

**SELECTMAN'S MEETING**  
**February 27, 2007**

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday February 27, 2007 at 7:30 pm at the Town Hall Seney Room.

PRESENT: John Rice, Charles Seney, Larry Guillot, Norman Rudzinski, Al & Lynn Landry, Joseph Gaucher, Rene J. Morin, Joel Hiatt, Charles Edenburk

Mr. Babbitt called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm. Mr. Babbitt mentioned prior to the Selectmen's Meeting the Selectmen were in a meeting with the Board of Finance. The discussion, bond repayment methods schedules was very interesting. The meeting ran from 7:00 pm to 7:30 pm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Kathy Hiatt made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular Selectmen's Meeting on February 13, 2007 as presented. Seconded by Larry Groh.

Ms. Hiatt	yes
Mr. Groh	yes
Mr. Babbitt	yes

Kathy Hiatt made a motion to accept the minutes of the Special Selectmen's Meeting of January 20, 2007 as presented. Seconded by David Babbitt.

Ms. Hiatt	yes
Mr. Groh	abstained
Mr. Babbitt	yes

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Mr. Babbitt presented a letter from Renee Waldron regarding Regional Springtime Festival. We've been working very hard to get involved in this and the Festival organizers told us very politely that we were not getting involved, this year. However, we are trying to do something with the Thompson Raceway sometime in May. A date will be determined soon, for a Thompson night.

Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence from the Northeast Department of Health, they had a teleconference at 5:30 pm this afternoon we've been working on pandemic influenza preparations.

Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence regarding St Joseph School putting signs on Town property. Kathy Hiatt made a motion to put St. Joseph's School signs on agenda as 12A under other business. Seconded by Larry Groh.

Ms. Hiatt	yes
Mr. Groh	yes
Mr. Babbitt	yes

Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence that Mr. Swanberg has been awarded the contract for the State Project for 141 and 152, which is the Buckley Hill Project. Starting time is in the Spring.

Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence from the State Police regarding re-arrest warrants, criminal and motor vehicle proceedings, and violation of probation as of February 1<sup>st</sup> regarding 26 Thompson Residents.

Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence from State Senator proposing pension fund legislation. Mr. Martin, our Finance Director reviewed it and said it was okay with the Town but the Board of Education had some unfunded portions.

#### **SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS**

Mr. Babbitt stated that a lease was signed with MCF Communication. We have to wait and see what will happen with the Sitting Council. It will be several months before we know if we got this tower. You will see some engineering going on in the neighborhood of the site over the next two months.

Mr. Babbitt attended a meeting with NECOG, its 20<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in Putnam.

Mr. Babbitt stated that on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February he attended a meeting with the Board of Finance. The Board did approve the \$26,000.00 for the 1 ton dump truck which we are moving to a Town Meeting in March.

Mr. Babbitt stated that the Environmental Committee had a very successful Chicken BBQ and fund raiser. Good crowd, good results.

Mr. Babbitt stated that the Selectmen have been in Special Session on 4 occasions.

Budget is coming together. Mr. Babbitt stated that all departments are being very frugal. We have 48 various budgets that are being reviewed and on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March will be forwarded to the Board of Finance

Mr. Babbitt stated that he attended the State Legislature last week and testified on alternative sewer treatment options and hopefully the legislature will come through. Mr. Babbitt believes that this is a real answer for our Thompson Hill problem. The engineering study should be completed in March.

Mr. Babbitt stated the additional dates for budget meetings. The meetings will be on March 1st, 2nd and the 5<sup>th</sup> and March 8<sup>th</sup> is the date when the budget has to be ready to present to the Board of Finance.

Mr. Babbitt stated the Board of Selectmen would be interviewing for a Recording Secretary for the various boards.

Mr. Babbitt stated that a committee has been formed to select a new Planner Developer.

Mr. Babbitt stated that he would be at the Department of Safety in Middletown on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March. This meeting is very important because of the \$340,000.00 that we have not been able to get from the State for the Quinebaug Fire Station. The money will be coming from the Department of Safety.

Mr. Babbitt stated on March 13<sup>th</sup>, a Community breakfast would be held at QVCC.

Kathy Hiatt made a motion to add item 12B under Other Business. To discuss the time lines of the Selectmen's Update. Seconded by David Babbitt.

Ms. Hiatt	yes
Mr. Groh	yes
Mr. Babbitt	yes

## **CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Norman Rudzinski stated that last Saturday he was at the school for a basketball game. He stated he went to get some food, after a few minutes he started to get dizzy and realized that a generator was running just outside the door. He stated that he could smell carbon monoxide. Contractors had been working in the area. The generator was shut off and then a few minutes later the workers put it on again. Mr. Babbitt will advise Mr. Johnson, chairman of the building committee to advise the contractor of this situation.

Charlie Seney commented on the Thompson Sewer system. Mr. Seney asked if the town would be picking up any of the cost. Since it is private property, Mr. Babbitt stated that it is his hope that it all becomes private. Mr. Seney stated that We will have to hire someone down at the sewer plant just to watch it. Mr. Babbitt said that if it remains private, nobody would be watching it. Mr. Babbitt stated that a battle is going on between the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Health. If we are able to get money from the Clearwater fund we could offer people a loan for twenty years or a certain percentage of whatever that might be a possibility if extensive repairs are necessary. It sure would be better than spending 6 million or 3 million to put in a sewer line. Mr. Babbitt believes it's solvable.

Mr. Seney mentioned the Town support of the roads at the trailer park in Quinebaug. Mr. Seney believes that the plowing should be stopped. It should be plowed only if it's an emergency. Mr. Babbitt stated that a special agreement was developed over the last few years and Mr. Babbitt stated that he was not involved in this agreement but he does agree with it. He also stated that if you look at the top ten taxpayers in the Town the Park ranks about 4 or 5.

Al Landry asked if we could hang the Green Cycle environmental awards (2) that the Thompson Together Environment Committee has received. Mr. Babbitt stated yes we'd be happy to.

### **ACCEPTANCE OF HERITAGE CIRCLE**

Mr. Babbitt stated that it is hopeful. We are hopeful that this will go to a Town Meeting on March 13 or 14. At the meeting of Planning & Zoning last night Heritage Circle and Stawicki Estates was approved, also included was the Quail property. The sub-division was approved as a road.

Kathy Hiatt made a motion to start the process with the Board of Selectmen approval to accept Heritage Circle as a Town road by forwarding to a Town meeting, Seconded by Larry Groh.

Ms. Hiatt	yes
Mr. Groh	yes
Mr. Babbitt	yes

### **TOWN MEETING**

We need to go to Town meeting. Spoke with Attorney St.Onge and dates for the meeting were discussed. March 14<sup>th</sup> is the date set for Town meeting.

## **GIRL SCOUT PROCLAMATION**

Mr. Babbitt received a letter from the Girl Scouts stating that March 12 will be their 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Girl Scouting. We were asked if we could put together a Proclamation, which we've done. Kathy Hiatt made motion to accept. Seconded by Larry Groh.

Ms. Hiatt	yes
Mr. Groh	yes
Mr. Babbitt	yes

Mr. Babbitt with one of the leaders that the Girl Scouts may be present at our next meeting which will be on March 13<sup>th</sup> so that we may present them with the Proclamation.

## **CONSTABLES**

We'd like to make recommendations to various Town Committees to have Constables appointed by the Selectmen rather than putting their names on the new ballots. With the new ballots it becomes more difficult and expensive for long ballots; Thompson has one of the longest Town ballots. Town Clerk has suggested that we eliminate putting names on the ballot. A Town Ordinance will be the only way to do this. Kathy Hiatt made a motion to go forward with looking at it. Would like to see what the feedback is from the party Chairmen, once we get that, the Board of Selectmen would go forward with the Ordinance for the Town. Second by Larry Groh pending investigation.

Ms. Hiatt	yes
Mr. Groh	yes
Mr. Babbitt	yes

## **TAX ABATEMAN**

Proposal from the Tax Office to abate taxes that are no longer collectable. The first two are foreclosures the Town now owns.

Est. of Nicholas Minchoff - a parcel of land on Sunset Hill  
2-1/2 acres      \$7,762.71

Noyes, Alice E. Piltzecker - Land on Ravenelle Road  
1/3 acre      \$ 911.49

Furno, John -- Land on New Road

\$ 173.99  
Dunn-Rocheleau – Road at Thompson Hill West  
\$ 645.98  
(Thompson Medical Center)

Kathy Hiatt made a motion to approve the abatements as presented by the Tax Collector. Seconded by David Babbitt. Larry Groh questioned if any of these parcels can be sold in the future. It was decided at a previous Selectmen's meeting that the first two properties would not be sold at this time. We also decided that we would treat each property personally. Mr. Groh asked if one of these properties should go up for auction at some point in time what would be the procedure?

Kathy Hiatt	yes
Larry Groh	yes
David Babbitt	yes

#### **FEASIBILITY STUDY**

Mr. Babbitt stated that we have problems at the Town Hall and we are not ADA Compliant. One of the purposes for Town Hall Renovations was to become ADA Compliant. We have requested of Fletcher-Thompson to give us an estimate cost of the Town Hall be upgraded to ADA requirements. Fletcher-Thompson has sent a proposal advising us what they would charge to present the plans needed too bring the Town Hall up to compliance with ADA. Hopefully, a grant from Small Cities would cover all expenses with the exception of the \$8,500.00 we would pay Fletcher-Thompson to do engineering blueprints. Kathy Hiatt made a motion to go forward with this contract with Fletcher-Thompson in the amount of \$8,500.00 to complete the building analysis and to forward this to the Board of Finance. Seconded by Larry Groh.

Kathy Hiatt	yes
Larry Groh	yes
David Babbitt	yes

#### **TAX REFUNDS**

Motion made by David Babbitt. Seconded by Kathy Hiatt to refund the following overpayments as recommended by the Tax Collector, Rene Morin.

Kristen M. Creighton	\$61.07
David M. Gregarick	\$12.80
Constance M or Albert Gomes Sr.	\$16.15

John & Carolyn A. Jones		\$13.32
George T. III & Sandra M. O'Neil		\$99.90
Kathy Hiatt	yes	
Larry Groh	yes	
David Babbitt	yes	

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

St. Joseph School is asking to post freestanding signs to advertise their Funfest on Town Property at Riverside Drive and Main Street. Kathy Hiatt made a motion to allow the signs as long as they do not block any traffic. Seconded by Larry Groh.

Kathy Hiatt	yes
Larry Groh	yes
David Babbitt	yes

#### **SELECTMEN'S UPDATES**

It was brought to Kathy Hiatt's attention that a previous Board of Selectmen stated Selectmen's Update should not be done during an election year. In checking back to Selectmen's Minutes, nothing could be found stating this. Kathy Hiatt made a motion to stick to this schedule (4 times a year for the year 2007) even though it is an election year. Seconded by Larry Groh. Seconded by David Babbitt.

Kathy Hiatt	yes
Larry Groh	yes
David Babbitt	yes

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm