



SELECTMEN'S MEETING June 7, 2011

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, June 7, 2011, at 7:30 p.m. at the East Thompson Fire Station.

PRESENT: Lawrence K. Groh, Jr., First Selectman; John Bell, Selectman; Kenneth Beausoleil, Selectman; Robin Cassella – Norwich Bulletin; Clare Hopkins – Villager Newspaper; Joseph Gaucher; Kevin Walsh; Gary A. Bessette; Paul Baer; Steve Benoit; Joseph Leon; Sally White; Joanne Baker; 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 May 17, 2011, the Special Selectmen's Meeting of May 26, 2011, and the Special Selectmen's Meeting of May 27, 2011.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Groh presented the monthly update on crime statistics from Troop D.
Mr. Groh gave Mr. Bell and Mr. Beausoleil a copy of Wetlands Agent Marla Butts' letter concerning property on Reardon Road. This matter will be on the next agenda.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Groh thanked the East Thompson Fire Department for hosting this evening's meeting.
Mr. Groh commented on the great Memorial Day Parade, even with the inclement weather.
Mr. Beausoleil stated that the Memorial Day Parade was well organized and well attended.
Mr. Beausoleil had the following comments regarding the Fire Advisory Meeting of May 26, 2011: The Board of Finance has reduced the Fire Department budgets by \$1,000.00, the insurance broker H. G. Segur will proceed as planned, and the Board of Selectmen has clarified the mission and agenda to the Fire Advisory Committee.

Mr. Bell was impressed with the Memorial Day program at the East Thompson Cemetery, as organized by John Rice and Norma O'Leary.

Mr. Bell stated that the potholes have been repaired on Pompeo Road.

Mr. Bell informed citizens that the Social Security Administration will no longer be sending annual statements of earnings and anticipated benefits. This information may be obtained from www.socialsecurity.gov.

Mr. Beausoleil stated that a few more positions as citizen-at-large are available on the Fire Advisory Committee. There will be information in the upcoming Selectmen's Update regarding the volunteer status of our fire departments.

Mr. Walsh inquired about the insurance for the Fire Departments. Mr. Groh stated that H. G. Segur will review existing policies, increase coverage where needed and eliminate overlaps. There will be no reduction in coverage. There will be a flat fee as consultant/broker. This company has a proven track record with Thompson and also provides training and assessment for proper coverage.

Miss White asked which insurance company is involved. Mr. Groh and Mr. Beausoleil confirmed that VFIS is the current insurance company and this will not change at this time.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mr. Baer questioned the Fire Advisory Committee minutes of May 26, 2011. This meeting was attended by the entire Board of Selectmen thus making it a Special Selectmen's Meeting, with minutes recorded by Tonya C. L. Park. The Fire Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes were recorded by Josh Kuzak. Mr. Bell stated that the next Fire Advisory Committee meeting is May 20, 2011 at the Community Center. There will be a continued discussion of the makeup and mission of the committee.

Mr. Groh stated that the Town Departments are being trained to update the town website. We are moving forward with having minutes available on the website.

Ms. Baker recommended going out to bid for insurance as it would be more competitive. She also inquired on the Thompson Audit Committee. Mr. Groh stated that this is a sub-committee of the Board of Finance and meets prior to the Board of Finance meetings.

Mr. Landry commented that there are two audit groups: the official sub-committee of the Board of Finance and a citizens group by the same name. He asked Mr. Groh for the status of the agricultural ordinances discussed at a previous Board of Selectmen's Meeting. Mr. Groh stated that the Secretary has met with Town Attorney concerning these ordinances and an Ordinance Committee meeting will be convened shortly.

Mr. Landry asked for clarification of a recent Villager article. Mr. Groh stated that he had been misquoted regarding the loss of positions, as these had occurred in previous years, not for the proposed budget.

Mr. Gaucher asked for the status of the street lights. Mr. Groh has followed up on this issue, but reminded citizens that the electric companies are busy with repairs following the recent tornadoes in Massachusetts.

Mr. Leon expressed concern regarding speeding and accidents on East Thompson Road. Mr. Groh requested that any specific information be sent to him so that he could forward it to Troop D.

Ms. White stated that this is a serious problem especially from 4:30 to 9:00 a.m. and from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m.

There was a discussion of the upcoming Town Meeting and referendum. Mr. Groh explained that the Town Meeting is required by State Statute, it automatically adjourns to Referendum for the voting, then is reconvened at the close of voting, and hence adjourned. There will be an

opportunity for discussion at the Town Meeting, but not to vote. Mr. Groh stressed the importance of attending meetings throughout the budget process.

Ms. Baker asked if it would be possible to only vote at the Town Meeting and avoid the referendum. Mr. Groh stated that historically the citizens of Thompson have had the opportunity to vote on the annual budget at referendum and he encouraged all citizens to exercise their right to vote. Having a referendum allows the elderly, second shift workers and all citizens to participate, and offers the option of absentee ballots.

Mr. Bessette spoke of the intention of the Quaddick Lake Association to set up a special tax district, which would include any landowner with direct access to the lake. He had previously spoken with Mr. Groh about this matter, and will be petitioning for a Town Meeting to create this tax district, separate from the Town. Mr. Bessette gave a brief history of the weed control problems in the lake, and the recent legislation with the goal of water quality. Mr. Groh stated that the Town Attorney will be involved in this process.

BUCKLEY HILL ROAD PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Groh gave a brief history of this project. Town Attorney has reviewed the documents, the State has reviewed and signed off on the project and the contractor, B&W Paving, has signed today. The project will begin after school is completed, and the section from Route 200 to Murolo Road will be closed until the project is completed.

SOCIAL SERVICE BUILDING UPDATE

Mr. Groh stated that the current phase has been completed. This has been done with no use of local tax dollars. Phase Three volunteers are being sought for interior work. Donna Grant, John Rice and Kevin Kennedy will screen and coordinate volunteers, who will sign waivers.

HYDRO PLANT UPDATE

Mr. Groh stated that this project is starting to move forward. He had a meeting scheduled this morning, but it was rescheduled to June 9, 2011.

QUINEBAUG POST OFFICE CLOSURE – LETTER TO COUTNEY & BLUMENTHAL

Mr. Groh distributed a draft of a letter to the Board. There was a discussion of the informational meeting and who should receive this letter. The Board will review this letter and give their comments to Mr. Groh by Thursday.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mr. Bell to send a letter opposing the closing of the Quinebaug Post Office to the U. S. Postal Service, Representative Courtney, and Senators Blumenthal and Lieberman.

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

DISCUSSION ON BUDGET

Mr. Groh stated that the Town Meeting will be held on June 8, 2011 at 8 p.m. at the Thompson Public Library/Community Center. This will adjourn to a referendum to be held on Thursday, June 16, 2011 from Noon to 8 p.m. at the regular polling places. He encouraged citizens to get out to vote.

There was a discussion of the State budget and its impact on the local budget.

STEAP GRANT – WEST THOMPSON FIRE DEPARTMENT ROOF

Kevin Kennedy, Director of Planning and Development, will be assisting the West Thompson Fire Department in applying for a STEAP Grant to help with their roof repair project. The department has supplied Mr. Kennedy with information and a quote of \$150,000 to replace the flat roof with a truss roof.

LAVALLEE PROJECT – COMPLETION OF MECHANICSVILLE PARKING LOT ON TOWN PROPERTY

Mr. Groh provided the Board with information on the completion of this project that contains twelve parking spaces, a turn-around area for fire trucks accessing the town well, and access to the Airline Trail. Mr. Beausoleil noted that this was a great job completed in a timely manner. Town Attorney will review the documentation. The Director of Public Works and the First Selectman have monitored the process.

APPROVAL OF SUMMER STAFF FOR RECREATION

Recreation Director Renee Waldron has submitted a list of suggestions for temporary summer staff. These individuals will work in the self-supporting Adventure Camp program.

Motion made by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to approve the hire of the following individuals to the Recreation Commission: Group Leaders: Alisha Swantee, Ryan King; Miranda Skaradowski, Mitchell Prescott, Christopher Alves, Angela Hachey, Daniel Petre, Jr., Rich Torres, Andrew Faucher; Lifeguards Serena Germain and Siana Green; Office Clerk, Taylor White; Specialists Jess Dion, John Darcy, Alyson Santerre, and Luke Popiak; and Supervisors Cindy Consiglio, Jennifer Plaza and Cassandra Raszka.

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

Pauline Rock	\$6.70
Peter Gendreau	\$24.94

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Miss White asked if the potential cost of the local union contract has been considered while creating the proposed budget. Mr. Groh stated that the outcome of the current negotiations is not known at this time. If more funds were needed, the Board would need to go before the Board of Finance with a request.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Bell, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:40 p.m.

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

Recorded and transcribed by:
Lynn Landry