



## SELECTMEN'S MEETING November 7, 2012

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, November 7, 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; Joseph Gaucher; Jim McDonald; 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 October 16, 2012.*

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

Discussion on Motion: There was a discussion of the motion concerning 65 Main Street and clarification of the process involved.

*Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to approve the minutes of the Special Selectmen's Meeting of October 25, 2012, while attending the Transfer Station Advisory Committee Meeting.*

*Mr. Groh                   -Yes*  
*Mrs. Forrester           -Yes*  
*Mr. Beausoleil           -Abstain, did not attend meeting.*

### ***CORRESPONDENCE***

Mr. Groh presented documentation from Mr. Adams, Director of Public Works, concerning the paving at the public school complex. This document included his estimates for the budget and the actual amounts of material used.

Mrs. Forrester questioned the cost of labor. Mr. Groh replied that the Highway Department performs the work and this has been a savings as opposed to using a sub-contractor.

Mrs. Forrester stated for the record that she questions why the parking lots were paved while there are town roads in desperate need of paving, and that the parking lots were not part of the paving proposal during the budget process.

Mr. Groh presented the monthly update on crime statistics from Troop D.

Mrs. Forrester stated that she was just handed correspondence from Mr. McDonald concerning his assessment. Mr. Groh stated that he had received this letter and the topic would be discussed during Citizen's Comments. Mr. Beausoleil had also received a copy of this letter.

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## ***SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS***

Mr. Groh commended Emergency Management Coordinator Steve Benoit, the Fire Departments and the Highway Department for their work during the recent hurricane. Several roads were blocked and 50% of our population was without electricity. CL&P designated one crew to Thompson until the power was restored, with the last house receiving power on Sunday. The recent tree-trimming, as well as improvements in communications, were helpful. Mr. Groh also commended our liaison with CL&P, Shawn Johnston, for his facilitating communications. Mr. Groh thanked Superintendent Michael Jolin for providing a bus to residents of Carriage Square last night when excessive smoke was reported in that facility. The situation was resolved in that complex.

Mr. Beausoleil stated that the Emergency Management Coordinator did an outstanding job. Planning and preparation were valuable. Busses were deployed to be prepared if an evacuation was needed. The Shelter was open and two persons attended.

Mrs. Forrester asked if 65 Main Street had been boarded up and pipes drained. Mr. Groh replied that this work is still pending.

## ***CITIZENS' COMMENTS***

Mr. Landry stated that new metal gates have been installed at the Airline Trail crossings at New Road and San Dam Road. He asked Mr. Groh to check if new keys had been distributed to the Fire Departments and ambulance staff.

Mr. Landry stated that he had recently been approached by a firm identifying themselves as Webster and Sons, with a CT registration. They were trying to selling rock and asphalt. They claimed to work for the town. Mr. Groh had received no other reports of this firm.

Mr. McDonald, New England Equipment on East Thompson Road, expressed his concerns with the doubling of his Personal Property Assessment. He gave a brief history of his interactions with the Assessor, Sebrina Heroux. He stated that Ms. Heroux had requested a list of property and all receipts. He questioned her ability to perform an assessment as she is not a licensed assessor.

Mrs. Forrester stated that Mr. McDonald had called her about his concerns. She stated that the invoices requested by the Assessor exceed IRS documentation policies and that accounting procedures use the cost or market value of equipment. Used equipment is never assessed at the value of new replacement equipment,

Mr. McDonald stated his distress at the doubling of his assessment, the procedures followed and the conduct of the Assessor.

Mr. Groh stated that State Statutes govern the Assessor's work. Citizens have the right to appear before the Board of Assessment Appeals.

Mrs. Forrester stated that she had received calls from two other businesses expressing similar concerns. She directed them to appear before the Board of Assessment Appeals; both were concerned with retaliation.

The Board will visit this business separately to review the situation.

Mr. Gaucher commented on the damage to the entry door during polling. The door is now repaired.

## ***HARRINGTON HEALTHCARE AT HUBBARD – CEO ED MOORE***

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Mr. Moore was unable to attend this meeting and will be invited to speak at a later date to report on his facility's service to the area.

***FUEL ASSISTANCE***

There was a discussion of the \$50.00 line item in our budget for Fuel Assistance. Fuel Assistance programs begin each season on December 1<sup>st</sup>. There is a concern regarding Thompson residents who may need fuel before that date; it was the consensus of the Board to consider this matter during the next budget season.

There was a discussion of fundraising efforts by churches and private organizations. Donna Grant, Director of TEEG, will be invited to a future meeting to continue this discussion. It was noted that food and cash donations were collected at polling places yesterday to help our fellow citizens.

***INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT – BROWNFIELDS COALITION***

Mrs. Forrester read the proposed Resolution into the record. We have applied for this funding during each of the last four years, but have not yet been awarded this grant. The municipalities would be with the communities of Killingly, Putnam and Thompson. The Thompson representative would be chosen by the Board if the \$500,000.00 grant is awarded.

*Motion made by Mrs. Forrester, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to accept the Resolution as read, with a spelling correction.*

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

Discussion on Motion: The Board will sign the Resolution when prepared.

***CCM PRESCRIPTION DISCOUNT CARD PROGRAM***

Mr. Groh presented information concerning the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities Prescription Discount Card Program. This program is a benefit for member towns, does not incur any cost to the Town of Thompson, and is available for every resident who is underinsured or has no health insurance. We would be the first town in the Northeast area to institute this program for our citizens. CCM would mail the information to residents and information would also be available for distribution at the Town Hall.

*Motion made by Mrs. Forrester, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to enter into the CCM Prescription Discount Card Program Service Agreement.*

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

***APPROVAL OF 2013 MEETING CALENDAR***

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There was a discussion of the 2013 Meeting Schedule, On the Road meeting locations and dates, and moving the start of the meetings to 7:00 p.m.

*Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to approve the dates of the Board of Selectmen Meetings as the first and third Tuesdays of each month, with the exception of moving meetings to Wednesday, January 2 and Wednesday, November 6, at 7:00 p.m., in the Merrill Seney Community Room, with "On the Road" meeting locations to be scheduled.*

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

### **TAX REFUNDS**

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

Acar Leasing Ltd.	\$39.03
Donna Desrochers	\$22.14
Eric R. Martin	\$48.71
Michael G. Mydlak	\$22.52
Laurie L. St. Hilaire	\$46.33
Laurie L. St. Hilaire	\$49.21

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

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Groh reviewed the Marianapolis Sewer Project and the Planning and Zoning Commission's consensual approval on September 26, 2011. There was a discussion of the USDA Grant, the Town facilitating the grant process, the Trinity Foundation's responsibility to pay for 100% of the project with a low-interest loan secured by the Town, the Town to have a first position lien, and the ability of the Town to hook into the line if necessary in the future.

It was the consensus of the Board to have the First Selectman sign the agreement.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL MATTER**

*Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to enter into Executive Session with the Board of Selectmen and Sebrina Heroux at 8:50 p.m.*

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

The Board left the Merrill Seney Community Room at 8:50 p.m.

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The Board returned to the Merrill Seney Community Room at 9:24 with no action taken.

***ADJOURN***

*Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:25 p.m.*

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

Recorded and transcribed by:  
Lynn Landry