



SELECTMEN'S MEETING

June 1, 2010

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, June 1, 2010, at 7:30 p.m. at the Merrill Seney Community Room.

PRESENT: Lawrence K. Groh, Jr., First Selectman; John Bell, Selectman; Kenneth Beausoleil, Selectman; Rich Hosford – Villager Newspapers; Bates Craver; Ted Smith; Van Thomas; Kevin Walsh; Diana Couture; Celeste Fifield; Joseph W. Shilinsky; Joseph W. Shilinsky; Jane Beno; Kevin Beno; David Kress; Cathy Thomas; Jay Kenney; Burt Berube; Carolyn Werge; Bill Berube; Al Landry; Steve Benoit; Paul Dery; Donat Charron; K. Berube; other concerned citizens

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to approve the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting of May 18, 2010.

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| <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 information dated 5/29/2010 concerning reporting any flood damage in the State of Connecticut during March 2010 to FEMA. Funding is now available. Citizens may contact FEMA at 1-800-621-3362 or www.disasterassistance.gov. Emergency Management Director Steve Benoit will also provide information.
- A letter was received from Francis McGarry, Chase Road, concerning the traffic situation at the intersection of Pasay Road and Route 200. He suggested a solution and copies of this letter were made available to citizens. This will be discussed at the June 15, 2010 Selectmen's Meeting.
- Mr. Groh presented correspondence from the Conservation Officer with details of a workshop attended by some of the Planning and Zoning Commission members.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Groh announced that the Regional Probate Court will be located in Thompson, utilizing the Merrill Seney Room and adjoining offices. There are eight towns in the Region, with the

majority of the population in Thompson, Putnam and South Woodstock. This arrangement will be revisited periodically.

Mr. Groh explained the process of Regional Revaluation and the associated costs. This will involve the twelve member towns of NECCOG, and be addressed at a town meeting in the near future.

Mr. Groh commented that there was good attendance at the Memorial Day Parade and complimented the veterans on organizing the parade.

Mr. Groh reviewed the history of the Buckley Hill Road Project. The State of Connecticut wants Thompson to go back out to bid to complete this project. This will be discussed at the next Selectmen's Meeting.

Mr. Beausoleil stated that the Memorial Day Parade was well organized and a fitting remembrance for those who have served our country.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mr. Gaucher inquired about the Small Cities Meeting being held at the Thompson Speedway at Noon on June 2, 2010. Mr. Groh stated that all meetings are open to the public, regardless of location, and all citizens are welcome to attend.

Mr. Shilinsky, 29 Whittemore Ave., expressed concern about the Belding Mill affecting nearby property values. Mr. Groh stated that this site is privately owned. Mr. Shilinsky reported that there was damage to his property by snowplows and he would like to have the area reseeded. Mr. Groh and Mr. Adams, Director of Public Works, have inspected the damage and Mr. Groh will follow up on this.

Ms. Fifield asked for clarification on the Buckley Hill Road Project, which was provided by Mr. Groh.

OLD BUSINESS

CONSERVATION COMMISSION REQUESTS FOR ORDINANCES: AGRICULTURE COMMISSION ORDINANCE RIGHT TO FARM ORDINANCE

Mr. Groh stated that these ordinances have been reviewed by Town Attorney, and are similar to ordinances in neighboring towns. Copies of these Ordinances will be available in the Selectman's Office and the Town Clerk's Office. The Agriculture Commission will be appointed by the Board of Selectmen, and advisory to them. It will consist of five regular members and four alternates. This will be on the agenda for the next Town Meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to pass the Agriculture Commission Ordinance and Right to Farm Ordinance to Town Meeting on June 16, 2010.

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

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF TAX WARRANT/RATE BILL

Mr. Groh read the Tax Warrant/Rate Bill into the record.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mr. Bell, to sign the Tax Warrant/Rate Bill as just read and approve it at the mill rate of 21.01.

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

NEW HIRE – FINANCIAL TAX CLERK

Mr. Groh gave copies to the Board, and read into the record, the letter of resignation from Diane Courtemanche after twenty-seven years of service as the Financial Tax Clerk. Mr. Groh commented on her wealth of knowledge and the high quality of work she did. The interview process has begun today and will be followed by a second set of interviews. This will be on the agenda at the next Board of Selectmen’s Meeting.

NEW HIRE – BUILDING OFFICIAL

The process is not yet complete and will be on the agenda for the next Board of Selectmen’s Meeting.

APPROVAL OF RECREATION SUMMER EMPLOYEES

Mr. Groh received a letter from Recreation Director Renee Waldron, with a list of recommended summer camp employees and a temporary summer office clerk. Mr. Groh read the recommendations into the record.

Motion made by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to approve the recommendations for Recreation Department summer employees as read.

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

Discussion on Motion: Mr. Smith asked if all candidates are Thompson Residents. Ms. Thomas of the Recreation Commission stated that all but one are Thompson residents, and the remaining person is a former Thompson citizen now residing in Woodstock.

INTERN FOR PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT –CORINA DYMERETS

Mr. Groh stated that Corina Dymereets will be volunteering in the Planning and Development Office this summer, as well as in surrounding towns.

MOVING OF POLLING PLACE TO THOMPSON LIBRARY/COMMUNITY CENTER

Mr. Groh stated that he would like to begin a conversation of possibly moving the polling place to the Thompson Library/Community Center. This subject is often addressed during budget negotiations, and we need to consider the impact on voter turn-out and any cost savings. This could be considered for the District #2 site, or as a town-wide site. Several citizens expressed concerns. Mr. Kenney, Registrar of Voters, stated that the cost savings would be between \$900 to \$1,100 per referendum or election, and that any decision needs to be made by the legislative body. Mr. Beausoleil stated that getting figures earlier in the budget season would be helpful.

APPROVAL OF NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Mr. Groh read the Notice of Town Meeting into the record. The Town Meeting will include choosing a moderator, authorizing the Board of Selectmen to accept a \$50,000.00 payment on the River Mill Small Cities Loan, authorizing a two year tax freeze and three year tax phase in on the River Mill Housing Project, approving an Agriculture Commission Ordinance, approving a Right to Farm Ordinance, and adopting a resolution to enter into a regional revaluation contract. Mr. Groh gave a brief history of the River Mill Housing Project. Mr. Kress stated that his Small Cities Loan was not forgiven when a portion of the period was not met. Mr. Charron stated that he was in a similar situation and needed to pay back his Small Cities Loan. He inquired about the terms of the remainder of the Loan. Mr. Groh stated that no part of this loan is being forgiven and the schedule of repayment will be reviewed by Town Attorney. He distributed a draft of the timeline of the River Mill Housing Project to the Board, and read it into the record. Ms. Fifield asked about the age restriction. Mr. Landry noted that Planning and Zoning Commission has not yet signed the official mylar; the copy signed was not accepted by Town Clerk. Mr. Craver, Mr. Thomas and Mr. Smith requested more information before the Town Meeting. Mr. Groh will have an information packet available at the Selectman's Office by Friday June 11, 2010, for interested citizens.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mr. Bell, to approve the Notice of Town Meeting as read, for Wednesday June 16, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Merrill Seney Community Room.

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

Discussion on Motion: There was concern that the town meeting would be well attended, and that we would need to adjourn to a larger venue.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mr. Bell, to change the location of the June 16, 2010 Town Meeting to the TMHS Auditorium.

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

TAX REFUNDS

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

Robert W. Werge \$34.02

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

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no Other Business presented by the Board. Mr. Gaucher made the suggestion to post meetings on the Notice Board in front of Town Hall.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mr. Bell, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:52 p.m.

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

Recorded and transcribed by:
Lynn Landry