

Town of Thompson, Connecticut
SELECTMAN'S MEETING
March 27, 2007

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, March 27, 2007 at 7:30 pm at the Historic Town Hall, Thompson, CT.

PRESENT: A. David Babbitt, First Selectman; Kathleen A. Hiatt, Selectman; Lawrence K. Groh, Jr., Selectman; Ray Austin; Peg Babbitt; Bob Bentley; Joe Donovan; Joe Iamartino; Al & Lynn Landry; Norma O'Leary; Ron Tillen; Bob and Carolyn Werge; Members of the West Thompson Fire Department-Jean Joyal; Dale Fifield.

Mr. Babbitt called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Mr. Babbitt welcomed members of the community and thanked Mr. Iamartino for providing the Old Town Hall for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Mrs. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to approve the minutes of the regular Selectmen's Meeting on March 13, 2007 as presented.

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

Motion made by Mrs. Hiatt to accept the minutes of the Special Selectmen's Meetings of March 6, 2007; March 7, 2007; March 14, 2007; March 20, 2007, 11:00 am; and March 20, 2007 1:30 pm as presented. Seconded by David Babbitt.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

- Mr. Babbitt presented a letter TMHS Project Graduation 2007 requesting a sign announcing their final fundraising event, a golf tournament, be displayed outside Town Hall. Mrs. Hiatt made a motion to add this to the agenda as item 9.a.

Seconded by Mr. Groh.

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

- Mr. Babbitt presented a letter from Mr. Antonson, Chair, Thompson Republican Town Committee (TRTC). This letter is a response to our inquiry concerning the potential change to appointing constables from the current process of electing constables. Mr. Antonson stated the TRTC is in favor of the change if (1) the appointments are evenly divided between the two major parties and (2) the TRTC has the opportunity to review the final proposal written by the Town Attorney.
- Mr. Babbitt presented the Report on Re-Arrest Warrants for Failure to Appear and Re-Arrest Warrants for Violation of Probation for the Town of Thompson from The Office of Policy and Management, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division.
- Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence from the NDDH and the Dudley Board of Health to the Town of Southbridge (WPCA) concerning the noxious odors in Quinebaug. Requesting Southbridge to help determine the cause and solution.
- Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence from the State Attorney General which requested Thompson assist in resolving the issues between Mr. DeVivo and the CITGO gas station. Mr. Babbitt also presented further correspondence from the Town's Zoning Enforcement Officer to the owners of the gas station.
- Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence and briefly described an email and certificate of liability from Dona Ha, Location Coordinator, TBTW, INC, Ricochet Television concerning their intent to use portions of Thompson for an upcoming weight-loss reality TV show.
- Mr. Babbitt presented a request for nominations for the 14th Annual Volunteer with Youth Recognition Award sponsored by NECASA. Mr. Babbitt has submitted Mr. John R. Gaudion as Thompson's nominee.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS

- Mr. Babbitt announced:
 - Applicants for the position of Town Planner were interviewed by the Board of Selectmen, with a motion to hire for the First Selectman. Tonight's agenda includes the approval for hire.
 - All items presented at the March 14, 2007 Town Meeting were passed by the attendees.
 - The First Selectman presented the proposed Town budget to the Board of Finance on March 15 and to the Town on March 22, 2007. Board of Finance budget workshops begin on March 29, 2007 and continue on April 12, 19, and 26.
 - He attended the NECTD Board Meeting and the monthly meeting of NECCOG.
 - Volunteers met on March 22, for a "folding party." 4800 copies of the April Selectmen's Update were folded. 4300 copies will be distributed in the Friday's (March 30) Thompson Villager.
 - We have started contract negotiations with the Union.
 - An Environmental Review Team will be in to review/visit Jerry's Swamp with the Conservation Officer and interested members of the Town.

- The Rivermill has been sold. The following was paid:
 - To the Town: Back Taxes--\$303,765.75; Small Cities--\$8,000.00
 - To the TWPCA: \$47,815.18
- Hollywood may be coming to Thompson—two TV shows have shown some interest: (1) A weight loss program ((2) a town makeover (small portion). Stay tuned for details.
- Future Events:
 - Mr. Babbitt will have shoulder surgery on Thursday, March 29 and he hopes to be back to work on April 9.
 - The Egg Hunt is on the Thompson Common, Saturday, March 31
 - The Chamber of Commerce breakfast is on Wednesday, April 4
- Mr. Groh announced his family circumstance continues and he appreciates the efforts of Town Hall personnel to keep him up to date between meetings.
- Mr. Groh stated how wonderful it was to be able to meet in the Historic Town Hall and to think of all the things that have happened in this building for the Town.
- Mrs. Hiatt thanked all the volunteers for folding the Selectmen's Update.
- Mrs. Hiatt said she was working with the Department Heads and representatives from the appropriate Boards, Commissions and Committees in the central file room to organize the file room and to retire records as appropriate.
- Mrs. Hiatt announced the Selectmen were meeting in the Historic Town Hall as part of the Board of Selectmen's efforts to bring the Selectmen's meetings to the citizens. Future meetings will be held at: the Quinebaug Fire Department (May 8); East Thompson Fire Department (June 26) and West Thompson Fire Department (June 24).

CITIZENS COMMENTS

- Mr. Jean Joyal of the West Thompson Fire Department would like to address a letter he recently addressed to the Town concerning a joint effort for paving the parking lot at the West Thompson Fire Department. Mr. Babbitt explained he just received the letter, and was waiting until it was warm enough to begin paving before he added it to the agenda for a future Selectmen's meeting.
- Mr. Bentley clarified and offered support for the posting of the TMHS Project Graduation 2007 sign.
- Mr. Donovan presented information concerning the smell noticed in Quinebaug—including dates and times. Mr. Babbitt thanked him for the information.
- Mrs. Landry announced that the Art in the Library display beginning April 2 is in support of the Thompson Together and April as environment month. Please stop by and view the 114 works of art including art from the Middle School and the High School. The reception is 6:30 pm on April 2, 2007.
- Mr. Landry announced (French) River Cleanup will be held on April 21, 2007—all volunteers welcome!

APPOINTMENTS TO TOWN BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Several members of Town Boards and Commissions were up for reappointment. Mrs. Hiatt moved and Mr. Groh seconded the following reappointments based on the recommendation of Mr. Babbitt:

- Norma O'Leary, Conservation
- Philip Thomas, Conservaton
- Donald J. Hoenig, II, Inland Wetlands

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

FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION

Mrs. Hiatt moved and Mr. Groh seconded, we accept and sign the Fair Housing Resolution, Policy Statement and compliance of Title VI as presented.

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

APPROVAL OF NEW HIRE

Mrs. Hiatt moved and Mr. Babbitt seconded we hire Mr. Kevin Kennedy as Director, Planning and Development.

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

TAX REFUNDS

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

Chris Fafard	\$12.62
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Mr. Babbitt	yes
Ms. Hiatt	yes
Mr. Groh	yes

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Babbitt presented a letter TMHS Project Graduation 2007 requesting a sign announcing their final fundraising event, a golf tournament, be displayed outside Town Hall. Mr. Babbitt motioned and Mr. Groh seconded displaying the banner when the banner is ready, for the length of time specified in the request letter.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm with thanks again to Mr. Iamartino and the Historic Society for hosting tonight's meeting.