



SELECTMEN'S MEETING July 15, 2008

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, July 15, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. at the Old Town Hall on 2 Chase Road in Thompson.

PRESENT: Lawrence K. Groh, Jr., First Selectman; Sarah F. White, Selectman; Kathleen A. Hiatt, Selectman; Sebrina Heroux, Assessor; Lynn Landry; Al Landry; Joseph Iamartino; Barbara Loy; Joseph Gaucher; Joseph Donovan; Chenoa Pierce – Thompson Villager; James Esslinger – Worcester Telegram & Gazette; WINY Radio; other concerned citizens

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2008 Selectmen's Meeting with two corrections.

Amended motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Miss White, to accept the minutes of the July 1, 2008 Selectmen's Meeting with the corrections as discussed.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

- Mr. Groh presented a 2007 year-end report for the Recreation revolving account.
- Mr. Groh presented correspondence from the State of Connecticut in regard to the Connecticut Integrated Water Quality Report.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS

- Mr. Groh thanked the Thompson Historical Society and Joseph Iamartino for opening up the Old Town Hall for tonight's meeting. Mr. Groh commented that it is a wonderful thing to be in such a historic place where they used to have meetings years ago.
- Mr. Groh commented that Channel 3 news came to the Town Hall to interview him in regard to the hydro site up in Wilsonville. Mr. Groh informed the audience that the Town acquired the water rights and a two-acre parcel on Wilsonville Road as part of a land swap that was completed on June 30th.

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- Mr. Groh commented that he has not received any information from SAS Construction in regard to the Buckley Hill Road project. Mr. Groh stated that he spoke with SAS Construction yesterday and said that the numbers came in high and that SAS Construction would fax the information to Mr. Groh however he has not received anything yet.
 - Mr. Groh commented that the Regional Community Y.M.C.A presentation went well on Thursday, July 10, 2008. Mr. Groh stated that he enjoyed the presentation from Laurence Hale and Jim Scherer.
 - Miss White commented that there is a rope for the bell in the bell tower, at the Old Town Hall, and that in November of 1918 the bell was rung to signal the end of World War I. Miss White stated that the task of ringing the bell was given to a 10 year-old who was her father, Elmer White. Miss White also stated that the Old Town Hall was well used for various purposes.
 - Mr. Groh provided information on the Wilsonville Road traffic issues that were discussed at the last Selectmen's meeting. Mr. Groh provided a listing of what the Town can and cannot do in regard to traffic on local roads. Mr. Groh stated that Wilsonville Road does not have a State speed limit; therefore the Town can change the speed limit to 25 miles per hour. Mr. Groh also explained what "no through truck traffic" means.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

None

TELEPHONE / DATA LINES IN TOWN CLERK AND PROBATE COURT - DISCUSSION

Mr. Groh explained that there was a conflict with fax lines in the Town Clerk's Office and Probate Court. Mr. Groh explained that when the Judge of Probate is using her computer the Town Clerk's fax line cannot be used. Ms. Levesque explained that the modem line used by the Probate Judge would be re-wired to work off of the Probate Court's fax line as opposed to the Town Clerk's fax line to resolve this issue.

BID OPENING FOR REVALUATION – ASSESSOR'S OFFICE - DISCUSSION

The following responses to the Revaluation Request for Proposal were opened:

-Vision Appraisal Northborough, Massachusetts	-\$238,500.00 for revaluation per specifications -\$1,000.00 for litigation costs per diem -\$3,600.00 for pre-data collection mailers
-Tyler Technologies, CLT Division Dayton, Ohio	-\$217,800.00 -\$950.00 for litigation costs per diem -\$3,800 for public information mailing

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Ms. Hiatt, that we give them to our Assessor, have her review these documents to make sure they are per our specs and then report back to the Board in two weeks.

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

Miss White stated that she would like to know historically the last time the Town went through this process, how many organizations bid and what the bids were.

REQUEST FROM RECYCLING ASSOCIATES TO PLACE A RECYCLE BOX AT THE VFW #10088 – ACTION REQUIRED

Mr. Groh presented a request from Recycling Associates to place a recycle box at the VFW for the Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Foundation. Miss White asked why this would come under the purview of the Board. Mr. Groh explained that the VFW is Town property. Miss White asked if the Town owns the American Legion. Mr. Groh stated that the Town does not. Ms. Hiatt stated that she checked the Foundation’s website and that it appears to be a Rhode Island based foundation. Ms. Hiatt stated that she would have no problem contacting the Foundation to see if they serve anyone in Connecticut.

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, that we delay action on this until the first meeting in August.

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

Discussion on Motion: Miss White commented that if there were a similarly situated Connecticut organization and if there wasn’t someone who wanted to take advantage of that then we would certainly want to make the space available.

NO RIGHT TURN AT INTERSECTION OF REARDON ROAD AND MAIN STREET - DISCUSSION

Mr. Groh explained that there was someone who made a claim in regard to damage that was done to their vehicle when it scraped the road where Reardon Road meets Main Street. Mr. Groh stated that this individual has been scraping the bottom of his vehicle for approximately two to three years and is now filing a claim against the Town. Mr. Groh asked if it would be wise to make this a “no right turn” to lessen the liability on the Town. Miss White asked if there were any comments from the citizens. Ms. Hiatt questioned what the amount of traffic is that goes there during the school season and not during the school season. Ms. Hiatt stated that she would like to see this opened up to public comment if the Board decides to take any action. Ms. Hiatt stated she would like to also get input from the Director of Public Works.

Mr. Groh also commented that there are cars parking on the side of Reardon Road on the section that leads to Main Street. Miss White stated that it is her sense at this point to get local citizens comments before doing a top down move. Miss White stated that at first glance she imagines that there are a number of people that come from the roads that empty into that area and that it would be a dramatic change in their lifestyle to not be able to turn right.

Mr. Groh stated that he has asked the Director of Public works to look into this issue and provide possible solutions. Ms. Hiatt suggested a traffic counter to see how many people use the road. Miss White stated that we also have to bear in mind that the road is navigable without causing damage.

Ms. Levesque stated that the bridge by the Library is being repaired which may cause an impact if the traffic is re-routing by a "no right turn" sign. Ms. Levesque also reviewed the Town's liability under the defective highway act. Ms. Levesque stated that this could be deemed a defect because we require people to drive on the other side of the road in order to avoid scraping the road. Mr. Landry stated that part of the issue is the cars parked on the side of the road and parked in the wrong direction.

Miss White asked if there is a way to check accident reports to see if there have been any accidents in that area. Miss White also commented that it is one of those natural inhibitors of speed and so forth because you do have to slow down and that ironically if you change it you might end up having more accidents.

A lengthy discussion followed.

Miss White questioned why Mr. Groh states that this definitely needs to be fixed. Mr. Groh stated that you can see the scrapes on the road and that if vehicles are being damaged then the Town could be liable. Miss White stated that we all know that we have to negotiate it carefully and that one could say that it's part of the character of the town.

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Ms. Hiatt, to table this until the next meeting until we can get some questions answered.

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

Discussion on Motion: Miss White stated that her concern is that there should be an opportunity for public comment. Ms. Hiatt stated that she asked for that to happen. Miss White questioned how it would be advertised. Mr. Donovan pointed out that with the articles by all of the reporters present that there would be plenty of free advertising. A brief discussion followed.

TAX REFUNDS (3)

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

-Mark A & Roberta Baublitz	-\$201.71
-Matthew D or G Chrzanowski	-\$4.83
-William T Galligan	-\$19.31

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

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURN

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Miss White, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:43 p.m.

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

Recorded and transcribed by:
Tonya Levesque