



SELECTMEN'S MEETING

May 4, 2010

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, May 4, 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; Rich Hosford – Villager Newspapers; Karenza Konesni – WINY Radio; Norma O'Leary, John Rice; Carolyn Werge; Paul Schmidt - URS Corporation; Steve Benoit; Kevin Walsh; Kevin Beno; Joseph Gaucher; Paul Dery; Al Landry; Fran Morano; David Kress; Paul Horanzy; Renee Waldron; Kathy LeBlanc; Randolph Blackmer; Peter Orr; other concerned citizens

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Mr. Bell to approve the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting of April 20, 2010, the Special Selectmen's Meeting of April 27, 2010 and the Special Selectmen's Meeting of April 29, 2010. Motion was seconded by Mr. Beausoleil with the following amendment: That the minutes of the Special Selectmen's Meeting of April 27, 2010 should include under Job Description of the Zoning and Wetlands Enforcement Officer "combined position include ongoing training as deemed necessary by both Commissions".

<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 correspondence from the Office of Policy and Management concerning the Grand List. The information has been forwarded to the Assessor.

Mr. Groh presented a request from Guy Daigle, TMHS Art Teacher, to place his sculpture of Abraham Lincoln on town property.

Mr. Groh had received correspondence stating that the U. S. Census Bureau would be working in the area.

Mr. Groh presented correspondence concerning the Small Cities Grant for the Town Hall ADA Project. There will be a review on May 11, 2010.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Beausoleil commented on the Board of Finance meetings during the budget process and acknowledged the necessity of making difficult decisions in this economic climate.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Norma O'Leary of the Thompson Together Environment Committee reported a successful April roadside clean-up, with almost 125 miles cleaned. There was less trash than in past years; over 300 people participated in this effort. Mr. Groh stated his appreciation of these efforts and of the effectiveness of ongoing litter clean-up and the welcome signs at the entrances to town.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF JOB DESCRIPTIONS FOR BUILDING OFFICIAL AND ZONING & WETLANDS ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Mr. Groh read the qualifications of this position into the record. He stated that the goals in consolidating the position were to offer effective, efficient and quality service to our citizens. This is a Union position and is currently being posted internally. Mr. Groh stated that he had asked Kevin Kennedy, Director of Planning and Development, to work with him to create the Job Description under discussion tonight. He had spoken with several present and past members of the Commissions. He commented that this idea has been entertained in the past; budget concerns and the resignation of the current Wetlands Enforcement Officer moved it forward. Fran Morano, who has served on the Inland Wetlands Commission since 1988, stated her concerns regarding no formal input by the Commission and that much of the progress achieved by the Commission could be undermined if the job is handled incorrectly. Tom Rysiewski and Howard Peck of the Commission also expressed their concerns. Norma O'Leary and John Rice expressed their concerns regarding the training and abilities of any potential candidate. Paul Dery spoke of the necessity of consolidation from the budget standpoint.

Mr. Beausoleil commented on the Special Selectmen's Meeting of April 27, 2010 when this was discussed and that both Commissions could direct special training. John Rice requested further information on this subject. Mr. Beausoleil read that portion of the Job Description into the record. There are certifications for both Zoning Enforcement and Wetland Enforcement.

Mr. Groh had received information from B. H. Davis, former Inland Wetlands Commission member regarding the job description and qualifications. There was a discussion of the difference in probationary periods for an existing Union employee (60) days and a new employee, which would be longer. Harry Coman requested information on ongoing training. Mr. Groh stated that the training would be incorporated into the work schedule.

There was a consensus to move forward with the job description and to finalize it at the next Selectmen's Meeting on May 18, 2010.

Regarding the Building Official Job Description, Mr. Groh stated that the Building Official would report directly to the First Selectman of Thompson. There is a Memorandum of

Understanding that summarized the position and the reporting structure. There is a requirement for licensure by State statute. The Building Official will spend a partial day in each town each day, and use the appropriate town vehicle to perform inspections. Mr. Beno inquired about the cost savings and Mr. Groh replied that the savings would be up to \$38,000.00 per year.

Motion made by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Groh, to accept the Job Description of the shared Building Official with Putnam.

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

Discussion on Motion: Mr. Bell acknowledged the need to address the budget constraints.

DEPARTMENT BUDGET -- TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

Mr. Groh presented information from Mike Martin, Director of Finance, regarding the financial requirements of a potential retirement of a Financial Tax Clerk in the Tax Collector's Office. It would be a total of \$2,132.83 to fund the position from June 24, 2010 to the end of the fiscal year. This will be for the 35 hour/week position currently being held by a potential retiree.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mr. Bell to have the First Selectman approach the Board of Finance to request \$2,132.83 for the position in the Tax Collector's Office.

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

DISCUSSION ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET

Mr. Groh stated that the Annual Town Meeting will be held on May 17, 2010 at 8:00 p.m. at the TMHS Auditorium. The budget for FY 2010/2011 will be for \$22,117,614. There will be a referendum held on May 26, 2010 from Noon to 8:00 p.m. in the regular polling places. The equalized mill rate is .9998, with the actual mill rate at 2.794. The factors involved in this budget include: a 9% overall decrease in the Grand List, consolidation in the general government budget, the loss of twenty-two positions at the school, increase in health care costs, less revenue from the State, increasing fuel costs, anticipated legal fees associated with Union negotiations, additional primary elections being anticipated at the State and Federal levels, and funding the snow removal budget in a more realistic manner.

There was a general discussion of consolidating our polling places. This has been discussed by the Board of Finance and would need to be addressed in an ordinance.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION REQUESTS FOR ORDINANCES --AGRICULTURE COMMISSION ORDINANCE

--RIGHT TO FARM ORDINANCE

Carolyn Were gave a brief history of the AGvocate Grant and presented a packet to the board of Selectmen concerning the formation of an Agriculture Commission, to be advisory to the Board of Selectmen, and of a Right to Farm Ordinance. This is in accordance with the Plan of Conservation and Development accepted on November 23, 2009. The commission would have five regular members and four alternates, with staggered five year terms.

Mr. Groh will ask the Town Attorney and The Ordinance Review Committee for their input. There was a general consensus to move forward with this agenda item.

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to move Agenda Items 11 and 12 (Conservation of "Cold Spring" Parcel and Heritage Way Conservation Easement) to Items 8 a) and 8 b).

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

CONSERVATION OF "COLD SPRING" PARCEL

Ms. Werge, Conservation Officer, gave a brief history of the "Cold Spring" parcel on Quaddick Town Farm Road. This .78 parcel was deeded to the Town of Thompson on the death of Ernest and Julia Rizel approximately two years ago. The Conservation Commission regards this as a historic site that should be preserved. There should be a legal opinion regarding liability. Mr. Groh will ask Town Attorney for his opinion and return this issue to the Board at a future meeting.

HERITAGE WAY CONSERVATION EASEMENT

The infringement of the conservation easement on Heritage Way has been discussed by the Board at previous meetings. The original DEP Grant contains no documentation requiring boundary markers. Ms. Werge is recommending an A-2 Survey. Mr. Groh will contact the landowner to request the A-2 Survey and the placing of appropriate markers.

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to table this item until the next meeting.

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

RECOMMENDATION FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES RFP FOR MARIANAPOLIS SEWER PROJECT

Paul Schmidt of URS, Rocky Hill, Ct. presented information concerning his firm and the potential 12/8/09 contract for the Marianapolis Sewer Project. Mr. Groh gave a brief overview of the project. The Quality Review Committee has presented a recommendation concerning the current bids. There is a substantial difference in price. In a letter dated April 28, 2010, the Quality Review Committee recommended that the Board of Selectmen select CLA of Norwich, with a bid of 178,050.00

Motion made by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to approve CLA of Norwich, CT for engineering services for the Marianapolis Sewer Project.

<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 noted that this firm was recommended by the Quality Review Committee in a letter dated April 28, 2010 and by a letter from the chair of the WPCA.

RECOMMENDATION FOR WEBSITE SERVICES RFP

An RFP from the Website Committee solicited bids to update our town website. Twelve companies responded and were reviewed by the Committee. There is money budgeted for this item and it needs to be user-friendly and accessible. There was a discussion of the current website and suggestions from concerned citizens.

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Bell, to have Systems Solutions design a website pending Town of Thompson retain the current name of the website and the current domain name as a condition of contract. The amount of the contract is \$3,350.00.

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

Discussion on Motion: There is \$1,000.00 in the current budget and the remaining funds will be taken from the 2010/2011 budget. Mr. Groh stated that the work will not be done unless we know that the money is approved by budget.

REGIONAL REVALUATION CONTRACT

Mr. Groh gave an overview of the regional revaluation process and the cost savings to be realized. There was a consensus to have Town Attorney review this contract, then bring it to the Board of Selectmen and than to Town Meeting.

TAX REFUNDS

There were no tax refunds at this time.

OTHER BUSINESS

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to add an agenda item concerning Banner Placement on Town Property.

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

REQUEST FOR BANNER PLACEMENT ON TOWN PROPERTY

There was a request received from St. Joseph School to place a banner on the fence in Riverside Park to advertise the Fun Fest.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mr. Bell, to allow St. Joseph School to put up a sign on the fence in Riverside Park on May 5, 2010, to be removed on May 19, 2010.

Mr. Beausoleil -Yes
Mr. Bell -Yes
Mr. Grph -Yes

ADJOURN

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:22 p.m.

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

Recorded and transcribed by:
Lynn Landry