



SELECTMEN'S MEETING March 2, 2010

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, March 2, 2010, at 7:32 p.m. in the Merrill Seney Community Room.

PRESENT: Lawrence K. Groh, Jr., First Selectman; John Bell, Selectman; Kenneth Beausoleil, Selectman; Jim Esslinger – Worcester Telegram & Gazette; Kerensa Konesni - WINY Radio; Rich Hosford – Thompson Villager; Robert Werge; Carolyn Werge; Kevin Walsh; Steve Benoit; Kathy LeBlanc; Suzanne Wargo; Ida Ranson; Cathy Thomas; Alvan R. Hill; James Naum; Michael Martin; Shawn Donahoe; Adam Stein; Andy Scott; James Kenney; Joseph Gaucher; Al Landry; Robert Shippee, Jr.; Steve Benoit; Paul Dery; John Rice; 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 1, 2010, February 2, 2010, February 8, 2010, February 9, 2010 and February 16, 2010, and the regular Selectmen's Meeting of February 16, 2010, as presented.

<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 Northeast CT Chamber of Commerce.
- Mr. Groh presented the monthly statistic report from Troop D, CT State Police.
- Mr. Groh presented correspondence concerning public hearings for a proposed water rate increase. The local hearing will be on Tuesday, March 9, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at the Killingly High School.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS

- Mr. Groh announced that there will be a free H1N1 Flu Clinic held at the Thompson Public Library/Community Center from 5-7 p.m. on March 16, 2010. This is being organized for Thompson residents by Emergency Management Coordinator Steve Benoit.
- Mr. Bell inquired if there is an ordinance requiring property owners to clear their sidewalks of snow. Mr. Groh stated that we do have such an ordinance.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- Ms. Wargo commented on the dangerous condition of Wilsonville Road, especially near 12 Wilsonville Road. She requested that the Department of Public Works place a sign informing motorists of the frost heaves. Mr. Werge also commented on the condition of this road. Mr. Groh noted that this road has been discussed in budget deliberations.
- Mr. Shippee inquired on the status of the Junk Vehicle Ordinance. Mr. Groh replied that action will soon be taken.
- Mr. Gaucher requested that one of the Selectmen attend the water rate public hearings. He asked if there will be any effect on fire hydrants. Mr. Groh noted that written information indicates there will be no increase in 2010.
- Mr. Rice asked if the Troop D report contains information on the number of crimes. Mr. Groh replied that this report does not have that information.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

BUDGET WORKSHOPS – ALL DEPARTMENTS

Finance Director Michael Martin provided a visual representation of the proposed budget, and paper copies were given to citizens. Most of the \$80,129 increase in the General Town budget is due to the 1.5% negotiated union raise, fuel costs, a 15% increase in health insurance costs and an increase in pension costs. At this point, the working budget would mean a 3.138 mill increase. This report is slated to be posted on the town website on March 5, 2010. There were several questions from citizens regarding the budget and explanations were made by Mr. Groh. Mr. Martin also noted that there will be a public hearing for the Tourtellotte Trust Fund immediately preceding the March 11, 2010 Board of Finance meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mr. Bell, to present the budget to the Board of Finance on Thursday March 11, 2010 at 7 p.m. at the Thompson Public Library/Community Center, as presented here tonight.

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

WINN DEVELOPMENT PRESENTATION – RIVERMILL HOUSING PROJECT

Mr. Donohoe, of 929 Riverside Drive LLC, gave a brief history of the proposed project and stated that his firm had received a zoning change to Neighborhood /Commercial in September, 2009, and in February 2010 had received approval, with conditions, from the Planning and Zoning Commission to use a section of the River Mill for residential development.

Mr. Stein, of WINN Development, gave an overview of the plan, which would involve four stories of residences, providing 76 units for a 55 and older project. He is asking for support from the Town of Thompson in the form of a resolution, and also financial support. Their suggested forms of financial support options included infrastructure improvements to River Street, utility improvements in the area, a reduction in building permit fees, a freeze of property taxes for five years, with a 20% increase for the next five years, and full property tax at 10 years, or having the town release, or relocate to another property, the \$385,000 Small Cities Grant on the River Mill to another property.

They foresee a 12 to 14 month construction period.

They would like to be on the Board of Selectmen's agenda in two weeks, allowing the Board the opportunity to review the information and tour the facility.

Mr. Scott noted that WINN Development has an April 1, 2010 deadline for state and federal funding for this project. The support of the Town would increase the likelihood of obtaining these funds.

There was a general discussion of this project with input from citizens.

There will be a Special Selectmen's Meeting on Thursday at March 4, 2010, at 5 p.m., to tour the River Mill and look at the plans. They will meet at Tower One.

MARIANAPOLIS SEWER PROJECT –QUALIFICATION OF THREE ENGINEERING COMPANIES AND RFP

Motion made by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to rescind the motion voted on November 17, 2009 naming URS of Rocky Hill as the project engineering firm 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 stated that at that time, time was of the essence with a 12/31/2009 target date for applications to be made. No action has been taken by URS.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mr. Bell, to qualify CME of Woodstock, CLA Engineers of Norwich, and URS of Rocky Hill, and allow Kevin Kennedy, Town Planner, to solicit proposals for the Marianapolis Sewer Project, and move the project forward.

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

REQUEST TO USE MERRILL SENEY COMMUNITY ROOM ON APRIL 10, 2010 – THOMPSON TOGETHER

Mr. Groh stated that Thompson Together, a private non-profit organization, has requested to use the Merrill Seney Community Room on April 10, 2010 from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. for a fundraiser tag sale. Renee Waldron will be asked to open and close the building.

Motion made by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to allow Thompson Together Committee to use the Merrill Seney Community Room for a tag sale on April 10, 2010 form 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

REQUEST TO CLOSE MAIN STREET ON APRIL 17, 2010 – THOMPSON LITTLE LEAGUE

Mr. Groh received a letter from the Thompson Little League regarding the annual parade. Their organization will arrange for State Police and Community Fire Company coverage.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mr. Bell, to allow the Thompson Little League to conduct their Opening Day Celebration on Saturday April 17, 2010, from 11 a.m. as stated for the duration of the parade, with a rain date of April 18, 2010.

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

APPOINTMENTS TO RECREATION COMMISSION –CYNTHIA ANTOS, ROBERT MONAHAN AND MICHAEL SANTERRE

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mr. Bell, to reappoint Michael Santerre, Robert Monahan and Cynthia Antos to the Recreation Commission, terms to expire April 15, 2013.

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

THOMPSON MUNICIPAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT FOR \$51,729.00

Mr. Groh gave provided information regarding this grant, which will primarily be used to upgrade the Town Hall furnace, and possibly to use any remaining funds for green initiatives for the Social Services Building.

Motion made by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to ask the Board of Finance for expenditure of \$51,729 for Municipal Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant.

Mr. Bell -Yes

Mr. Beausoleil -Yes
Mr. Groh -Yes

Discussion on Motion: Mr. Groh stated that a Town Meeting for this agenda item will be held at a later date and grouped with other items.

PROBATE COURT LOCATION

Mr. Groh expressed his concerns over the consolidation of the Probate Courts and reported on several options that were presented to the Council of Governments. There was a discussion of the facility needs and record retention needs of the Probate Court. There was a consensus for Mr. Groh to prepare a proposal for Thompson to host the regional Probate Court.

REQUEST FOR LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR WYNDHAM LAND TRUST IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NATURE CONSERVANCY TO APPLY FOR A GRANT TO PURCHASE 123.5 ACRES OF LAND IN EAST THOMPSON FOR PERMANENT PRESERVATION

Conservation Officer Carolyn Werge presented information on the Wyndham Land Trust, the DEP Open Space Acquisition Program and the Nature Conservancy regarding the potential property for permanent preservation.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mr. Bell, that we send a letter of support to benefit the Wyndham Land Trust in acquiring the 123.5 acre parcel.

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

Discussion on Motion: Mrs. Werge will facilitate delivering letters of support to the Wyndham Land Trust.

TAX REFUNDS

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

Michael Kozlowski \$85.90

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Rice asked if there will be a Town Meeting on the WINN Development Project negotiations.
Mr. Groh will consult the Town Attorney.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Bell, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:05 p.m.

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

Recorded and transcribed by:
Lynn Landry