



SELECTMEN'S MEETING
May 1, 2012

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, May 1, 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; Jason Bleau - WINY Radio; Kerensa Konesni – Villager Newspaper; Paul Horanzy; Joseph Gaucher; Kevin Walsh; Parmi Leo; Thomas Poplawski; Celeste Fifield; Dale Fifield; Steve Benoit; Norma O'Leary; Paul Joyal; Al Landry; other concerned citizens

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Mrs. Forrester, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to approve the Minutes of the Special Selectmen's Meeting with the Transfer Station Advisory Committee, with the correction of the date being February 24, 2012, and list of agenda items as corrected.

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

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to accept the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting of April 17, 2012, with the correction on page three that fifteen citizens attended the Joint Boards Meeting and approximately four hundred citizens attended the Budget Presentation.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Groh presented the transcript of the April 18, 2012 Public Hearing held by the CT Siting Council concerning the CL&P interstate reliability project.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Groh announced that the next Selectmen's Meeting will be held on May 15, 2012 at the West Thompson Fire Dept.

Mr. Beausoleil urged citizens to attend the Town Meeting on Monday May 7, 2012 at 7 p.m. in the Merrill Seney Community Room.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mr. Landry expressed concern with the roadway markings that seem to indicate a passing lane at the intersections of Hill and Chase Roads and also at the Wilsonville four-way stop.

Mr. Landry asked for information regarding the recent comments by Brooklyn First Selectman Austin Tanner concerning the Probate Court.

Mr. Groh stated that he had not heard the exact comments reported today on WINY Radio. He gave a brief history of the consolidation of the Probate Court and stated that the Town of Thompson had provided minor construction such as walls and security, and does not bill the other towns for utility usage. The Probate Judge had expressed concern to Mr. Groh regarding the heating and air conditioning in the Probate Court area and Mr. Groh had urged her to bring those concerns to the regional council. It would be a one time expense to install separate heating and cooling units and Thompson is asking the member towns to contribute.

Mrs. O'Leary asked for the amount each town would be asked to contribute.

Mr. Groh replied that it would probably be figured as a per capita expense, with the system in the ten to twenty thousand dollar range.

Mrs. Forrester stated that based on the Social Service Building experience, it may be less costly.

Mr. Groh stated that there will be further meetings of the regional probate council.

Mr. Gaucher expressed concern about garbage on Market Lane.

Mrs. O'Leary reported that the April Road-side and River Clean-Up was very successful with three hundred people participating in roadside clean-up and thirty people participating in the French River Clean-Up. The volunteers were industrious, enthusiastic and demonstrated pride in our community.

Mrs. Forrester thanked Mrs. O'Leary for organizing this program.

Mrs. O'Leary stated that her next campaign is to address the litter problem. Mr. Groh stated that education is the key.

BID OPENING – WEST THOMPSON FIRE DEPARTMENT ROOF

Mr. Groh received a letter from Town Planner Kevin Kennedy regarding the bids for the West Thompson Fire Department Roof. The letter stated that as of the deadline of noon today, Mr. Kennedy was in receipt of one sealed bid. Mr. Kennedy spoke with the project architect and the West Thompson Fire Dept. Committee. It was recommended that the bid period be extended to noon on May 15, 2012, with the Opening of Bids to be held at the Board of Selectmen's Meeting on that date.

Motion made by Mrs. Forrester, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to extend the bid period for the West Thompson Fire Department Roof to noon on Tuesday May 15, 2012, and not open the one sealed bid tonight.

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

Discussion on Motion: Mrs. Fifield, of the West Thompson Fire Dept., thanked the Board for their attention to this matter and expressed her hopes that local contractors would bid on the project.

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to add 2012 Community Development Block Grant Funding to the next Agenda Item.

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDING, APPROVAL OF FAIR HOUSING POLICY STATEMENT, TITLE VI COMPLIANCE, ADA MUNICIPAL GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE, FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION

Mr. Groh read into the record Resolutions on Community Development Block Grant Funding, ADA Municipal Grievance Procedures, Town of Thompson Fair Housing Resolution, Town of Thompson Fair Housing Policy Statement, and the Town of Thompson Title VI Compliance, as of May 1, 2012. These are to renew and update our policies.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to accept the Resolutions as read.

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

APPROVAL OF BELDING-CORTICELLI PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BCPC) AND CHARGE

Mr. Groh presented a letter from Town Planner Kevin Kennedy suggesting the formation of an ad hoc committee to investigate the potential of 630 Riverside Drive as a park. This land is not owned by the Town. Mr. Kennedy suggested that the ad hoc committee be comprised of the following individuals, who would bring a mix of experience and knowledge: A. David Babbitt, Janet Blanchette, Ray Faucher, Jr., Ryan Lajoie, Kevin Kennedy, Steve Lewis and Norma O'Leary.

Mr. Groh stated that the formal charge of the committee will be:

1. To investigate the feasibility of a park and to search for grants
2. That the project not require the use of local revenue, but be able to utilize in-kind services
3. Compliance with all local, state and federal guidelines, especially in the bid process
4. Utilize local volunteerism and minimize cash expenditures
5. Single expenses under \$10,000.00 be authorized by consensus of the ad hoc committee, and single expenses over \$10,000.00 obtain Board of Selectmen approval to comply with the bid policy
6. That the ad hoc committee update the Board of Selectmen quarterly, either in writing or by verbal report.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to create the Belding Corticelli Park Advisory Committee, appoint the citizens recommended by Kevin Kennedy, and approve the charge as read.

Discussion on Motion: There was a discussion of the potential for hazardous material on this site and the need for assessment. Mr. Walsh expressed concerns that this is private property that will receive the benefit of study and assessment.

Mr. Groh stated that this study will benefit all residents by determining if chemicals are close to the river, and also that there is a public safety issue.

Mrs. O'Leary stated that if it is determined that this property is a brownfield, that there are state and federal funds available for remediation.

There was a discussion of the history of this property and others held by the owner, as well as the status of the properties in question.

Mr. Landry suggested that funding under \$10,000.00 have the consensus of the committee and approval of the First Selectman. Mr. Groh stated that this will put this in the motion.

Mr. Landry suggested that the small building on Riverside Drive, that was used as the guard shack and later as a Library branch, be utilized as a welcome center, having business information and other information about our community.

Mr. Poplawski stated that this central location would be ideal for a consolidated fire department, a new Town Hall or a commercial center.

Mr. Walsh again expressed concern that this is privately owned. Mr. Groh asked Mr. Walsh if he would want the Town to own the property, and Mr. Walsh stated that it would need to be determined if it was environmentally safe and economically viable.

Mrs. Forrester assured Mr. Walsh that the ad hoc committee would be able to track the value added by their work and be able to negotiate any contract with the private owner.

Mr. Fifield stated that the town would benefit from having a commercial enterprise at that location.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mr. Groh, to amend the motion so that 5. Reads any expenses under \$10,000.00 have the consensus of the committee and approval of the First Selectman.

Mr. Beausoleil -Yes

Mr. Groh -Yes

Mrs. Forrester -Yes

Vote on the original motion, as amended:

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.

USB Leasing	\$84.77
Edward Salkiewicz	\$3.22

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Groh reminded citizens that there will be a Town Meeting On May 7, at 7 p.m. in the Merrill Seney Room to vote on the West Thompson Fire Department Roof Project, three grants for the Social Services Building and on the grant for the Community Playground.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:48 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