



SELECTMEN'S MEETING December 6, 2011

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, December 6, 2011, at 7:30 p.m. in the Merrill Seney Community Room.

PRESENT: Lawrence K. Groh, Jr., First Selectman; Kenneth Beausoleil, Selectman; Kerstin Forrester, Selectman; Meaghan Couture – Village Newspapers; Karensa Konesni – WINY Radio; Kevin Walsh; Steven Bodreau; Steve Benoit; Bob Jeniski; John Rice; Norma O'Leary; Eric Patterson; Marilyn Poirier; Patricia Donnelly; Heather Juszczak; Parry Eastman; Bill Gendreau; Justine Gendreau; Lisa Sharpe; Roger Durand; Lawrence J. LeBoeuf; James Seney, Sr.; Rocco Navarro; Rebecca Kostacopoulos; Todd Winchell; Kelly Greene; Carlton Greene; Mary Preston; Kyle Preston; Paul Horanzy; Beverly Garofolo; Arline Bullied; W. G. Bullied; Kathleen Herbert; Al Landry; other concerned citizens

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mr. Groh, to accept the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting of November 15, 2011, as presented.

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

Mr. Groh informed the Board that the 2012 Meeting Schedule was available.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Groh welcomed new board member Mrs. Forrester, and stated that he looked forward to working with her and with Mr. Beausoleil.

Mr. Groh announced that CL&P will be holding a Public Hearing on the Interstate Reliability Project on December 8, 2011, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Mansfield Community Center. There was a previous Public Hearing held at QVCC.

Mr. Groh announced that electronics may now be recycled at the Transfer Station at no charge. It was the consensus of the Board that information be sent electronically, including committee minutes.

Mr. Beausoleil stated that the recent study of CL&P response to extreme weather revealed the need for improved communication. The damage to trees may become more apparent during the coming season.

Mr. Beausoleil will keep the Board informed regarding the security cameras at the Thompson Public Library/Community Center.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

None.

REQUEST FOR FUNDING – COMMUNITY FIRE CO. – REPLACEMENT LADDER TRUCK

Roger Durand, a forty year member of Community Fire Company, and a member of its Board of Directors, presented information regarding the need to replace the aerial device (ladder truck). The current truck is no longer functioning as of September 11, 2011. He gave an overview of how equipment is used to fight fires, mutual aid between departments and municipalities, and of the safety issues involved. Community Fire Department has approximately \$15,000.00 in their Truck Fund, which is also used for maintenance costs, which are in the range of \$8,000.00 annually. They have identified several trucks that would be available in the \$75 – 125,000.00 range.

John Sharpe, of Community Fire Dept., explained the mechanical problems with the current 1975 truck and stated that volunteers are concerned about serving on such a truck. He also presented information on the mutual aid capabilities of surrounding communities. This type of truck is essential in ventilating roofs, combating chimney fires, rescues at second and third floors, and obtaining streams of water. He also stated that Fire Departments are regulated by the National Fire Protection Association and OSHA and must meet strict safety guidelines. There was a discussion of the Fire Advisory Committee and its role in helping maintain equipment throughout our municipality.

Mr. Rice suggested setting up a town-wide fund to help purchase fire equipment. Ms. Donnelly suggested a surcharge to each household to be designated for this purpose. Ms. Deverro suggested a fundraising effort.

Mr. Durand reiterated that a ladder truck would benefit the entire Town of Thompson, and volunteers from every Department would be cross-trained.

Miss White asked for the average response time for mutual aid with a ladder truck. Mr. Durand stated that it would be twenty minutes on average. She inquired if there was a precedent for this type of purchase outside of the budget cycle.

Mr. Groh replied that only the ambulance has been so funded within the last twenty-five years, and Mr. Beausoleil stated that some equipment has been so funded, but never a vehicle other than the ambulance.

Mr. Durand stated that they were looking for guidance from the Town.

Mr. Groh expressed his appreciation for the very cost effective and efficient fire service provided by the many volunteers in our Town. He will ask Town Planner Kevin Kennedy to research the availability of grants as well as the timeline involved, and also noted that if this purchase were to be bonded, it would start with the Board of Selectmen, go to the Board of Finance, then to Town Meeting and referendum. He expressed concern about setting a precedent, but stated that this is

an important topic to be discussed by the Fire Advisory Committee and again brought to the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Landry stated that if we obtained this truck, we could also provide mutual aid to our neighboring municipalities.

Miss White asked when the first ladder truck was purchased, and Mr. Navarro replied that it was purchased in 1972.

Mr. Seney noted that the volunteer Fire Departments save the Town money and have received grants through FEMA and Homeland Security for equipment purchases.

Mr. Beausoleil asked if this type of truck would be available as a lease or by renting a truck.

Mrs. Forrester asked that the key points and general costs be submitted in writing.

Mr. Durand will submit a proposal.

SNOW PLOWING POLICY

Mr. Groh distributed copies of the Plowing Policy approved on 10-19-04, a list of all town roads in Thompson, and a list of town dirt roads, private paved roads and private dirt roads to the Board. Mr. Groh stated that the Town will plow a private road in an emergency situation.

Citizens from Breault's Landing Road came before the Board to ask that their road be plowed.

Mrs. Greene stated that other private roads are being plowed and wants Breault's Landing Road to be plowed for safety reasons. She stated that all but one resident have signed a release of liability to the Town, if plowing was to be conducted.

Ms. Donnelly expressed concern for safety and access for fire protection, medical needs, and delivery of fuel.

Mr. Groh stated that the current policy of accepting a road as a town road would require that road to be paved and have proper drainage. The Town no longer accepts dirt roads.

There was discussion of the history of the road and the turning space at its far end. There is no through traffic on this road.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to table this agenda item until the December 20, 2011 meeting, ask the Town Attorney to attend, and to add Executive Session – Breault's Landing Road to that agenda.

Mr. Beausoleil -Yes

Mrs. Forrester -Yes

Mr. Groh -Yes

RESOLUTION – HISTORIC DOCUMENTS PRESERVATION GRANT

This is a grant that the Town Clerk applies for annually for document preservation. Mr.

Beausoleil read the Resolution into the record, authorizing the First Selectman to enter into this contract with the Connecticut State Library.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to approve the Resolution as read.

Mr. Beausoleil -Yes

Mrs. Forrester -Yes

Mr. Groh -Yes

LETTERS OF RECOGNITION – MARIE MONGEAU & KATHERINE KEEFE

Mr. Beausoleil and Mrs. Forrester read into the record letters of recognition for Marie Mongeau and Katherine Keefe for each serving six years on the Town Hall, Library and Highway Garage Health and Safety Committee.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to send Letters of Recognition, as read, to Marie Mongeau and Katherine Keefe.

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

APPOINTMENTS – SPECIAL FIRE POLICE

Mr. Groh informed the Board that he had appointed Steven Baranow to serve on the Inland Wetlands Commission. This is a First Selectman appointment.

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to appoint as Special Fire Police, terms to expire November 19, 2013, Richard Asal, Donald Deslauriers, Joseph Donovan, Jr. John Ducharme, Celeste Fifield, Joseph Garceau, Allen Gauthier, Michelle Harvanek, Frank Heath, John Joyal, Joseph Langelier, Aaron McGarry, John Note, Wendy Pieper, Mary Preston, John Rice, George Therrien, and Ronald Tillen.

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

APPOINTMENT – TREASURER

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to appoint Michael Martin as Town Treasurer, term to expire November 19, 2013.

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

APPOINTMENT – FAIR HOUSING OFFICER

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to appoint Kevin Kennedy as Fair Housing Officer, term to expire November 19, 2013.

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

APPOINTMENT – ELDERLY AGENT

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to appoint Elizabeth Vriga as Agent for the Elderly, term to expire November 19, 2013

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

Herbert R. and Marjorie Hayes	\$126.06
Louis E. Soucy	\$ 9.73

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – POSSIBLE LAND TRANSFER
EXECUTIVE SESSION – LEGAL STRATEGIES**

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to enter into Executive Session at 9:33 p.m. to discuss Possible Land Transfer and Legal Strategies.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 10:40 p.m. with no action taken.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:41 p.m.

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

Recorded and transcribed by:
Lynn Landry