



## SELECTMEN'S MEETING December 15, 2009

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, December 15, 2009, at 7:35 p.m. at the East Thompson Fire Station.

**PRESENT:** Lawrence K. Groh, Jr., First Selectman; John Bell, Selectman; Kenneth Beausoleil, Selectman; Jim Esslinger – Worcester Telegram & Gazette; Jonathen Duvall - WINY Radio; Al Landry; Joseph Gaucher; Steve Benoit; Paul Dery; Robert Shippee, Sr.; Joyce Mezzoni; Frank Mezzoni; Shawn Donahoe; Leo Adams, Director of Public Works; Winston Averill; other concerned citizens

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Motion made by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to accept the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting of December 1, 2009 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 the monthly report from Troop D.

Mr. Groh presented correspondence form Connecticut Water concerning proposed rate increases after January 4, 2010.

### SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS

- Mr. Groh thanked the East Thompson Fire Department for hosting this evening's meeting, which is part of the Board's efforts to involve citizens in every part of Thompson.
- Mr. Groh extended his best wishes for citizens to enjoy a safe and happy holiday season and to celebrate responsibly. He also asked that we remember the veterans serving overseas at this time.
- Mr. Beausoleil reminded citizens of the effects of overindulgence and increased accidents at this time of year.
- Mr. Beausoleil commented that the Town Treasurer reports there will be shortfalls in the Special Education Fund and in the collection of property taxes.

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## CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- Ms. Mezzoni asked if different methods of collecting taxes have been explored, such as quarterly payments or electronic debits. Mr. Groh replied that although these programs have not been discussed in the past, the upcoming budget workshops will be an opportunity to look at these and other suggestions.
- Mr. Gaucher commented that the Connecticut Water Company has recently acquired another company. He asked if there are plans for future improvements in Thompson. Mr. Groh replied that there will be a new water tower behind the former Quinn's Shirt Shop, which will alleviate pressure problems, especially regarding fire hydrants. Connecticut Water will also upgrade systems when roads are under repair.
- Mr. Landry commented on a recent Norwich Bulletin article concerning downed trees in another municipality, resulting in a lengthy road closing. Mr. Groh stated that, with any such occurrence in Thompson, Mr. Adams would clear the roads unless electric lines were involved.

## OLD BUSINESS

None.

## NEW BUSINESS

### *APPOINTMENTS FOR SPECIAL POLICE*

Mr. Groh read a list of proposed Special Fire Police, from the Quinebaug and Thompson Hill Fire Companies: Richard Asal, Ronald Tillen, Wayne Newcombe, Aaron McGarry, Joseph Garceau, and Michelle Harvanek.

*Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mr. Bell, to accept the proposed candidates for Special Fire Police in the Town of Thompson, terms to expire on November 22, 2011.*

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

### *APPOINTMENT FOR CONSTABLE*

Mr. Groh received a recommendation from the Thompson Republican Town Committee to appoint Joseph Garceau to fill one of the vacancies for Constable.

*Motion made by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to appoint Joseph Garceau as Constable, term to expire on November 22, 2011.*

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

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Mr. Groh -Yes

**APPOINTMENT FOR FAIR HOUSING OFFICER**

*Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mr. Bell, to appoint Kevin Kennedy as Fair Housing Officer, term to expire November 22, 2011.*

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

**APPOINTMENT TO SMALL CITIES ADVISORY BOARD/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
APPOINTMENT OF AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY**

Mr. Groh stated that he had not yet received confirmation regarding a candidate for this position. No action was taken.

**STREET SWEEPER BID AWARD**

Mr. Groh reviewed the history of this matter and asked Mr. Adams, Director of Public Works, for his recommendation. Mr. Adams reviewed the specifications of the equipment and presented a brief overview of street sweeper/catch basin cleaner's various features and how it would be utilized. He commented that there is a five year warranty on parts, and a six year warranty on mechanical features. His recommendation is to purchase the Elgin from C.N. Wood for \$197,415.00. Mr. Beausoleil asked if the lowest bid, from Casey and Duprey Equipment Corporation would also meet our needs. Mr. Adams confirmed that it would also meet our needs.

*Motion made by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to purchase a Street Sweeper/Catch Basin Cleaner from Casey and Duprey Equipment Corporation for \$188,000.00.*

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

Discussion on motion: Mr. Groh stated that in a reverse auction bid, such as this one sponsored by CCM, we need to go with the lowest bid, unless there are compelling reasons.

**FINAL APPROVAL OF CASELLA CONTRACT**

Mr. Groh distributed additional information to the Board. He asked Mr. Averill to provide an overview of the situation. Mr. Averill has been Town of Thompson's consultant for over fifteen years for issues regarding solid and hazardous waste disposal. He reviewed the background on the proposed contract for disposing of MSW(municipal solid waste) and Bulky Waste, along with Thompson's unique situation of hauling our own waste, which results in a cost savings. The Town Attorney has reviewed the proposed contract.

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*Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mr. Bell, to have the First Selectman be given the authority to sign this contract, upon final review by Town Attorney that it meets all of our requirements.*

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

**RELEASE OF MORTGAGES – DONOHOE**

Mr. Donahoe gave an overview of the mortgages and ownership of several parcels of land originally owned by River Mill. He is asking that the Town release two of the three mortgages. There was a lengthy discussion.

*Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mr. Bell, that the Town of Thompson does hereby release and discharge two certain mortgages from Shawn C. Donahoe to the Town of Thompson dated November 5, 1997 and recorded a Volume 382, page 278, and Volume 382, pages 287, respectively, of the Thompson Land Records.*

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

Concerning the issue of the third mortgage of \$384,000.00 on 929 River Mill, Mr. Groh stated that he was not prepared to act on this issue at this time. The funds were used to install energy efficient measures and to seek job creation. This work was inspected and signed off by the State. There was a discussion concerning releasing the portion of the mortgage that is held on a twenty-two acre piece of land that is behind Friendly Market on Riverside Drive, in order to gain free title of said property. Mr. Groh will seek clarification from the Town Attorney and bring this information to the Board.

**ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr. Groh attended the December 1, 2009 meeting of the Ordinance Review Committee. He distributed copies to the Board of the proposed changes to the Abandoned Motor Vehicle Ordinance and the Garbage/Transfer Station Ordinance. He asked that the Board review these two proposals so that they could be reviewed at the next Selectmen’s Meeting and presented at a January 2010 Town Meeting. There was a brief discussion of the changes and the need for Ordinance Numbers for enforcement. When ordinances are approved at Town Meeting, they become effective fifteen days after the date of the Town Meeting.

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**TAX REFUNDS**

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

-Phillip D. and Lorna E. Boucher..... \$ 97.23  
Vincent J. Zito.....\$ 7.40  
Lisa J. and William A. Barrette..... \$142.59  
Toyota Motor Credit Corporation..... \$ 27.49

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

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Groh requested that the Board schedule a Town Meeting in late January. Agenda items will include Ordinances for Junk Vehicles, the Transfer Station, and the Opt-out/Opt-in choice for properties along the proposed Marianapolis Sewer Line; Airline Trail Grant Fund distribution; and the proposed Marianapolis Sewer Line. The tentative date of Wednesday, January 27, was chosen. Mr. Groh will consult Town Attorney.

**ADJOURN**

*Motion made by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:35 p.m.*

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

Recorded and transcribed by:  
Lynn Landry