



SELECTMEN'S MEETING August 16, 2011

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, August 16, 2011, at 7:30 p.m. at the Old Town Hall.

PRESENT: Lawrence K. Groh, Jr., First Selectman; John Bell, Selectman; Kenneth Beausoleil, Selectman; Robin Cassella – Norwich Bulletin; Karensa Konesni – WINY Radio; Clare Hoopkins – Villager Newspapers; Joseph Iamartino; Kevin Walsh; Sally White; Kerstin Forrester; William Ritter; Mark Snay; David Rawson; Al Landry; other concerned citizens

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to accept the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting of August 2, 2011 and the Special Selectmen's Meeting of August 12, 2011.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Groh thanked Mr. Iamartino and the Thompson Historical Society for hosting this evening's meeting. He expressed his appreciation for carrying on the tradition of conducting town business in this facility, which became the Town Hall in 1842.

Mr. Beausoleil expressed his concerns about the intersections of Buckley Hill Road with Route 200 and Route 12. There was a discussion of the previous studies done on these areas. Mr. Beausoleil suggested that caution lights or signage would alleviate some of the problems.

Mr. Bell had received some complaints about rocks left in Pompeo Road after work performed by the Highway Department. Mr. Bell investigated and removed some small rocks.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mr. Iamartino stated that Rolland Zellany, who was selected as a candidate for developing the hydropower site in Wilsonville, is now contemplating a different site. Mr. Groh stated that this issue will be discussed at the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting on August 22, 2011.

Mr. Rawson, representing the Thompson Congregational Church, stated that the three driveway approaches, off Quaddick Road into their parking lot, need work. Mr. Groh replied that the Director of Public Works is aware of the situation. Mr. Rawson stated that the Town has done a good job on maintaining Bates Ave.

Miss White agreed with Mr. Rawson's statements and encouraged the Board to provide this assistance.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – NECONN SOCCER

This topic was discussed and tabled at the last meeting. Mr. Beausoleil read the Memorandum of Understanding into the record. Mr. Groh stated that the Town was approached by NECONN Soccer several years ago and asked for this agreement. Since the last meeting, Mr. Groh has learned that other soccer leagues also use the fields.

Mr. Beausoleil has researched the original agreement between the Secretary of the Interior and the Town of Thompson. This agreement was signed by First Selectman Edward Babula in 1972, for the recreational use of seventy-one acres. In 1996, the Soccer Leagues received a grant to develop soccer fields at this site. The agreement states that the town is to maintain the fields as a condition of the deed. The Dept. of the Interior can rescind the deed if this condition is not met, or if the property is needed for Homeland Security. Mr. Beausoleil toured the facility last week. The Soccer League is mowing the fields, and the Department of Public Works spends approximately four hours per week mowing at the height of the growing season. The areas are maintained but not manicured. There is a report submitted by the First Selectman to the Dept. of the Interior every five years. There was a discussion of including a termination clause into the proposed Memorandum of Understanding.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mr. Bell to include a clause stating a thirty day written termination notice by either party in the Memorandum of Understanding with NECONN Soccer.

Mr. Beausoleil -Yes
Mr. Bell -Yes
Mr. Groh -Yes

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mr. Bell to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding with NECONN Soccer with the termination clause as written in the above motion.

Mr. Beausoleil -Yes
Mr. Bell -Yes
Mr. Groh -Yes

DISCUSSION OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING IN SEPTEMBER

With the consensus of the Board, Mr. Groh will contact Town Attorney to schedule a Special Town Meeting on September 14, 2011 to act upon two ordinances related to agriculture. There will be an informational meeting on August 30, 2011, 7 p.m. in the Merrill Seney Community Room to discuss these proposed ordinances. Mr. Groh reminded the citizens that there will be a

Special Town Meeting on August 17, 2011 at 7 p.m. in the Thompson Public Library/Community Center to act upon other proposed ordinances.

RATIFICATION OF UNION CONTRACT

Mr. Groh reviewed the recent negotiations between the Town and the Union. The current contract expired on June 30, 2011. The proposed contract was ratified by the Union on August 16, 2011. The proposed contract specifies wage increases of 1% on July 1, 2011 and January 1, 2012, no increases for Year Two, and a 2.75% increase at Year Three (July 1, 1013). For health benefits, there will be an increase from 13 to 14% for Year One, remaining at 14% for Year Two and going to 16% for Year Three. There will be increases in co-pays and other expenses. There will be an option of Health Savings Accounts in Year Two, which may realize additional savings. Time off for allowed Doctor Visits was reduced, as was the pay-out for sick time for future employees. Mr. Groh stated that he has kept the Board of Selectmen updated during these negotiations and into the mediation process. He sees this as a fair contract, and expenses are offset in the first year, with an anticipation of future savings. Mr. Beausoleil stated that this has been a long process with the best possible outcome; it is in the best interest of the Town to move forward with this. There will be arbitration on the Town's request to change the retirement system for future employees.

Ms. Forrester asked if it would cost more to arbitrate the entire contract. Mr. Groh replied that it would cost substantially more and might result in the Town losing some of the concessions from the Union.

Miss White asked for the timeline of the negotiations. Mr. Groh replied that negotiations had begun in April, and mediation begun in July after an impasse had occurred. Miss White also asked if members of the Board were affiliated with any union. Mr. Groh replied that he had been a Union Member, Mr. Beausoleil replied that he had been a Union Steward, and Mr. Bell replied that he had been a Union Member before obtaining a non-union management position.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mr. Bell, to ratify this Union Contract as negotiated.

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

TAX REFUNDS

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

Angela Brissette-Miller	\$100.12
Philip Lajoie	\$4.52
Phillippe Lajoie	\$ 13.26
David Akana	\$35.02
Annette Mauke	\$ 5.49
Annette Mauke	\$37.65

Mr. Groh -Yes
Mr. Beausoleil -Yes
Mr. Bell -Yes

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Bell, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:00 p.m.

Mr. Groh -Yes
Mr. Bell -Yes
Mr. Beausoleil -Yes

Recorded and transcribed by:
Lynn Landry