



SELECTMEN'S MEETING September 1, 2009

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, September 1, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. in the Merrill Seney Community Room.

PRESENT: Lawrence K. Groh, Jr., First Selectman; Sarah F. White, Selectman; Kathleen A. Hiatt, Selectman; Sarah Hamby – Worcester Telegram & Gazette; Craig Tiffany - WINY Radio; Matt Sanderson – Villager Newspapers; Charles Seney; Dick Trudeau; John Rice; Lis Burton; Scott Sampson - Casella Company; Leo Adams, Director of Public Works; Ken Beausoleil; Al Landry; Karen Flanders – Casella Company; John Farese – Casella Company; Kevin Walsh; Paul Dery; Joseph Gaucher; Norma O'Leary; Winston Averill; John Rice; Kathleen Herbert; Steve Benoit; other concerned citizens

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to accept the minutes of the Selectmen's meeting of August 18, 2009, with the correction that Miss White abstained from the motion to appoint Alexandra Martin to the Town's Ordinance Committee.

<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Miss White</i>	<i>-Abstain</i>

CORRESPONDENCE

- Mr. Groh presented correspondence from CCM concerning the effects of the State budget on Thompson.
- Mr. Groh presented correspondence concerning the certification of fire officials, with Mr. Hayes as Fire Marshall and Mr. Seney as Fire Investigator.
- Mr. Groh presented correspondence concerning the State budget.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS

- Mr. Groh commented that Tourtellotte Memorial High School will be rededicated on September 9, 2009 at 9:00 a.m., and that this ceremony is open to the public.
- Mr. Groh announced that the next WPCA meeting will be held on Wednesday September 9, 2009 at 7:00 p.m., and will be held at the Thompson Public Library/Community Center. On the agenda for that meeting will be the Marianapolis sewer issue.
- Mr. Groh thanked the volunteers, including Lis Burton, who dedicated countless hours to work on the Tourtellotte Memorial Room.

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- Mr. Groh commented on the upcoming anniversary of September 11, and the effect on our country.
 - Ms. Hiatt reminded citizens to not drink and drive, especially during the upcoming Labor Day holiday weekend.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- Mr. Gaucher commented on the continuing traffic problems on Buckley Hill Road. Mr. Groh noted that Troop D, CT State Police, have been active in town.

OLD BUSINESS

RESIGNATION OF FINANCE CLERK

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to increase the hours of the remaining Finance Clerk from thirty-five (35) to forty (40). The motion was modified by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to forward this matter to the Board of Finance.

<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Miss White</i>	<i>-No</i>

Discussion on Motion: Mr. Groh stated that we extend our thanks to Mrs. Hamel for her hard work in that office and for her many years of dedication.

CASELLA CONTRACT

Present for this discussion were Winston Averill, Waste and Recycling Consultant for Thompson, John Farese, General Manager of Casella's Southbridge Processing Plant and Landfill, Karen Flanders, Director of Environmental Compliance for Casella, and Scott Sampson, a sales manager for Casella, who is based in Southbridge. The contract with Casella has been approved by the Board of Selectmen at a previous meeting, and is being reviewed by Town Attorney. A discussion was held. Ms. Hiatt requests that any opinions or concerns from the Board be provided to the First Selectmen, who will forward those concerns to Town Attorney.

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Miss White, that the First Selectman present the final draft contract to the Board prior to his signing it, and that any comments by the Board be provided to the First Selectman by Friday, September 4, 2009 at noontime.

<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Miss White</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

A further discussion was held, with Miss White expressing her concerns and Ms. Hiatt providing the board with her research on Casella.

NEW BUSINESS

SOCIAL SERVICE BUILDING RFP

John Rice, Chairperson of the Social Service Building Committee, presented a drawing and layout of the proposed building. He suggested that the RFP be renamed Invitation to Bid, and that two additional paragraphs be added, specifically to include language of Federal Funding and Affirmative Action. A discussion followed.

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to go out with the Invitation to Bid as presented, with further wage and affirmative action informational paragraphs. Ms. Hiatt amended her motion to specify that this is for Phase One Construction.

<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Miss White</i>	<i>-Abstain</i>

TAX ABATEMENT ON TWO TOWN OWNED PROPERTIES

There was a brief discussion concerning two properties that have been donated to the Town of Thompson and accepted by Town Meeting.

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to abate the property taxes on 0 Wagher Road for \$43.70, and 0 Richwood Ave for \$36.18.

<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Miss White</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

SET DATE FOR TOWN MEETING

A brief discussion was held concerning topics for an upcoming town meeting.

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt to hold a Town Meeting on October 8, 2009 at 8p.m. to act upon the \$94,000 USDA Grant, the Open Space and Conservation Easement for Fairway Farms, and the extension of Lillian Avenue and the open space for that subdivision. No second was made. Ms. Hiatt withdrew the motion.

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Ms. Hiatt, to move Agenda Item 6)h) to this time in the meeting.

<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

Miss White -No

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to authorize the First Selectman to go to the Board of Finance for approval of the \$94,000.00 expenditure concerning the Social Service Building Project.

Ms. Hiatt -Yes
Mr. Groh -Yes
Miss White -Yes

Discussion: Miss White requested clarification of the process.

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Miss White, that we hold a Town Meeting on October 8, 2009 at 8 p.m. for the purpose of accepting conservation easements on Neaconn subdivision and the Fairway Farms subdivision, and to accept the USDA Rural Housing Grant of \$94,000.

Ms. Hiatt -Yes
Miss White -Yes
Mr. Groh -Yes

RESIGNATION OF SALLY WHITE FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Mr. Groh received an e-mail from Miss White dated August 20, 2009, stating her desire to resign from the Economic Development Commission. Mr. Groh thanked Miss White for service to that commission and stated that any future help she could provide to them would be appreciated.

APPOINTMENT TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Mr. Groh had received a letter from Brian Yacino, stating his desire to serve on the Economic Development Commission. Donna Barrette, a member of that commission has recommended his appointment.

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to appoint Brian Yacino to the Economic Development Commission, for a period of two years, effective 9-1-09 to 8-31-11.

Ms. Hiatt -Yes
Mr. Groh -Yes
Miss White -Yes

Discussion: A brief discussion of term length and the existing ordinance that created the Economic Development was held.

USDA SWEEPER GRANT RESOLUTION

A brief discussion was held.

Motion by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to sign the Resolution to accept the grant to be reimbursed for the purchase a street sweeper, for a sum not to exceed \$60,270.

Ms. Hiatt -Yes
Mr. Groh -Yes
Miss White -Abstain

USDA SWEEPER GRANT AGREEMENT

A brief discussion was held concerning the need to notify the USDA of any future disposal plans concerning the sweeper.

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Ms. Hiatt, that we enter into the USDA standard agreement.

Mr. Groh -Yes
Ms. Hiatt -Yes
Miss White -No

RAGNAR RELAY SERIES REQUEST TO USE TOWN ROADS

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to allow the Ragnar Relay Series to use part of Thompson roads, pending receipt of their insurance policy to hold the Town of Thompson harmless.

Ms. Hiatt -Yes
Mr. Groh -Yes
Miss White -Opposed

Discussion: Miss White expressed her concerns with the relay race coming through Thompson on 9-12-09 between the hours of 2:30 a.m. and 7 a.m.. Sarah Hamby, Worcester Telegram and Gazette, offered to publish a press release.

TAX REFUNDS

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

Michael J. Skaff	\$14.74
Rhonda L. or Michael D. Tackson	\$23.52
Richard R. Adase	\$70.12
Francis B. LaFramboise	\$14.86
Mary Ann Wexler	\$ 3.95
Michael S. Kelly	\$ 5.12
Jane A. or Roy Norman	\$ 6.15

Jane M. Oltmann	\$72.35
Crystal Cummings Logan	\$63.51
Bruce C. Ream	\$23.91
Ruth M. Simmons	\$11.31

<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Miss White</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Hiatt expressed her concerns regarding a letter to Mr. Lindley about placing the Tourtellotte Memorial High School on the State Historical Registry. Because this is a town building, the Board of Selectmen needs to be involved in this process. A discussion followed, concerning State and Federal Historical designations, restrictions and legal ramifications. Mr. Groh stated that State Historical designation is honorific; however, when receiving State or Federal grant funds, then review by the State Registry and restrictions may apply.

Miss White asked if abutters to the Social Service Building have been notified. Al Landry stated that an informal discussion has taken place at a Planning and Zoning Commission meeting. Kathleen Hebert, of the Social Service Building Committee, will bring this issue to the Committee's next meeting. Mr. Groh will suggest to the next Social Service Building Committee meeting and suggest that they go to the next Planning and Zoning Commission meeting.

Mr. Groh began a discussion of the bid process for the street sweeper. CCM (Connecticut Conference of Municipalities) has a potential online reverse auction site.

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to give the Director of Public Works permission to go out to bid on the street sweeper, with bids to be opened on October 6, 2009, at the regular Selectmen's Meeting to be held at the Old Town Hall.

<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Miss White</i>	<i>-Abstain</i>

Discussion: Miss White requested clarification on the timeline, process and specifications of the bid, and the manner of advertising the Invitation to Bid.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:00 p.m.

<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

Miss White

-No vote recorded.

Recorded and transcribed by:
Lynn Landry