

# Selectmen's Meeting

November 18, 2008

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, November 18, 2008 at 7:30 pm in the Merrill Seney Community Room.

**PRESENT:** Lawrence K. Groh Jr., First Selectmen, Sarah F. White, Selectman; Kathleen A. Hiatt, Selectman; Joseph Gaucher, Donna Grant, Patricia Beckenhaupt, Kathleen Herbert, Stephen Herbert, Kevin Walsh, Lynn Landry, Al Landry, Linda Colangelo

Mr. Groh called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Miss White, to accept the minutes of the November 18<sup>th</sup> Selectmen's meeting as presented with no further corrections seconded by Ms. Hiatt.

Mr. Groh	yes
Miss White	yes
Ms. Hiatt	yes

Mr. Groh mentioned to the two Selectmen that the November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting was not a Selectmen's meeting. This was a presentation regarding our Sewer issues. The briefing was taped if anyone wishes to listen to it; we also have a brief summary which is in the Town Clerks office.

## CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Groh presented a thank you letter from the Girls Scouts Troop 64007 for allowing them to sell cookies on Election Day on Town property.

Mr. Groh presented correspondence from the Ct. State Police which is our monthly statements.

Mr. Groh stated he received an e-mail from Allison Hunt telling him how good our web site is.

Kathy Hiatt stated she has correspondence which she would like to be in the records:

November 18, 2008  
Town Clerk  
Town of Thompson  
815 Riverside Drive  
North Grosvenordale, CT.06255

Dear Mr. Barske:

Once again the season of budget preparation is upon us. I have mentioned in the past that I would like to look at the issue of consolidating voting districts and voting/polling places as a potential cost savings for the Town. I understand this is not a simple task and may involve more than a decision by the Board of Selectmen.

Would you please provide me (and all members of the Board of Selectmen) with the steps (and timeframes if appropriate) that would need to be taken to pursue this consolidation. Also, I would appreciate any other information you think is germane to this initiative. I would like to have this information before the Board of Selectmen begins budget discussions early in 2009.

Thank you.

Kathleen Hiatt  
Selectman  
Town of Thompson

Copy to:  
Thompson Board of Selectmen  
Thompson Registrar (s) of Voters

The second letter Ms. Hiatt would for the records:

November 18, 2008

First Selectman  
Town of Thompson  
815 Riverside Drive  
North Grosvenordale, CT 06255

Dear Mr. Groh:

Once again the season of budget preparation is upon us. I have several specific recommendations/requests concerning the Board of Selectmen budget workshops.

1. I recommend the Department Heads to provide a written description of their budget along with their budget worksheet. It should address increases or decreases in their budgets; any programs proposed to start or end during this budget year, and any capital expenditure requests. For new programs or capital expenditures, the memo should include the consequences of not funding these programs. These descriptions, along with the proposed budget, should be provided to the Board of Selectmen several days before the Department Head's meeting with the Board.
2. I ask for a briefing by the Human Resources Director and the Financial Director (with or without labor attorney) on the effect of offering an early retirement option to Town employees. Some specific questions I would include are: Is it possible to do this independent of a State offer to State employees? What is the impact on the 2008-2009 budget years? What is the impact on budget out years?
3. Last year, Mr. Martin and Mr. Adams provided information evaluating the condition of all Town roads. While it was not done specifically for the budget process, it was helpful as we looked at road paving in the capital expenditure portion of the budget. If possible, this list should be updated and provided for review by the Board of Selectmen.
4. During last year's budget workshop, there were many questions raised about ambulance service. I believe it is critical that during the Community Ambulance discussion this year, their operational books and any other pertinent material such as audits or independent reviews/comments, be presented to the Financial Director and the Board of Selectmen so appropriate budget decisions can be made. If this information is deemed, by Town Counsel, as proprietary or sensitive, I recommend we convene an Executive Session for this review.
5. I recommend we continue the format started last year, with evening budget workshops and a preliminary presentation to interested citizens prior to the BOS final decision on the budget and submission to the Board of Finance.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Kathleen Hiatt  
Selectman  
Town of Thompson

Copy to:  
Sarah F. White, Selectman  
Mike Martin, Director of Finance

#### SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS

Kathy Hiatt would like the minutes to reflect based on Kathy's review she saw no reason to pursue a resident State Trooper program at this time.

Kathy Hiatt thanked Mr. Groh for arranging the Thompson Hill Sewer project presentation, it was very informative.

Sally White stated she noticed in the report the copies are sent to the former Resident State Trooper. Apparently, the State still thinks we have a resident trooper perhaps a correction should be made.

Sally White stated reading the local newspapers that some of the surrounding towns are being prudently aggressive with their budget preparations.

Kathy Hiatt suggested that Sally should put the guidelines in writing and ask the First Selectmen to distribute to the Department Heads. Discussion continued.

Sally White made a motion to drop the conveyance tax discussion from the agenda which she cannot speak to tonight and would like to suggest that we add budget prep action items and have it as public vote. Larry Groh stated he would not second, he is not prepared for that tonight. Kathy Hiatt stated that she would like to see something that the Selectmen can vote on and they can discuss at the next Selectmen's meeting. Sally White stated she would prepare something for the next meeting and have it as an agenda item.

Mr. Groh wished all a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

#### PUBLIC DRINKING WATER

Mr. Groh Stated there is a public water company off of Paula Lane. The company has been testing the water and all tests have come back negative according to the State Guidelines. Much discussion continued with Linda Colangelo and Pat Beckinhaupt from the Department of Health.

Note: NDDH Correspondence incorporated as reference.



# NORTHEAST DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

69 SOUTH MAIN STREET • UNIT 4 • BROOKLYN, CT 06234  
PHONE (860) 774-7350 • FAX (860) 774-1308 • WEB SITE WWW.NDDH.ORG

## Town of Thompson Selectmen's Meeting Radium Talking Points November 18, 2008

- The State of CT Drinking Water Division requires that public water systems are tested quarterly for potential contaminants. One of those contaminants is radium.
- Radium is a naturally-occurring radioactive metal formed when uranium and thorium break down in the environment – Radium is present in low levels in rocks and soils.
- People are exposed to low levels of radium in the air, water, and food. It may be found at higher levels in drinking water from wells, especially when wells go into bedrock.
- Public water systems are larger wells that serve 25 or more people off the same system. Water companies typically own, operate, maintain, and are responsible for public water systems, quarterly testing, and customer notification.
- The State DPH is responsible for regulatory oversight and follow-up with public water companies. (Local health will get involved if restaurants are on an affected public water system or if the State requests assistance)
- A private homeowner owns their own well and is responsible for its maintenance
- In regards to public water systems, the previous 4 quarters of water testing data is used to determine a yearly average of contaminant levels. When that yearly average *exceeds* maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for public drinking water standards, a notice is sent to the owner of the public system.
- NDDH recently learned that a small community water system located on Paula Lane in Thompson that serves 85 residents tested above the drinking water standard for radium in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2006.
- **All tests prior to that time came back non-detect or within acceptable limits. Further, all test data collected from January 22, 2007 to September 15, 2008 have come back non-detect or within acceptable limits.**
- The CT DPH issued notices of violations to the well system owner 4 times in 2006 and 2007 (November 22, 2006, December 18, 2006, March 1, 2007, July 25, 2007)
- State DPH records indicate that neither the previous owner nor current owner of the community water system on Paula Lane gave proper notification to the residents being served by the water system. As such, there are notices of violation still considered to be outstanding.
- *The primary issue is the fact that the 85 residents served by this system were not notified as required at the time of the exceedence violation.*
- NDDH is working with the State DPH and the current owner of the water supply system to address the issue of the outstanding violations

Drinking water limits: 5 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) for radium-226 and radium-228 combined  
15 picocuries per liter for Net Gross Alpha

Why the spike in September, 2006? – A snapshot in time; could be sampling error, could be the sample itself

## CITIZENS COMMENTS

Joseph Gaucher mentioned that a Town vehicle went through a stop sign coming down Pompeo Road.

Larry Groh stated that he will stick up for the State Troopers. They do issue a lot of tickets.

## SOCIAL SERVICE BUILDING COMMITTEE VACANCIES

Mr. Groh presented a list of individuals interested in their vacancies. The following is a list of the people who have shown interest: Steve Lewis, C. O'Leary, Carolyn Werge, Elizabeth Vriga, Shawn Brissette, Kathleen Herbert, K. Forrester.

Sally White made a motion to recommend Kathleen Herbert, Shawn Brissette and Steve Lewis to be members of the Social Service Committee, Kathy Hiatt seconded.

Mr. Groh	yes
Miss White	yes
Ms. Hiatt	yes

In regards to alternates to the SS Building Committee

Kathy Hiatt made a motion to add an alternate member to the 11 member SS building Committee, Larry Groh seconded.

Mr. Groh	yes
Miss White	yes
Ms. Hiatt	yes

Larry Groh made a motion to appoint C. O'Leary to the alternate position on the SS Building Committee; Kathy Hiatt stated she would second the motion if we said we would offer her the position. Larry Groh stated that he would add *that we offer her the position*, Kathy Hiatt seconded.

Mr. Groh	yes
Miss White	no
Ms. Hiatt	yes

## CONVEYANCE TAX

Kathy Hiatt made a motion to remove this from the agenda, Sally White seconded.

Mr. Groh	yes
Miss White	yes
Ms. Hiatt	yes

#### REQUEST FOR REIMBURSEMENT

Bill Birch request for reimbursement of \$6,480.72. Kathy Hiatt made a motion to approve \$6,480.72 reimbursement from the Board of Finance to the Board of Education. Larry Groh seconded.

Mr. Groh	yes
Miss White	yes
Ms. Hiatt	yes

The paving of the road going up to the school, approximate cost is \$18,000 to \$20,000, Sally White made a motion not to move forward at this time, Kathy Hiatt seconded

Mr. Groh	yes
Miss White	yes
Ms. Hiatt	yes

#### SUBORDINATION REQUEST

The Minarik Property – CL&P Easement. Kathy Hiatt made a motion that the First Selectman be authorized to sign this Subordination as presented on the Minarik Property, Sally White seconded.

Mr. Groh	yes
Miss White	yes
Ms. Hiatt	yes

#### PROCLAMATION FOR RETIREMENT – Edward “Taxi” Morin

Kathy Hiatt made a motion to sign and present the proclamation as read, Sally White seconded.

Mr. Groh	yes
Miss White	yes
Ms. Hiatt	yes

#### PROCLAMATION FOR EAGLE SCOTT - Robert F. Dean III Troop 30 Quinebaug

Kathy Hiatt made a motion to sign the Proclamation as read Sally White seconded.

Mr. Groh	yes
Miss White	yes
Ms. Hiatt	yes

## APPROVAL OF PROPOSED 2009 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETINGS

Kathy Hiatt made a motion to approve the meeting dates as proposed and that once the plan is presented for our road shows that we approve the locations separately for those four meetings, Sally White seconded the motion. Larry Groh stated that we approve these dates with the different locations instead of the schedule being all the meetings in the Seney. Kathy Hiatt withdrew her motion to approve and Sally White withdrew her seconded motion. Sally White made a motion to accept the dates that are before us for the 2009 meetings and that in each quarter we visit one of the four fire departments in town, Kathy Hiatt seconded the motion. For discussion Kathy Hiatt wants it to be reflected in the records that we understand that we will replace the Merrill Seney Community Room with a location of a fire department for a total of 4 times a year.

Mr. Groh	yes
Miss White	yes
Ms. Hiatt	yes

## TAX REFUNDS

Larry Groh made a motion to pay the following people Tax refunds as presented by our Tax Collected, Kathy Hiatt seconded the motion.

Toyota Motor Credit Corp	\$180.98
Timothy Ahern	\$ 37.41
Susan Pedersen	\$ 24.61
David G. Mossy	\$ 23.80

Mr. Groh	yes
Miss White	yes
Ms. Hiatt	yes

## OTHER BUSINESS

Kathy Hiatt mentioned that the Historical Society Holiday Gift Shop has opened early.

Kathy Hiatt made a motion to adjourn Larry Groh seconded at 9:20 pm