



SELECTMEN'S MEETING

September 20, 2011

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, September 20, 2011, at 7:30 p.m. in the Merrill Seney Community Room.

PRESENT: Lawrence K. Groh, Jr., First Selectman; John Bell, Selectman; Kenneth Beausoleil, Selectman; Robin Casella – Norwich Bulletin; Kerensa Konesni – WINY Radio; Clare Hopkins – Villager Newspapers; Joseph Gaucher; Kevin Walsh; Alison Boutough; Sebrina Swann; Justin Swan; Justine Julian; Gerard Julian; Jane Desrosiers; Norma O'Leary; Kerstin Forrester; Sally White; Robert Larkin; Storme Larkin; Al Landry; Steve Benoit; other concerned citizens

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mr. Bell, to accept the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting of September 6, 2011 and the Special Selectmen's Meeting of September 13, 2011.

<i>Mr. Beausoleil</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Bell</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

CORRESPONDENCE

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

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Groh reminded the citizens that there will be a Town Meeting on September 22, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. at the TMHS Auditorium.

Mr. Beausoleil urged citizens to attend the Town Meeting. He stated that the Buckley Hill Road Project is complete and looks great.

Mr. Bell said that the Buckley Hill Road Project looks wonderful and noted that the project began in 2003.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mr. Larkin stated his concerns regarding public safety along Route 12. He suggested that a crosswalk or safety signage might alleviate the problems. He noted that a child has injured by a motor vehicle on September 16, 2011.

Mr. Walsh stated that a Resident Trooper would help to address several problems.

Mrs. O’Leary stated that Thompson Community Day will be held on Sunday, September 25, 2011 from Noon to 4 p.m. in Riverside Park.

Mr. Walsh inquired about the Norwich Bulletin article on the FEMA request. Mr. Groh stated that the estimate of \$180,000.00 would cover staff overtime, road repair and brush removal.

Mr. Gaucher expressed his concerns regarding streetlights that are not functioning.

RIVERMILL PROPOSED TOT LOT

Mr. Groh gave a brief history of the Rivermill Village Proposed Tot Lot. This Project was first proposed in 1985, and the August 6, 1985 Selectmen’s Minutes reflect this request. The Recreation Commission, the Board of Selectmen and the Planning & Zoning Commission have all approved this project. Mrs. O’Leary reported that Thompson Together has met with local families to explore implementing this idea. This project would meet the criteria of the use of Open Space Funding as it would benefit our citizens and provide recreational opportunities. This Project would target age 12 and under, and there are an estimated thirty children in the immediate neighborhood. This proposed park would be open to all residents.

Storme Larkin and Jane Desrosiers each stated that children are playing in the street as there is no available/appropriate playground.

Justine Julian stated that she and her husband had organized playtime activities during the Free Lunch Program this summer. They support this idea.

Sebrina Swann and Justin Swan expressed their support of this plan, their commitment for a neighborhood crime watch program, and their desire to decrease vandalism, littering, and loitering.

There was a discussion of the slow response time when State Troopers are called, the Town Ordinance concerning public drinking, loitering, and the upcoming meeting between Mr. Groh and CL&P regarding streetlights.

Mr. Groh reviewed that the process to move forward is to go from the Board of Selectmen to the Planning & Zoning Commission, then to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting, after negotiations with the private owner.

Mr. Bell stated that he would like to move forward with this Project, as children need a place to play.

Mr. Beausoleil feels this would be a proactive step and supports this plan.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mr. Bell, that the First Selectman forward information to the Planning and Zoning Commission regarding acquiring the parcel for the proposed Tot Lot from Open Space Funding, providing it meets all criteria.

<i>Mr. Beausoleil</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Bell</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

Mr. Groh stated that this will go to the Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting on September 26, 2011.

LIBRARY VANDALISM

Mr. Groh gave a brief history of the recent vandalism at the Thompson Public Library/Community Center. Ms. Boutough, Director of the Library, stated that the State Troopers have apprehended a suspect who has confessed to one act so far. There was a discussion of the Resident State Trooper Program, its advantages and disadvantages. There was a discussion of the Video Surveillance cameras that were proposed and later removed from the current fiscal budget.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mr. Bell to request \$5,000.00 from the Board of Finance for a video surveillance camera system for the Thompson Public Library/Community Center.

Mr. Beausoleil -Yes

Mr. Bell -Yes

Mr. Groh -Yes

Mr. Groh noted that any donations to this project would be welcome. Ms. Boutough will announce this immediately to Library patrons.

LAVALLEE PROJECT ON ROUTE 12 IN MECHANICSVILLE

Mr. Groh gave a brief history of this project. It has been approved by the Legislative Body.

Motion made by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to sign the final document to approve the Lavallee Project on Route 12 in Mechanicsville, with signatures of six citizens as witnesses.

Mr. Bell -Yes

Mr. Beausoleil -Yes

Mr. Groh -Yes

Signatures of Robert Larkin, Kerstin Forrester, Kevin Walsh, Norma O’Leary, Joseph Gaucher; and Al Landry were obtained.

FAIRWAY DRIVE SUBDIVISION DONATION OF OPEN SPACE

This subdivision was approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission in 2006. It is currently owned by Hometown Bank. They would like to donate three additional parcels. The recommendation from the Conservation Commission is needed.

There was consensus to move forward with this proposal and place it on a future agenda when communication from the Conservation Commission is received.

REDIRECTION OF TRAFFIC ON CHASE ROAD EXTENSION

Mr. Groh suggested redirecting traffic on the portion of Chase Road between Route 193 and Route 200, to slow traffic and increase public safety.

Miss White asked if this idea is the result of an anonymous complaint, and questioned Mr. Groh’s policy of not accepting anonymous complaints.

Mr. Groh stated that he accepts complaints, by priority, first written then verbal, and lastly anonymous, but always dependant upon the situation.

Mr. Groh clarified that this would be by redirecting traffic access, not closing access to this portion of Chase Road.

Mr. Beausoleil stated that this idea is worth pursuing.

Mr. Bell stated that this allows for more parking at the Old Town Hall, eliminating a dangerous situation.

Mr. Groh would like the input of citizens by phone, e-mail or direct contact.

Mrs. O'Leary asked if crosswalks could be provided. Mr. Groh will inquire of the State DOT. There was consensus to move forward with investigating this concern.

TAX REFUNDS

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

Rebecca Ball	\$18.64
Adam Eldean or Debora Wiggin	\$13.62
Honda Lease Trust	\$47.08
Eastern Applied Research Inc.	\$2.00
Robert Morrison	\$2.97
Robert Mulligan	\$23.38
Nissan Infiniti	\$28.57
Wanda Robbins	\$2.35
Toyota Motor Credit Corp.	\$111.19

Mr. Groh -Yes

Mr. Beausoleil -Yes

Mr. Bell -Yes

EXECUTIVE SESSION – LEGAL STRATEGIES

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to enter into Executive Session at 10:00 p.m. to discuss Legal Strategies.

Mr. Groh -Yes

Mr. Beausoleil -Yes

Mr. Bell -Yes

The Board exited the Merrill Seney Community Room. The Board returned from Executive Session at 10:26 p.m. with no action taken.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Beausoleil stated that three of the five Fire Chiefs appeared on the WINY Talk Show and complimented Ms. Konesni on the great show. Ms. Konesni expressed her appreciation for their service.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:28 p.m.

<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Beausoleil</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Bell</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

Recorded and transcribed by:
Lynn Landry