



## SELECTMEN'S MEETING July 20, 2010

Mr. Groh called the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order on Tuesday, July 20, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in the Merrill Seney Community Room.

**PRESENT:** Lawrence K. Groh, Jr., First Selectman; John Bell, Selectman; Kenneth Beausoleil, Selectman; Koenza Konesni - WINY Radio; Rich Hosford – Villager Newspapers; Alison Shea -Norwich Bulletin; Joseph H. Gaucher; Harry Coman; Phil Thomas; Henri J. Gagnon; Joseph Iamartino; James Stratos; Bruce Ream; Al Landry; Paul Provost; Kevin Walsh; Burt Rhodes; other concerned citizens.

*Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to add Buckley Hill Road Project Advertisement to Bid to the Agenda as Item 14 a).*

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

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Motion made by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to accept the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting of July 2, 2010, with the correction of the date to July 6, 2010 in the heading..*

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

### CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Groh presented correspondence from the SBA concerning the cell tower on town property at Rich Road offering a buy-out. Mr. Beausoleil would like to see the pros and cons of a proposed buy-out as opposed to the yearly fee.

Mr. Groh presented the invitation for the Board of Selectmen to speak at the opening ceremony of Community Day on October 3, 2010. Mr. Beausoleil noted that the Community Day coincides with the Quinebaug Fire Station Open House for Fire Prevention Week. The Quinebaug Fire Company requested that the Recreation Commission change the dates of future Community Day Events to accommodate both events.

Mr. Groh presented correspondence from the Community Kitchen LLC thanking Thompson residents for their support.

Mr. Groh presented the monthly statements from Troop D, Danielson.

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Mr. Groh presented correspondence from the DEP regarding grant awards for the West Thompson Fire Company and Community Fire Company. These grants assist in obtaining certain types of equipment.

Mr. Groh presented information from Troop D regarding warrants.

Mr. Groh presented correspondence from Dr. Jolin, Superintendent of Schools which stated that Joseph Lindley has been unanimously chosen by the Thompson Board of Education to serve as the curator of the Tourtellotte Museum Room. Mr. Iamartino stated that Mr. Lindley has been very active in the restoration and promotion of the Museum Room. Mr. Groh thanked Mr. Iamartino for his years of past service as the curator.

Mr. Groh presented information from the DEP regarding the proper disposal of e-waste. The Thompson Transfer Station has this program already in place.

### **SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS**

- Mr. Groh commented on recent news stories regarding the status of a USDA Grant for the Social Service Building. Town Planner Kevin Kennedy has sent additional information to the USDA to clarify the original application, and has also submitted applications to STEAP and USDA to complete this project.
- Mr. Groh noted that he missed the July 6, 2010 Selectmen's Meeting because he was chaperoning the Eighth Grade Class Trip to Washington D.C. He thanked Mr. Jewell for his ongoing commitment to this trip, for over thirty years.
- Mr. Beausoleil noted that there is memorial in the Oscar Swanson Park for all of Thompson's deceased Fire Fighters.
- Mr. Beausoleil suggested that it would be appropriate to send a written expression of thanks to citizens who have served on our boards and commissions.

### **CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

- Mr. Gaucher inquired about a proposed water rate increase. Mr. Groh has not received any new information.
- Mr. Gagnon noted that there has been smoking at the Highway Garage within 80 feet of the fuel pumps.

*Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mr. Bell, to add Smoking at the Highway Garage to the Agenda as Item 14 b).*

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

- Mr. Walsh requested an update on the status of NECCOG. Mr. Groh stated that the twelve towns now have a good working group, and he is opposed to joining with SECCOG. He encouraged Mr. Walsh to contact State Representative Johnston and State Senator Williams to express his concerns.

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## **APPOINTMENTS TO AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION**

At the last Town Meeting, voters approved the formation of the Agricultural Commission to be advisory to the Board of Selectmen.

*Motion made by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to approve the appointment of the following individuals to Agricultural Commission: Regular Members: Randy Blackmer: 1 year term, Ross Eddy: 2 Year term, Lynn Landry: 3 year term, Earl Norman: 4 year term, Kristin Orr: 5 year term, and Alternate Members: Valerie Clark: 1 year term, Diana Couture: 2 year term, Ken Sherman: 3 year term, Sue Wheeler: 4 year term.*

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

Discussion on Motion: Mr. Coman noted that Mr. Sherman is not a resident of Thompson. Mr. Groh stated that non-Thompson residents may serve on advisory committees, and that Mr. Sherman is actively engaged in agriculture in Thompson.

## **PROPOSALS FOR LEASE OF HYDRO SITE IN WILSONVILLE**

Mr. Groh read the Request for Qualifications into the record. He noted that there are three areas of concern: experience in scope and scale with similar projects, experience in the region, and experience with similar ventures with a private/public partnership. Mr. Iamartino stated that the Thompson Historical Society and the Thompson Renewable Energy Development Committee have received a grant from The Last Green Valley to assess the structure of the building. Copies of the RFQ will be available at Noon on August 6, 2010 in the office of the Town Planner.

*Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mr. Bell, for the Town of Thompson for Request for Qualifications for the proposed hydroelectric facility to close no later than Noon on August 6, 2010.*

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

## **ENERGY CONSERVATION – JIM STRATOS**

Mr. Stratos presented information regarding the Town of Woodstock's actions and commitment to renewable energy. He congratulated the Board of Selectmen for signing the Clean Energy Resolution. He noted the cost savings that Woodstock has realized from their commitment of using clean energy in their municipal buildings. Mr. Groh expressed his appreciation for the presentation.

## **TRANSFER STATION PERMIT FEES AND COLLECTIONS**

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Mr. Morin, Tax Collector, presented information to the Board regarding the collection of Transfer Station Permits and Fees. He stated that this function is performed in either the Selectman's Office or Town Clerk's Office in other municipalities, and asked the Board to consider moving this function from his office.

Mr. Groh presented information from a February 11, 1998 memo and Selectmen's Meeting Minutes of January 6, 1998 and February 3, 1998 regarding moving the collection of these fees to the Tax Collector's Office. This move was approved by the Board at the February 3, 1998 meeting.

Mr. Groh noted that the collections for the Transfer Station and the T.W.P.C.A. are planned to be converted to the Quality Data System now in place for tax collection.

There was a discussion of the functions of the Tax Office and the process involved in collecting the Transfer Station fees. Mr. Beausoleil expressed interest in observing the Transfer Station Permit process. This issue will be discussed at a later Selectmen's Meeting.

***TAX OFFICE – PRINTING OF TAX BILLS***

Mr. Morin stated that the Tax Office has received an invoice for \$1,595.00 from Quality Data System for printing of the July tax bills. He had thought that printing was included in the contract.

*Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Bell, to table this matter until the next Selectmen's Meeting.*

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

***AWARD BID – SURPLUS EQUIPMENT***

Mr. Groh noted that the bids for surplus equipment had been opened at the last meeting. Mr. Adams, Director of Public Works, has suggested awarding the bid to Leveille's as the highest bulk bid. Mr. Groh stated that some items had received higher bids when taken item by item per bidder.

*Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Bell, to award to the highest bidder per item.*

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

***CONSERVATION EASEMENT – HERITAGE WAY***

There was a brief discussion of the need for an A-2 Survey to determine the bounds of the Conservation Easement at Heritage Way. The Conservation Commission has suggested using Open Space funds to accomplish this and to provide for proper stewardship of this property. Mr. Groh will attend the next Planning and Zoning Commission meeting to discuss this expenditure

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of Open Space funds. The process would be for a request to go from the Board of Selectmen, to the Planning and Zoning Commission, to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting.

*Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mr. Bell, to do the A-2 Survey, cost of up to \$3,500.00, marking the Heritage Way Conservation Easement, Assessor's Map 59-61-10, 8D plus 10B, and authorizing the First Selectman to go to the Planning and Zoning Commission, and the Board of Finance as needed.*

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – PENDING LITIGATION**

*Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to go into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation, at 9:47. p.m.*

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

The Board of Selectmen left the Merrill Seney Community Room.

The Board of Selectmen returned to the Merrill Seney Community Room at 10:12 p.m. with no action taken.

**TAX REFUNDS**

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

Paul or Nancy Standowicz	\$23.79
Ann Marie Romanek	\$142.24

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

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Bell noted that the Tri-State Trek will be going through Thompson on July 23, to 25, 2010.

**BUCKLEY HILL ROAD PROJECT ADVERTISEMENT TO BID**

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There was a brief discussion of the Buckley Hill Road Project. Mr. Groh read into the record the proposed advertisement for bids. Plans will be available on August 4, 2010 at the cost of \$50.00 per set.

*Motion made by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to place an advertisement for the bid for the Buckley Hill Road Reclamation and Repaving Project, Federal Project STPW-1141(103), State Project #141-152, with the bid process to be started on August 4, 2010, and to close on August 27,2010 at 4 p.m. at the Thompson Town Hall.*

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

Discussion on Motion: Mr. Groh stated that legal notices will be placed in the Hartford Courant, the Norwich Bulletin and the Thompson Villager newspapers.

### ***SMOKING AT HIGHWAY GARAGE***

There is currently a policy in place prohibiting smoking within twenty feet of any municipal building. At the Highway Garage, smoking has been observed within 80 feet of the fuel pumps, but still 20 feet from the building. There was a discussion of possible solutions to this problem.

*Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mr. Bell, to prohibit smoking at the Highway Garage except in the one designated area in front of the building, with the area to be determined by the Director of Public Works.*

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

### **ADJOURN**

*Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:35 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