included in the budget, she stated that this expense should be charged back to the school.

Mr. Groh stated that typically capital expenditures are reflected in the capital budget for the town as a whole.

BID OPENING – LIBRARY CURBING AND PAVERS REPLACEMENT RFP

Mr. Groh opened each of the two bids received for this project:

- 1.Clifford B. Green & Sons, Inc. of 110 Day Street, Brooklyn, CT 06234
- Base Bid of replacing 130 linear feet of curbing at set price of \$61.00 per linear foot, and replacing 530 square feet of pavers at set price of \$9.00 per square foot. This bid shall be irrevocable for one hundred and twenty days (120) calendar days from today.
- 2.Eleuthera Associates, LLC of 965 Trumball Highway, Lebanon, CT 06249
- Base Bid of replacing 127 linear feet of curbing at \$49.00 per linear foot, and 762 square feet of pavers at \$17.90 per square foot. This bid shall be irrevocable for one hundred and twenty days (120) calendar days from today. There was an addendum for proposed alternatives to add rebar reinforcement to curbing at \$980.00, Salt Guard to curbing at \$430.00, to construct two concrete ADA compliant pedestrian ramps at \$3,900.00 and to sawcut and replace bituminous pavement as needed at \$89.00 per square yard.

The bid documents were examined by the Board and given to Alison Boutaugh, Director of the Thompson Public Library.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to have a committee comprised of Alison Boutaugh, Director of the Thompson Public Library; Robert LaChance, Vice Chair of the Library Board of Trustees; Kevin Kennedy, Director of Planning and Development; Leo Adams, Director of Public Works; and Paul Baer review and research the bid documents and bring a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen for awarding bid for the Library Curbing and Pavers Replacement.

Mr. Beausoleil -Yes

Mrs. Forrester -Yes

Mr. Groh -Yes

Discussion on Motion: Mr. Baer had previously volunteered to research any companies that respond to this bid. Ms. Boutaugh asked for clarification on the time requirements. Mr. Groh

stated that the Board would like a recommendation for the December 18, 2012 meeting, with a possibility of a recommendation at the January 2, 2013 meeting if needed.

FUEL ASSISTANCE

At a previous meeting, the Board had discussed the fuel needs of Thompson residents. Ms. Grant, Executive Director of Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group (TEEG) presented information to the Board concerning State Fuel Assistance programs and Operation Fuel. These programs are seasonal in nature, with Operation Fuel starting on December 1 and the State Fuel Assistance starting on November 15, leaving some residents without fuel prior to these dates. She explained that there are citizens who do not qualify for assistance through these programs. Ms. Grant described the fuel assistance programs in two of the other municipalities served by TEEG. In Woodstock, the municipality has a line item to help Woodstock residents with fuel crises and the Woodstock Fire Departments, as well as private citizens, contribute to this fund. This fund is restricted for use by Woodstock residents with fuel crises. The case management to determine eligibility is performed by TEEG.

In Pomfret, there is a \$50,000.00 line item in the municipal budget. TEEG performs the case management, and the fuel bills are paid by the Town of Pomfret.

While Kathy Hiatt served as Selectman, Thompson created a \$50.00 line item for fuel assistance. Funds for the fuel needs of Thompson residents have been met by the Thompson Lions Club, with TEEG performing case management.

There was a discussion of the funding sources and agencies in Connecticut and the impact of the financial problems of the state.

Mrs. Forrester stated that this topic should be discussed in budget season, but that won't help the immediate problem. She suggested an appeal to Thompson residents and information will appear in the next Selectmen's Update. There was a discussion of matching public and private funds to assist Thompson residents.

Motion made by Mrs. Forrester, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to have the First Selectman approach the Board of Finance on December 20, 2012 to request an appropriation of up to \$6,000.00 for emergency fuel expenditures for Thompson residents, with a simultaneous appeal to the community to help fund this item.

Mrs. Forrester -Yes

Mr. Beausoleil -Yes

Mr. Groh -Yes

Mr. Groh thanked Ms. Grant for her presentation. Ms. Grant noted that 270 families were served Thanksgiving baskets, an almost 22% increase from last year. TEEG expects to provide 300 Christmas Meal baskets to families. She stated that the need is great and involves all segments of our community.

APPROVAL OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING NOTICE

Mr. Groh read the Call for the Special Town Meeting into the record. This meeting will take place on Thursday, December 13, 2012 at 7 p.m. at the Thompson Public Library/Community Center. The items on the Call are to choose a moderator; to act upon a resolution to approve the expenditure of \$4,800.00 for the Richardson Property adjacent to the CT/RI border, with the

proceeds to be applied to Real Estate Tax owed; and to establish a fund jointly with the CT Dept. of Agriculture for preserving agricultural lands.

Motion made by Mrs. Forrester, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to approve the call to the Special Town Meeting as read.

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

TAX REFUNDS

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

Thomas A. Houghton \$29.60

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

OTHER BUSINESS

There was a discussion concerning the bell at the VFW Hall and their request to give this bell to the Tri-State Baptist Church.

Mr. Beausoleil has contacted Joseph Iamartino of the Thompson Historical Society (THS). THS has no interest in the bell, and suggested loaning it to the church with the town retaining ownership.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to loan the bell of the VFW Hall to the Tri-State Baptist Church for an indefinite period of time.

Discussion on Motion: Mr. Groh expressed concerns about loaning the bell to the church. He stated that this was a Thompson school bell and should remain in the building. Mr. Groh suggested that the bell be given to the THS, which could monitor any loan time and loan agreements.

Mr. Beausoleil stated that it would be best to refer the placement of historical artifacts to the THS, and they could determine display, usage and loan agreements.

The above motion was withdrawn by Mr. Beausoleil, and the second was withdrawn by Mrs. Forrester.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to table this matter to the January 15, 2013 meeting.

Mr. Beausoleil -Yes
Mrs. Forrester -Yes

Mr. Groh *-Yes*

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

It was the consensus of the Board to move this agenda item to its present place in the agenda. Mr. Walsh expressed concern about the lack of information on the town website. Mr. Walsh asked if the Special Town Meeting will be posted on front page of town website. He stated that the website is a valuable tool that can be utilized to engage the public. He suggested a front page link to the Town Ordinances. Mr. Beausoleil asked Mr. Walsh to compile a list of suggestions to improve the website.

Mr. Groh stated that there will be a joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Finance and the Board of Education on Thursday, December 6, 2012 at 6 p.m. in the Ryscavage Auditorium at Tourtellotte Memorial High School. This will be a general discussion before budget workshops begin.

Budget workshop dates will be selected in January. There will be public presentation of the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education budgets on March 6, 2012 at 7 p.m.

Mr. Walsh asked if there could be a link to minutes of NECCOG. Mr. Groh explained that NECCOG minutes are not immediately approved and this can cause delay in posting. Mr. Walsh asked Mr. Groh if he attended the NECCOG Meeting on November 30, 2012. Mr. Groh did not attend that meeting. Mr. Groh stated that there will be a meeting concerning the Regional Probate Court on Friday, December 7, 2012.

Mr. Gaucher expressed concern about trash on the railroad tracks. He also stated that one of the John Barton paintings in the Merrill Seney Room disappeared many years ago.

Mr. Groh noted that the Patchwork Quilt formerly on display in the Merrill Seney Room is now on display at the Social Service Building, 15 Thatcher Road.

Mr. Gaucher expressed concern regarding recent news reports of increased school hours. Mr. Walsh expressed concern about progressive politics and the impact on society. Mr. Bleu stated that communities in our area will not be participating in this program, designed by Governor Malloy to engage students in meaningful activities, rather than unsupervised time at home.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:21 p.m.

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

Recorded and transcribed by:
Lynn Landry