

**Town of Thompson, Connecticut  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
APRIL 24, 2007**

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, April 24, 2007, at 7:30 pm the Thompson Town Hall, Seney Room.

**PRESENT;**

A. David Babbitt, First Selectman, Kathleen A. Hiatt, Selectman, Lawrence K. Groh Jr., Selectman, John Rice, Joseph Gaucher, George Elms, Kari Carpenter, Charlie Seney, Al Landry, Lynn Landry, Adam Minor

Mr. Babbitt called the meeting to order April 24, 2007 at 7:30 pm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Kathy Hiatt made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, Larry Groh, seconded the motion.

Kathy Hiatt	yes
Larry Groh	yes
David Babbitt	yes

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Mr. Babbitt received a letter from Gov. Rell who is asking for assistance during this last storm from the Federal Government for the State of CT. Thankfully, we have escaped damage.

Mr. Babbitt mentioned the Historic Documentation, Jeff Barske, Town Clerk has filed for a grant of \$7,000. Mr. Barske will be using this money to preserve our records.

Mr. Babbitt stated that the American Red Cross will be holding a blood drive at the Town Hall on June 2<sup>nd</sup>; this is a project from St Joseph's.

Mr. Babbitt stated a flyer for Parks & Recreation Liabilities Class was sent to Renee Waldron and she indicated she has already registered.

Mr. Babbitt stated he received a letter from an individual that lives on Riverside Drive asking him for tax relief.

Mr. Babbitt mentioned that the report from Office of Policy & Management regarding criminal justice was received. This was just for information.

Mr. Babbitt mentioned that he sent a memo to the Staff regarding coverage of the office.

Mr. Babbitt mentioned that he received minutes of the Board of Water Pollution Control. It stated how much nitrogen is discharged into the French and Quinebaug rivers. Mr. Babbitt noted that we have 87 units plus 2 commercial units that could be tied into the sewer system. He is pleased to see we are showing some gains, which hasn't happened in a long time.

Mr. Babbitt stated that he is getting inquiries regarding the U S Census Bureau. The Census will take place in 2010. A meeting will take place in Essex.

Mr. Babbitt mentioned a letter that was sent to Warden Sutherland. The Town is requesting to have inmate volunteers to come to Thompson on our Clean-up day.

Mr. Babbitt mentioned that he received a request to have stone dust brought to Valley Springs. Renee Waldron was asked if the Town uses the field and she indicated that the Town has never used it. Leo Adams stated that it is private property. Mr. Babbitt denied the request.

Mr. Babbitt sent a copy of a letter he received from the Governor the stating terms of her budget. We are at a stand still in terms of what the State will be giving us.

Mr. Babbitt stated that on Monday the Selectmen and Renee Waldron along with Don Brown will be meeting in Special Session at Koinonia and Quaddick State Park.

#### SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Babbitt stated that the Board of Finance budget meetings were held on April 12, 19 and 26. Currently we are at or near a 1.5 mil increase. This is the goal for the Board of Finance at the moment. The budget has been reviewed several times. The dates for all Budget Meetings have been published.

Mr. Babbitt stated that they served 100 meals to our seniors at the Community Center. Several people from the Town Hall served the lunch.

Mr. Babbitt stated for the Buckley Hill project we had a pre-construction meeting with the Department of Public Works, SAS Company, and NECOG representative, State Representatives, State Inspectors were here. They hope to start the project on or near May 1, 2007. The start date depends on when we can get the cement culvert from the manufacturer. We are using J&D Engineering specs.

Mr. Babbitt mentioned that he and Larry Groh were at the Little League parade. Approximately 300 kids are involved.

Mr. Babbitt mentioned the Department Heads meeting on Monday the 16<sup>th</sup> of April. A good review of Town business.

Mr. Babbitt stated that he has been meeting with insurance companies, particularly in health. We are trying to find a way to keep our cost down.

Mr. Babbitt stated that we have reviewed candidates for the Assessor position. The committee has reviewed the applicants we have 4 chosen for interviews. The committee met today and a recommendation will be made to the Selectman. Rene Morin, Jeff Barske, Alvan Hill, Rachel Johnston, David Babbitt are the committee members. We hope to have the new Assessor on board by the first of June.

Mr. Babbitt stated that he has continued to meet with Phil Law. Mr. Law is the owner of the two mills. There are many things going on in Town and in what he called Quinn Shirt Shop (also owned by Mr. Law). You may have noticed that the Grosvenordale mill area has been pick-up, and work continues.

Mr. Babbitt stated that Union negotiations took place on Friday and the Selectmen will Be going into Executive session later so that we can be briefed by Kathy Hiatt.

Mr. Babbitt stated that in the future we will be looking for an engineer for the project of Airline Trail. We have two engineering firms that have come forward with proposals. We also have a committee consisting of, David Babbitt, Mike Martin and Leo Adams. We have a protocol that will be followed. The engineering firms are, CME and the other is KWP. We will be meeting with them tomorrow.

Mr. Babbitt indicated that he has been talking with candidates for a vacancy on the Wetlands Commission. We presently have 4 candidates. The decision will be Mr. Babbitt's.

Mr. Babbitt stated that NECASA has a meeting next Wednesday and John Garden is our nominee. A banquet will be held at the Harvest in Pomfret and John will be given his certificate at that time as a youth volunteer.

Mr. Babbitt stated that Thursday Day Kimball Hospital and the Thompson Wellness Center will be meeting to put the final touches on the project we finally received our letter from the President of Day Kimball Hospital so we are ready to go with this grant. The grant will be for \$80,000.

Mr. Babbitt stated he attended a meeting on Friday with NECOG and North East Utility. Also in attendance, speakers from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and John Frances a member from the Springtime Festival.

Mr. Babbitt stated that he has a Special Selectman's meeting on Monday, then Cirma, and Union negotiations.

Kathy Hiatt stated she wanted to comment on insurance issues. We worked with our broker; we were able to re-negotiate the same benefit package for our employees but under a different rate. With this turn over a glitch occurred at Anthem and we have been working through it. We have stayed with the same company, and no coverage was affected.

Kathy Hiatt congratulated Donna Grant for the grant that she has been working on, for the Wellness Center.

Kathy Hiatt also mentioned the treasurer hunt Saturday, April 28. Put your treasurers on your lawn and bring them in at sun down.

#### CITIZENS COMMENTS

Al Landry of the Planning & Zoning Committee stated that they Okayed the Rawson Company to do mining close to Town property. Rawson will be cutting a check to the Town. P&Z made a motion and passed it that we would like to see the money put into the dedicated Open Space fund, reason being the land costs have been going up again. Mr. Landry said he would like to encourage the Selectman to send a letter to the Board of Finance.

George Elms mentioned that at the last meeting or the one before you sent me copies regarding centralizing waste water management this goes back to 1993. Mr. Elms indicated that this report doesn't say very much. Mr. Babbitt stated that was the summary. Mr. Babbitt stated that Mr. Elms has only the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the summary and Mr. Babbitt will share the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the report with Mr. Elms tomorrow. The final report is two volumes and Mr. Elms may read it in the Selectmen's office

Mr. Elms also commented on the Killingly Plant Hydro plant. A discussion followed for example, if a Hydro plant were to be at the West Thompson Dam, the licensing process is probably 2-3 years out. The Alternative Energy Committee continues to meet they're also looking at other alternative sources.

Mr. Elms also stated that Toutant has two set-ups. How can a small company do that and the Town can't? Mr. Babbitt stated that there is a lot that goes into it and they are looking at it.

Charlie Seney asked Mr. Babbitt how much it's costing the Town to plow the trailer park in Quinebaug, to sand it, etc. Mr. Babbitt stated that this is an old issue and you know that there is a policy that was passed to do this. Mr. Babbitt will look into the costs and have an answer for Mr. Seney.

#### TRANSFER STATION

VFW sent in a request to sell poppies at the Transfer Station. Kathy Hiatt made the motion to sell poppies at the Transfer Station, and Larry Groh seconded.

Kathy Hiatt	yes
Larry Groh	yes
David Babbitt	yes

#### TOWN HALL PARKING LOT

The Tourtellotte Memorial High School Honor Society, Ms. Carpenter and Gabriel requesting to use the Town Hall Parking lot on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. Motion made by Mr. Babbitt to use the parking lot for a car wash, Kathy Hiatt seconded the motion. Discussion was held and it was determined that other groups of non-profit have used the parking lot.

Kathy Hiatt	yes
David Babbitt	yes
Larry Groh	abstained

#### APPOINTMENT SMALL CITIES ADVISORY

Mr. Babbitt stated that Mary Masters has been recommended as an appointee by the Board of Selectmen to the Small Cities Advisory Committee/Redevelopment Agency. This letter comes from Joel Hiatt. Motion made by David Babbitt, seconded by Larry Groh.

Kathy Hiatt	yes
Larry Groh	yes
David Babbitt	yes

#### VOLUNTEER AND CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Mr. Babbitt stated that the Springtime Festival awards dinner will be at the Elks, on May 15, 2007 on Edmund Street with three tickets for the Board, and two each go to the Thompson Volunteer and Citizen of the year. Each of the Selectmen had copies of the candidates and each would chose there candidates and then a tally will be taken. Lowest score will be the winner.

#### JOB CONSOLIDATION

Kathy Hiatt stated that she just wanted this Job Consolidation ZEO & Inland Wetlands be put on the agenda. In the budget workshops they have asked the Board of Selectmen to

look at two different areas at the Town Hall where potential consolidation of jobs can be made. The first was when we hire a new Assessor if we can consolidate anybody in the Assessor's office. The Board of Finance brought up the issue on April 12 and April 19, the consolidation of ZEO and Inland Wetlands job. They were under the impression that other towns have consolidated these two positions. Mr. Babbitt verified with Putnam which was the Town that they used as their biggest example. Putnam still has two separate jobs for these departments and they have 2 part time people. It was brought up to the Board of Selectmen to see if we want to take a serious look at this and get back to the Board of Finance in a more formal way. A lot of work needs to be done before anything is done.

A position has not been cut as of this date and no money has been cut. The Board of Finance was looking for ways to save money. They said that they thought it was happening in Putnam. That is not the case in Putnam. Much discussion continued and it will be looked at further. It was agreed that the Board of Selectman put in the Budget file for next year all information regarding this consolidation. David Babbitt will continue to check with other towns to get as much information as possible regarding these 2 positions. Kathy Hiatt volunteered to put together an outline of all facts and information. David Babbitt moved to have Kathy Hiatt proceed with the plan, Kathy Hiatt seconded.

Kathy Hiatt	yes
Larry Groh	yes
David Babbitt	yes

#### SPECIAL SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Kathy Hiatt stated that we should schedule a meeting so that a date can be set for a Town meeting. A date can not be set until the numbers are in from the Board of Finance. We need to get it to the newspaper by the 7<sup>th</sup> in order for this to appear in the newspaper. They decided that the Special Meeting will be on May 3, from 1-2:30pm. The agenda item will be to Approve Town Meeting. No further discussion

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Kathy Hiatt made a motion to swap item #12 and #13, Larry Groh seconded.

Kathy Hiatt	yes
Larry Groh	yes
David Business	yes

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Kathy Hiatt stated that she got a brochure on Camp Advantage for our meeting on Monday just a little background.

David Babbitt stated that the next Selectman's meeting will be at the Quinebaug Fire Department on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Kathy Hiatt asked if we could have Blair Cole our web master to come and talk to the Selectmen regarding our web site.

Larry Groh mentioned that Al Landry asked that the money we get for town mining Be earmarked for more open space. Larry Groh made a motion to airpark the money for purchases of more open space, Kathy Hiatt, seconded.

Kathy Hiatt	yes
Larry Groh	yes
David Babbitt	yes

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Larry Groh made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:40pm, Kathy Hiatt seconded.

Kathy Hiatt	yes
Larry Groh	yes
David Babbitt	yes

Kathy Hiatt made motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:03 pm Larry Groh Jr, Seconded.

Selectmen returned to meeting at 9:04 pm David Babbitt made motion to adjourn at 9:10 pm, Larry Groh Jr., Seconded the motion.

Adjourned

