



SELECTMEN'S MEETING March 15, 2011

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, March 15, 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; Meryl Willett – WINY Radio; Joseph Gaucher; Kevin Walsh; Al Landry; Paul Dery; Sally White; other concerned citizens

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to accept the minutes of the Special Selectmen's Meetings of February 25, 2011, February 28, 2011, March 3, 2011, and the Selectmen's Meeting of March 1, 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.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Groh announced that the next Selectmen's Meeting will be held at the Quinebaug Fire Station on April 5, 2011.

Mr. Groh stated that the Agriculture Commission has been investigating several ordinances. These proposals will be forwarded to the Board of Selectmen and perhaps forwarded to the Ordinance Committee.

Mr. Groh announced that Town Clerk Jeffrey Barske has created a CD of the written minutes of the Board of Selectmen from 1953-2005. This is available by e-mail. Mr. Beausoleil stated that the CD of minutes will be a helpful tool.

Mr. Groh met with the Thompson Audit Committee. This committee will research and evaluate budgeting and spending practices for the Town and School.

Mr. Beausoleil also noted that the Town of Thompson website is up and running and is a great asset to the town. Mr. Groh noted that the proposed budget is available on the Town website.

Mr. Beausoleil has received complaints about washed out roads. The DPW has been doing a good job in repairing the problems.

Mr. Bell noted that there has been cold patch placed on the roads. He will be attending the Eagle Scout ceremony for Mr. Heeps this weekend.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mr. Walsh gave the Board a copy of a Power Point presentation from the CT Society of Certified Public Accountants for their review.

Mr. Walsh gave the Board a copy of a Norwich Bulletin article concerning regionalization, and expressed his concerns regarding the loss of decision making authority on the local level. He asked if the minutes from NECCOG meetings could be made available online when received, and Mr. Groh will investigate this. Currently minutes are e-mailed to members and voted upon at the next meeting. He will also see if the NDDH minutes could be posted, when received. There was a discussion of regionalization, cost effectiveness, and the needs of different municipalities. Mr. Gaucher noted that the Governor's Proposed Budget has \$11,000,000. for tourism, most of which will be designated to the other end of the state. He also stated that the street light near the Riverside Drive cross-walk is out, and Mr. Groh will report this.

Miss White stated that the streetlight on Spicer Road/East Thompson Road is working again. She also expressed concerns regarding regionalization and stated that decisions should be made by elected officials. Miss White asked for information regarding the capital funds for a phone system. Mr. Groh gave an overview of the current system's problems, the need to provide adequate communication for our citizens, and stated that a portion of the funds are being requested this year, with the system replacement to take place in three years.

Mr. Dery expressed his views on regionalization and consolidation and the need for checks and balances.

Mr. Gaucher stated that Governor Malloy will hold a regional meeting on March 30, 2011.

Mr. Landry asked if Thompson is paying for the custodial services for the Regional Probate Court. Mr. Groh replied that we are presently paying for that service, but other options are available.

RE-APPOINTMENT TO INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION & CONSERVATION COMMISSION – RON TILLEN

Mr. Groh informed the Board that appointments to these two commissions are made by the First Selectman. He has received a request from Mr. Tillen to be reappointed to the Inland Wetlands Commission and the Conservation Commission. Mr. Tillen has served for several years. Mr. Groh reappointed Mr. Tillen to both commissions, terms to expire March 15, 2016.

NEW ENGLAND RELAY

This is a six state Relay that comes through Thompson annually.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, to approve the request for the New England Relay to conduct their race through Thompson on June 11 and June 12, 2011, with appropriate insurance in place.

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

Discussion on Motion: Mr. Groh stated that information is available on the website www.newenglandrelay.com. The route in Thompson will include East Thompson Road, New Road and Quaddick Town Farm Road.

ENERGY CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Mr. Groh received a recommendation from Michael Martin, Finance Director, regarding audit findings from Hanna Electric. These are proposals are to modify fixtures and usage at town-owned buildings. Mr. Martin is recommending that the proposed modifications take place in the Town Hall and Highway Garage. He is not recommending that the proposed modifications to the Library/Community Center be pursued, and David Chaput of the TWPCA is recommending the proposed modifications to the Sewer Plant not be implemented.

Miss White asked if any other towns had followed the recommendations of Hanna Electric. Mr. Groh stated that this company is authorized statewide for municipal energy audits. Most of the improvements will be to outside lighting. Mr. Landry stated that he had accompanied the Hanna representative during this audit and was told that the indoor improvements already in place were appropriate. Mr. Beausoleil suggested re-examining the Library/Community Center and TWPCA facility at a later date.

Motion made by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to approve the proposed electrical changes as recommended by Hanna Electric at the Highway Garage and Town Hall.

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

CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Groh gave the Board a copy of a letter from Charter Communications to the local fire departments stating that Charter is discontinuing complimentary Cable TV to their facilities. Mr. Beausoleil stated his concerns that this is useful not only for weather information, but is used if the shelter is open, or the volunteers are on standby. Mr. Bell stated that it isn't right to take this service away from our volunteers.

Mr. Groh stated that there is a Communication Advisory Board, and Dick Trudeau is the representative from Thompson. If any resident was a concern with television, phone or internet, they should contact Mr. Trudeau.

There was a consensus to send a letter from the Board of Selectmen to Charter Communications stating these concerns.

RESOLUTION FOR WORLD WAR II VETERANS

Mr. Groh read into the record a proclamation designating March 15, 2011 as WWII Veterans Day.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mr. Bell, to accept the proclamation as read.

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

Discussion on Motion: Mr. Bell expressed his appreciation for the efforts of the WWII Veterans. Mr. Beausoleil stated that we would be living in a different world without their service.

TAX REFUNDS

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

Cab East LLC \$249.05
Cab East LLC \$ 53.11
Patricia Johnson \$ 36.87

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Groh encouraged citizens to attend the Board of Finance Budget Workshops on upcoming Thursdays (except for April 21, 2011), at 7:30 p.m. at the Thompson Public Library/Community Center.

Mr. Groh stated that the Board needs to proceed with the ordinances. A date for the Town Meeting will be discussed at the next Board of Selectmen's Meeting.

Mr. Groh announced that he received a letter from the State of Connecticut concerning the Buckley Hill Road Project. He will be meeting with DOT and is scheduling this project for the new paving season.

Miss White asked for an update of the Trinity Foundation Sewer Project. Mr. Groh said there has been no substantial movement, as the proposal is still with the Trinity Foundation lawyers. She asked for clarification of Town Attorney's role in this matter. Mr. Groh replied that Attorney St. Onge is protecting the interests of the Town of Thompson.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:53 p.m.

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

Recorded and transcribed by: Lynn Landry

