



SELECTMEN'S MEETING

April 6, 2010

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, April 6, 2010, at 7:35 p.m. at the West Thompson Fire Station.

PRESENT: Lawrence K. Groh, Jr., First Selectman; John Bell, Selectman; Kenneth Beausoleil, Selectman; Rich Hosford – Villager Newspapers; Karenza Kaorenski - WINY Radio; Tom Ariari – Norwich Bulletin; Al Landry; Bev Houle; Joseph Gaucher; Paul Joyal; Paul Guillott' Leo Adams, Director of Public Works; Beatrice St. Cyr; Loretta Jolicoeur; Kevin Beno; Cathy Moulton; Michelle Rickaby; Michael Vandi; Maurice Viens; Brenda Duquette; Paul Duquette; Lawrence Houle, Jr.; Paul Horanzy; Normand Berger; Adrien LaPalme; Robert LeBeau; Kevin Walsh; Andy Scott; Shawn Donohoe; Adam Stein; Kevin Bergeron; Pam Ricci; Brian Lynch; Sean Raymond; L. Sharpe; Jim Northridge; Mike Germain; Veronica Oleszewski; Kyle Preston; James Seney, Jr.; Ashley Zakrewski; Michael Ladyka; Rebecca Jezierski; Taylor Zakrzewski; Barbara Plasse; Chris Plasse; Gene Raymond; Tim Lueth; Evan Faucher; Ray Preston, Jr.; Mary Preston; Rocco Navarro; John Keefe; Shawn Keefe; Tom Sharpe; Alessandra Seney. James Seney, Sr.; Ed Therrien, Phil Leveille; Diana Couture; other concerned citizens

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the March 16, 2010 meeting will be reviewed at the next regular Board of Selectmen's Meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS

- Mr. Groh commented that the impact of the rain storms has been assessed by Emergency Management Coordinator Steve Benoit and Director of Public Works, Leo Adams.
- Mr. Groh hoped that everyone enjoyed the Easter holiday.
- Mr. Groh thanked the West Thompson Fire Department for hosting this evening's meeting.
- Mr. Beausoleil commented that he attended the Plan of Conservation and Development Meeting at NECCOG on March 30, 2010. Canterbury Selectman Brian Sears is the head of the committee and is looking for volunteers to update segments of this ten year regional plan.
- Mr. Bell stated that it was good to see everyone in attendance tonight. He also commended the Highway Department on doing a good job.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- Mr. Therrien inquired on the status of the Belding Mill site. Mr. Groh stated that this site is privately owned.
- Mr. Germain asked if the Town of Thompson could apply for FEMA assistance to offset the cost of highway repairs. Mr. Groh replied that we have not been eligible in the past; however, Mr. Benoit will pursue this topic and coordinate with the highway foreman and the fire chiefs.
- Mr. Landry announced that the Community Art Show is currently on exhibit for the month of April at the Thompson Public Library/Community Center. The Reception is April 7, 2010 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE REVIEW

Mr. Groh stated that the Ordinance Review Committee was created a couple of years ago to review existing ordinances, suggest updates and bring their recommendations to the Board of Selectmen. The Board will review suggestions. The Board will forward their decisions to Town Attorney and then to Town Meeting.

The Board has received a packet that moved several ordinances to the history section, suggested minor changes and also included a Noise Ordinance. This subject was discussed at the last Board meeting. Many citizens have contacted Mr. Groh with concerns about this ordinance. Mr. Beausoleil also received negative feedback. He had questions concerning enforcement and is not in favor of moving this forward now or in the future.

Mr. Bell stated that this could hurt businesses, add expenses to the town in the area of training, and is not in favor.

Mr. Groh stated that as elected officials, the Board needs to consider what people want.

Mr. Germain commented that we are not a gated community, we are a community of working people with many family activities. He noted that the State has a statute about no unreasonable noise after 10 p.m.

Mr. Landry stated that snow blowing sometimes needs to be done at night, and that Planning and Zoning controls business decibel levels and times of operation. He stated that he town is covered on this issue between the State and Planning and Zoning guidelines.

Mr. Walsh commented that we are not a gated community and asked the Board to stop this issue at this point. He noted that no one has come forward in support of this ordinance.

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, not to move forward with Noise Ordinance 10-129 any further than right here.

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

Mr. Groh expressed his appreciation of the commitment and hard work of this committee. Mr. Beausoleil asked for an update of the Ordinance Committee's schedule. Mr. Groh expects to receive a proposed ordinance concerning outdoor wood burning stoves.

WINN DEVELOPMENT/RIVERMILL HOUSING PROJECT

Mr. Groh gave a brief review of this project and the requests made to the Board of Selectmen. The Board has received the market study from WINN Development, cost estimates for in-kind paving; cost estimates of a tax freeze for two years and scheduled increments of taxes to total five years. Mr. Groh distributed written materials to the Board.

The anticipated cost of in-kind paving would be \$53,886.

The Small Cities Advisory Committee wrote on March 22, 2010 to express their support of the Board of Selectmen's proposal to shift the obligation of the Small Cities Grant to other property, with conditions.

Assessor Sabrina L'Heroux provided written estimates of a tax freeze, with a phase in plan to total five years.

Mr. Groh expressed concerns on the in-kind services for paving and stated that he would prefer to remove that from consideration.

Mr. Beausoleil noted the heavy budget cuts being discussed by the Board of Finance at this time. He agreed with Mr. Groh to shift the Small Cities obligation and present a five year phase in of tax obligation.

Mr. Bell agreed with both Mr. Groh and Mr. Beausoleil. He believes this project is a good idea and that it should move forward to Town Meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mr. Bell, to remove the in-kind paving from consideration for the Town Meeting on April 28, 2010 at the Merrill Seney Community Room, at 7 p.m.

At this time, Mr. Groh asked for comments from those in attendance.

Mr. Therrien expressed concern with paving private property.

Mr. Salkiewicz expressed concern on our school system, our water supply, our fire hydrant pressure and our sewer system. Mr. Groh noted that the water supply and pressure issues are being addressed with the installation of a second water tower. The sewer is currently running at 15 to 20% of capacity.

Mr. Landry noted that the study has a lower number of units than the original plan.

Mr. Stein asked if the five year plan on the tax freeze could be addressed at Town Meeting. Mr. Groh stated that it could be further discussed at that time.

Ms. Couture asked for clarification on the zone change. Mr. Scott noted that no businesses were lost due to the zone change, only due to economic reasons. Mr. Donohoe noted that existing businesses will be allowed to expand by 25%, and retail businesses would be allowed.

Mr. Groh called for the vote on the above motion.

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

MARIANAPOLIS SEWER PROJECT -- BID OPENING

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

PRESERVATION OF LIFE AWARDS

Mr. Groh called on James Seney, Jr., Chief of Community Fire Department. Mr. Seney stated that on March 28, 2010, six off-duty members of Community Fire Department responded to an accident. He gave the details of the rescue and the timely and crucial response that saved the individual's life.

Mr. Groh noted that all volunteer firefighters do a wonderful job each and every day in protecting our community. He read a Proclamation and Chief Seney presented the Preservation of Life Awards to the following individuals:

Alessandra Seney
Ashley Zakrzewski
Brian Maynard
Michael Ladyka
Kyle Preston
John Sharpe.

RESIGNATION OF WETLANDS ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

With regret, Mr. Groh accepted the resignation of Judith C. Rondeau, Wetlands Enforcement Officer. He noted that Ms. Rondeau has been a dedicated employee and has served the town above and beyond the job description.

APPROVAL OF NOTICE OF TOWN MEETING

Mr. Groh presented the Board with copies of the call to Town Meeting. The venue will be the Merrill Seney Room at Town Hall. The three items on the agenda will be shifting the Small Cities obligation from the River Mill to another location, the plan for a two year tax freeze, coming up to full tax value in year five for the River Mill Project, and the Municipal Energy Conservation Block Grant.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mr. Bell, to bring the above items to Town Meeting on Wednesday April 28, 2010 at 7 p.m. in the Merrill Seney Community Room at Town Hall, with the corrections as outlined.

Mr. Beausoleil -Yes
Mr. Bell -Yes

Mr. Groh -Yes

REQUEST FROM TMHS BAND TO DISPLAY BANNER ON TOWN PROPERTY

There is a request from the TMHS Band to display a banner to announce the Spring Concert on April 29, 2010, to be removed on the following day. They are also hosting a concert by the U.S. Navy Band on April 22, 2010.

Motion made by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to allow the TMHS Band to display a banner on town property advertising their Spring Concert on April 29, 2010, to be removed the day following the event.

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

APPROVAL OF RFP FOR WEBSITE SERVICES

There has been a committee working to update the town's web-site. The plan is to redesign the website to make it more user-friendly and timely. The anticipated cost is approximately \$3,000.00. The RFPs will be opened at the next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen on April 20, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mr. Bell, to send out a RFP, to redesign the town's website, to be closed no later than Noon on Tuesday April 20, 2010.

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

REQUEST TO USE TRANSFER STATION – VFW POST 10088 LADIES AUXILIARY

The VFW Post 1088 Ladies Auxiliary has requested to use the Transfer Station on May 28, 29, 30 and 31, 2010 to distribute poppies for Memorial Day.

Motion made by Mr. Bell, who is also a past Commander of the VFW, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to allow the VFW Post 10088 Ladies Auxiliary to distribute poppies for Memorial Day at the Transfer Station.

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

Discussion on Motion: Mr. Groh requested that Mr. Adams, Director of Public Works, inform the Transfer Station staff and ensure the safety of the citizens.

DISCUSSION ON BUDGET

At the last Board of Finance Meeting, Mr. Groh received a request to examine any cost savings measures for the Town Hall. It is important to maintain services and to be effective and efficient. Mr. Groh noted the resignation of the Wetlands Enforcement Officer. He had requested the Finance Director to compute any cost savings if the Wetlands Enforcement Officer position was combined with the Zoning Enforcement Officer position. The new position would be for 35 hours and represent a savings of \$8,249.40. Mr. Groh noted that one position is Union, and he would need to investigate the implications of any change. He commented that additional training would be required. There was a consensus to explore this proposal.

Mr. Groh is also proposing restructuring job duties of two positions to create a Customer Service position to float between departments as needed. Mr. Groh will meet with the Union and contact the Labor Attorney. Mr. Groh asked if there would be consensus for this proposal. Mr. Beausoleil and Mr. Bell agreed to explore this option.

Mr. Groh's final proposal was to share our Building Official with the Town of Putnam, with each town employing the Building Official for 20 hours and sharing equally the salary, health insurance costs and benefits. There is a cost savings of approximately \$15,000.00. This proposal will also be addressed by the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance in Putnam. Mr. Bell noted that this is a good idea and would save money. We may want to reconsider the arrangement if building increases. Mr. Beausoleil emphasized that the current Building Official position would be primarily of the Town of Thompson.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mr. Bell, to give the First Selectman the authority to pursue this proposal for Putnam and Thompson to jointly share the services of the Building Official.

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

Discussion on Motion: There is no Union impact with this proposal.

TAX REFUNDS

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

\ Sacred Heart Church \$1,598.84

Mr. Groh -Yes
Mr. Bell -Yes
Mr. Bausoleil -Yes

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:32 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