



SELECTMEN'S MEETING August 5, 2008

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, August 5, 2008, 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; Sebrina Heroux, Assessor; Alvan Hill, Building Official; Leo Adams, Director of Public Works; Stephen Benoit, Emergency Management Director; Kevin Walsh; Joseph Gaucher; David Ostrowski; Karen Durlach; Michael Fasshauer; Charles Seney; Steve Houghton; Jody Houghton; James Rice, III.; Al Landry; Laurent Guillot; Robert Werge; Carolyn Werge; Joseph Donovan; Chenoa Pierce – Thompson Villager; James Esslinger – Worcester Telegram & Gazette; WINY Radio; other concerned citizens

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Miss White, seconded by Ms. Hiatt, to accept the minutes of the July 10, 2008 Special Selectmen's meeting as recorded.

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

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Miss White, to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2008 Selectmen's meeting as amended.

<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 correspondence from the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security in regard to the Town of Thompson's Emergency Management Plan. Mr. Groh thanked Mr. Benoit for all of his hard work creating said plan.
- Mr. Groh presented the 2008 year-end report for the Recreation revolving account. Ms. Hiatt requested that the Recreation Director report to the Board in person on a quarterly basis to review the account with the Board.

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- Mr. Groh presented correspondence from the Connecticut State Police in regard to re-arrest warrants.
 - Mr. Groh presented correspondence from Janelle Peiczarka thanking the Board for the award of one of the Tourtellotte Memorial Scholarships.
 - Mr. Groh presented correspondence from the Connecticut Siting Council in regard to the proposed cell tower on Elmwood Hill Road in Putnam.
 - Ms. Hiatt stated that the Board received a thank you note from the Girl Scouts for allowing them to sell cookies at the Transfer Station and that they were able to make their trip to Georgia.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS

- Mr. Groh commented that the Red Cross is going to hold a class on running a shelter at the Quinebaug Fire Department from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. on August 11, 2008.
- Mr. Groh commented that the Thompson Community of Heart is a group in town that is raising money for defibrillators to make Thompson a heart-safe community. Mr. Groh stated that the group is ready to purchase four defibrillators for Thompson Public Schools and one for St. Joseph's School. Mr. Groh also stated that there is training being held for Town staff and the community on how to use the defibrillators and that this is the first time this training has ever been held.
- Mr. Groh commented that work is being done to clean up the Belding Mill site and that plans are in the works to take down the tower and the smoke stack. Mr. Groh stated that there are also plans to work on solar panels and hydroelectric power at the Rivermill.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Ms. Durlach stated that the flowers look great outside of the Town Hall. The Board recognized Al & Lynn Landry for their donation and work on the flowers.

REVALUATION RFP – DISCUSSION/ACTION

The Ms. Heroux, Assessor, gave a presentation on the proposals received for the revaluation project which included Vision Appraisal and Tyler Technologies, CLT Division. Ms. Heroux recommended Tyler Technologies to perform the Town's revaluation.

Ms. Hiatt stated that the Assessor thoroughly briefed the members of the Board on the proposals. Mr. Groh stated that he thinks both companies are well-established and competent. Mr. Groh reviewed the fees proposed by both companies.

-Vision Appraisal	-\$238,500.00 for revaluation per specifications
Northborough, Massachusetts	-\$1,000.00 for litigation costs per diem

-Tyler Technologies, CLT Division - \$3,600.00 for pre-data collection mailers
Dayton, Ohio -\$217,800.00
-\$950.00 for litigation costs per diem
-\$3,800 for public information mailing

Motion made by Miss White, seconded by Ms. Hiatt, that we award the contract for revaluation to Tyler Technologies.

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

Discussion on Motion: Miss White stated for the record that there was a \$20,700.00 difference between the two bids and that it is her sense after reviewing the bids that Tyler Technologies is competent and that she likes their straight-forward approach. Miss White also questioned what the State requirements are for revaluations, if the State requires a certain type of firm and whether or not the revaluation must be outsourced.

Ms. Hiatt thanked Ms. Heroux for thoroughly reviewing the bids and keeping the Board well informed. Miss White stated that Ms. Heroux was also very patient with her.

INTERSECTION OF REARDON ROAD AND MAIN STREET – DISCUSSION/ACTION

Mr. Groh explained that the Board discussed at the last meeting the potential of placing a “no right turn” sign at the intersection of Reardon Road and Main Street. Mr. Groh stated that his research shows that there have not been any known accidents in this area. Mr. Groh stated that the Director of Public Works stated that it would be very costly to re-grade the road.

Mr. Groh read correspondence from Larry LeBeouf in regard to the “no right turn” sign. Mr. LeBeouf states in his e-mail that he is opposed to restricting right turns at that intersection.

Ms. Therrien stated that the restriction would make residents drive around town and this would be a problem especially considering the price of gas. Mr. Groh explained that the discussion was prompted because of a claim made to the Town for damage down to a vehicle that scraped the road.

Mr. Monahan stated that many people are taking Main Street due to the construction on the bridge by the Library. Mr. Monahan stated that with the speeding down Main Street, the right turn restriction may cause accidents. Mr. Monahan suggested a bump that can raise the road at the end.

Mr. Guillot questioned how long the person who made the claim has lived in the Town.

Miss White questioned if the Town could ask the State to put up a sign that gives more attention to the speed limit on Main Street.

Mr. Mark Seney stated that he had a Hyundai Sonata and that it was possible to bottom out or catch a stone on that corner. Mr. Seney stated that if you are going too fast, the car will bottom out, but that if you are careful, you wouldn't have that problem. Mr. Seney also stated that he measured the mileage and that it is approximately a one mile trip difference to go a different direction.

Mr. Charles Seney stated that he scrapes the bottom and that it his only his fault. Mr. Seney stated that if it is a liability issue, then the Town should put up a "no right turn" sign.

Mr. Fasshauer read a statement to the Board in regard to his claim for the damage done to his vehicle. Note: Mr. Fasshauer's statement is hereby incorporated as reference.

Mr. Adams stated that the Reardon Road has been re-paved a few years ago but that before this was done, the dip was steeper.

A lengthy discussion continued.

Ms. Hiatt stated that there are a couple things aside from the right turn such as the illegally parked cars and the speeding on Main Street.

Mr. Groh commented that legally the Town can put stop signs up, put up the "no right turn" sign and put up "no parking" signs without going through the State Traffic Commission. Mr. Groh stated that the State Traffic Commission advises not to use stop signs to control speeding but rather for safety purposes.

Ms. Hiatt requested that the Director of Public Works do some research for the Board on this issue.

Ms. Hiatt suggested starting the August 19th meeting with a walk-around at 6:45 p.m. Miss White stated that she will not be available for that meeting as she will be out of town.

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Ms. Hiatt, to start the August 19th meeting at 6:45 p.m. at the corner of Reardon Road and Main Street.

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

Motion made by Miss White to make the field trip as agenda number 12a. Motion was not seconded.

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Ms. Hiatt, to move the August 19th Selectmen's meeting back to its regular time and place.

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

Mr. Groh and Ms. Hiatt agreed to meet at a Special Selectmen's meeting at 4:00 p.m. on August 19, 2008 and that they will visit the Reardon Road and Main Street intersection at that time.

REQUEST FROM RECYCLING ASSOCIATES TO PLACE A RECYCLE BOX AT VFW #10088 – DISCUSSION/ACTION

Ms. Hiatt stated that she spoke to Karen Monahan from Recycling Associates. Ms. Hiatt stated that she spoke with Rebecca from the Gloria Gemman Foundation and they do not discriminate against individuals based on residence.

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, that we give Recycling Associates permission to put the pink recycling container at the VFW Post 10088 at 654 Quinebaug Road.

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

Discussion on Motion: Miss White stated that she supports it but does not want to do this unless it is acceptable to the VFW. Ms. Hiatt read the request from Ms. Monahan that states that the VFW Post Commander, Elmer Preston, is in favor of the recycling box.

The Board also discussed ensuring that Recycling Associates maintain the recycling box and ensure that it is kept in a clean and orderly fashion.

RESOLUTION/GREENWAYS SMALL GRANT FIVE MILE RIVER – ACTION REQUIRED

Mr. Groh presented a resolution regarding a grant received in April of 2008. Mr. Groh explained that the project is beginning. Mr. Groh explained that the project consists of an inventory of the Five Mile River watershed and to create maps in GIS.

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, that we sign the Resolution of the Municipal Legislative Body Greenways Small Grant Five Mile River as presented allowing the Town to accept the money.

Modified motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, that we sign the Resolution of the Municipal Legislative Body Greenways Small Grant Five Mile River as presented allowing the Town to accept the money with the inclusion of the words "State of Connecticut" in front of "Department of Environmental Protection."

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

Discussion on Motion: Miss White stated that the resolution does not identify which Department of Environmental Protection it is, State or federal. Ms. Levesque re-printed the resolution to include "State of Connecticut". Miss White questioned if this has any possible restriction on the private landowners referenced in the grant. Ms. Werge explained that the grant is for educational purposes to inform people of the watershed.

RESOLUTION/EMERGENCY MANGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY – ACTION REQUIRED

Mr. Groh explained that this resolution is signed every year for the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Miss White, that we sign the Town of Thompson Board of Selectmen resolution as presented.

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

BALLARD ROAD/REQUEST FOR TOWN MEETING TO ACCEPT ROAD – ACTION REQUIRED

Mr. Groh explained that he has received a request to accept a portion of Ballard Road as a Town road. Mr. Groh presented information on the road. Mr. Groh explained that in order for there to be a subdivision on Ballard Road, the Planning & Zoning Commission required additional land for the Town's right-of-way in accordance with the current subdivision regulations. A brief discussion followed in regard to the rationale behind applying this regulation to this particular subdivision.

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Ms. Hiatt, to table this particular issue until the next Selectmen's meeting.

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

RIDGEWOOD AVENUE PROPERTY/REQUEST TO DONATE TO TOWN – ACTION REQUIRED

Ms. Werge, Conservation Officer, provided information to the Board in regard to the proposed land donation on Ridgewood Avenue. Mr. Groh thanked Ms. Werge and the Conservation Commission for all of their hard work in researching this requested land donation. Miss White questioned what the benefits would be to the Town in accepting the land donation and why the current owners want to donate said land. Mr. Groh stated that the owners' written request didn't

include a reason. Mr. Groh also stated that the Conservation Commission's documentation included a recommendation in regard the land donation. A brief discussion followed.

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, that based on the package presented we proceed with the proper things we need to do to acquire this piece of property.

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

Discussion on Motion: Miss White stated that it would be most appropriate to ask the attorney of the land owners to offer the abutters the right of first refusal and that if they didn't want it then the Town could consider it. Mr. Groh explained that the Town is one of the abutters. Miss White stated that she hesitates to see government to be getting into the land business and that there are many landowners that are better conservators of property than government generally. Miss White stated that it is not in the best interest of the Town to do this.

TAX REFUNDS (12)

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

-Howard V Neff	-\$25.25
-Tracy R Moore	-\$15.58
-Paul H Blain	-\$35.24
-Heather E Rae	-\$14.43
-Thomas P Riel	-\$79.03
-Arnold B Johnson	-\$4.51
-Thomas J Cleary	-\$31.49
-Timothy J Janeczek	-\$84.57
-Richard A LeBeau	-\$21.00
-Kevin R Kasierski	-\$34.93
-John R Herrmann	-\$23.38
-Ronald M Downing	-\$32.97

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Miss White requested that the minutes be mailed to her while she is out of town in Virginia so that she can review them before the next meeting. Mr. Groh stated that if Miss White leaves her address in Virginia her request will be fulfilled.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Miss White, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:07 p.m.

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

Recorded and transcribed by:
Tonya Levesque