



SELECTMEN'S MEETING November 20, 2012

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, November 20, 2012, at 7:30 p.m. in the Merrill Seney Community Room.

PRESENT: Lawrence K. Groh, Jr., First Selectman; Kenneth Beausoleil, Selectman; Kerstin Forrester, Selectman; Reporter from WINY Radio; Todd Mountford; Paul Baer; Joseph Gaucher; Kevin Walsh; Steve Benoit; Craig Hanford; Alvan Hill; Kevin Walsh; Sally White; Al Landry; 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 7, 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 correspondence from VFW Post 10,088 of Quinebaug concerning the school bell in their facility. They are suggesting that the bell be donated to the Tri-State Baptist Church for their new facility on Route 131. There was a discussion of the history of this building as a schoolhouse. Mr. Beausoleil suggested contacting the Thompson Historical Society for their input. Mrs. Forrester suggested that further research be done and that this item appear on the next agenda.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Groh wished everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving holiday and urged citizens to travel cautiously.

Mr. Beausoleil noted that the Town Hall entry door bar is broken again. He stated that he attended the Veterans Day Program on Sunday, November 11, 2012. He noted that the program was outstanding and the reception at the Thompson Public Library/Community Center was well attended by fifty to sixty citizens.

Mrs. Forrester wished everyone a blessed thanksgiving.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mr. Gaucher questioned the weight limit on Blain Road Bridge and the increase of truck traffic. Mr. Groh stated that the State of Connecticut has assessed each bridge in town. If there are no structural problems, the bridge is not marked with weight limit signs and is open to normal traffic. Mr. Beausoleil has discussed this matter with Mr. Kennedy, Director of Planning & Development and this information will be utilized in routing truck traffic for Planning & Zoning permits.

Mr. Baer expressed concern regarding the notice of reduction of hours for the Town Clerk's Office beginning on December 3, 2012. Mr. Groh stated that the proposed hours of operation will be the same as for the Tax Collector's Office.

Mr. Groh stated that there is a resignation of one staff member in that office and that this issue is being discussed internally between the First Selectman and the Town Clerk.

Mr. Walsh asked for clarification on the hours worked and salary of elected officials.

Miss White questioned the reasons for, and timing of, this change and stated it would best be done at the start of the fiscal year. Mrs. Forrester stated that she does not understand why the hours are being reduced, even with the retirement of one staff member.

Mr. Baer distributed documents to the Board regarding his FOI requests regarding the West Thompson Fire Department Roof Project and stated that there were several problems with receiving documentation. He detailed his concerns, which Mr. Groh requested be e-mailed to him. There was a discussion of FOI procedure and protocol. Mr. Groh will investigate the FOI process that occurred.

Mr. Groh stated that this project still has a punch-list to be accomplished before completion. There was a discussion of how grant funding will be distributed for this project.

Mr. Baer expressed concern regarding the November 19, 2012 Belding Corticelli Improvement Committee public forum. Mr. Groh provided a brief history of this property and other mill properties in town. Mr. Baer recommends that the Town not enter into a partnership with the owner of this property and questioned the membership of this advisory committee.

Mr. Groh stated that documentation of environmental studies is needed before proceeding in any clean-up effort.

Mr. Beausoleil reviewed the discussion at last night's meeting and stated that there was good attendance and good feedback.

Mrs. Forrester stated that the purpose of that meeting was to inform the public of the committee's progress, get feedback, and then return to their task.

RFQ – TOWN-WIDE PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM

Mr. Groh gave a background report of renewable energy and the current exploration by the Board of Education. This Request for Qualifications was read into the record, and could potentially involve any town owned building.

The RFQ is due by Noon, December 18, 2012 at the Selectman's Office, with 5 sets of submissions. The RFQ will be opened and acknowledged at the Selectman's Meeting on December 18, 2012, at 7:30 p.m. There will be a Solar Oversight Committee, consisting of town, school and citizen representatives. The recommendations of the Solar Oversight Committee will be received by the Board at the Selectmen's Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on January 2, 2013.

There was a discussion to correct the spelling of insulation on page 3, 2,b). to add to item c as #8 What state of incorporation? and to add as #9 financial information for the past five years.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to approve the Request for Qualifications for the town-wide photovoltaic system, with corrections and amendments as discussed.

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

Discussion on Motion: Mr. Landry recommended asking Joseph Iamartino, Chair of the Renewable Energy Development Committee, to serve on the Solar Oversight Committee. He also outlined the advantages and disadvantages of rooftop or freestanding solar panel installations.

Mrs. Forrester questioned the timing of the RFQ and expressed concern with companies being able to meet the approaching deadline.

Mr. Groh stated that he is excited to have the School looking at this project which could benefit the entire town.

Mr. Hill stated that CL&P may have information on available companies and there was a discussion of advertising the RFQ.

INVITATION TO BID – LIBRARY CURBING AND PAVERS

Mr. Groh gave a brief history of this project which was discussed during the budget season. He read the Invitation to Bid into the record, and Mr. Beausoleil read the Bid Form into the record. Bids must be submitted in triplicate by Noon on December 4, 2012 at the Selectman’s Office. Bids will be opened at the Regular Selectmen’s meeting on December 4, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. There will be a non-mandatory site walk at Noon on November 30, 2012.

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to approve the Invitation to Bid – Library Curbing and Pavers, as read into the record.

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

Discussion on Motion: Mrs. Forrester wants information on the bidding companies and a thorough investigation before awarding the contract. The bid documents will be reviewed by the Director of Planning and Development and the Library Director. Mr. Beausoleil recommended that the Director of Public Works be included in the review process. Mr. Baer volunteered to investigate the companies which respond.

TAX REFUNDS

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

BobbiAnn Learned-Lavin \$ 36.60
BobbiAnn Learned-Lavin \$204.68

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Forrester questioned the winterization process for 65 Main Street. Mr. Groh had spoken with the Director of Public Works and received information that the work will be done today or tomorrow.

Mr. Landry asked the Board to consider moving Citizens' Comments to be placed previous to Other Business on the agenda. It was the consensus of the Board to do this.

Mr. Baer and Miss White asked about the school paving project and Mr. Groh stated that this project came in under projected cost and projected tonnage. Mr. Groh invited Miss White to examine the appropriate documents in his office.

Miss White questioned the paving schedule for Buck Hill Road. Mr. Groh stated that drainage issues would be addressed and paving completed in this fiscal year.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:07 p.m.

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

Recorded and transcribed by:
Lynn Landry