

**TOWN OF THOMPSON, CONNECTICUT
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MAY 22, 2007**

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, May 22, 2007 at 7:30 pm at the Thompson Town Hall Seney Room.

PRESENT:

A. David Babbitt, First Selectmen, Kathleen A. Hiatt, Selectmen, Lawrence K. Groh Jr., Selectmen, Joseph Gaucher, David Kress, Joseph Donovan, C.P. Weiss, Al Landry, Lynn Landry, Bates Craver, Charles Seney, Mrs. Kimball, Mrs. Weiss

Mr. Babbitt called the meeting to order May 22, 2007, at 7:30 pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of May 8, 2007 – David Babbitt made a motion to accept the minutes; Kathy Hiatt seconded the motion with one correction. Page 10 just for point of clarification under Koinonia and Quaddick third line down where it said Kathy Hiatt said she had a letter from Renee which she had a few questions. Renee gave Kathy answers to her questions that she had on there walk.

Kathy Hiatt	yes
Larry Groh	yes
David Babbitt	yes

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Babbitt mentioned that at 2:30 tomorrow afternoon (May 9) a meeting will be held regarding the Thompson Hill Decentralization Waste Management District Study.

Mr. Babbitt mentioned that TEEG has a Senior Service Program – Buried Treasures, on June 14th.

Mr. Babbitt stated the Restored Documentation Preservation Grant of \$7,000.00 has been approved.

Mr. Babbitt stated that Tri-State Track that is coming through Town had forgotten to mail us the route that they will be taking. They will be on Routes 12, 131 and 197 on Friday July 20th, between 8:30 am and 4:00 pm. We should see a few Bicycles going through Town.

Mr. Babbitt stated he received a request to put up a banner at Riverside Park. Larry Groh made a motion to accept this as Item 8a on tonights agenda, Kathy Hiatt seconded.

Kathy Hiatt	yes
Larry Groh	yes
David Babbitt	yes

Mr. Babbitt received via E-Mail information regarding Quaddick Lake. which stated that good things are happening. Last year they had quite an issue with leaves, Representative Shawn Johnston is working on that on the State level. The Town has done a few things.

Mr. Babbitt mentioned a copy of a letter that he sent to Konionia and the Recreation Commission.

Mr. Babbitt stated that he received a report from the Office of Policy Management Criminal Justice Policy. People in town with re-arrest warrants and violations.

Mr. Babbitt stated he received a letter from the Department of Transportation regarding the Buckley Hill Project.

Mr. Babbitt stated he received a note written to us and the Board of Education from David Kress. Mr. Kress complimented the Band Director, the Choir Director regarding the Band's trip to Toronto Canada. A few

hours into the trip a large rock came through the roof of the bus. Thankfully, every thing turned out fine.

Mr. Babbitt stated a letter to Kevin Kennedy, Director of Planning Development regarding the restoration of the Airline Trail in Thompson has been received.

They stated that everything has been documented and we are prepared to move forward. Kevin is on top of that.

Mr. Babbitt stated Steve Mitchell advised the Town that they would like the \$1000.00 for the Tourtellotte Scholarship fund for this fiscal year.

Mr. Babbitt stated he received correspondence regarding the Buckley Hill Project. We are waiting for the pre-cast concrete box. Once that's received the project will begin.

Mr. Babbitt stated he received a complaint which he sent off to two people. One is Mary who handles the dog issues, and Leo who handles the streets. Both of them are working on these projects.

Mr. Babbitt stated he received a letter from the CCM regarding the Watch Dog Group. There are some 192 Boards through out the State and 115 of the 169 Towns and Cities through out the State that has joined this group. We are fortunate that this group has been formed and they are doing their best that those unfunded mandates don't come down.

Mr. Babbitt received from Renee Waldron a letter that we may want to consider. Renee went to a CIRMA workshop. When people use the Lions bandstand we charge a small fee. Renee recommended based on the information she received from this workshop we revise our policy to exclude a fee. Kathy Hiatt made a motion to put this item on the Agenda as 8B. Larry Groh seconded.

Kathy Hiatt	yes
Larry Groh	yes
David Babbitt	yes

Mr. Babbitt received a letter from Connecticut Care. This letter is information regarding some of the bills that are around regarding Health Care reform.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Babbitt stated that he had an interview with our candidate for the Assessor's position. The candidate did settle and we have a contract.

Mr. Babbitt attended the annual a meeting of the Quinebaug Shetucket Corridor in Canterbury, CT.

Mr. Babbitt stated that the Department Heads have had their meeting for this month. We met at the Community Center.

Mr. Babbitt attended the Springtime Festival awards dinner at the Elks. Kathy Hiatt was there as well. Larry Groh did not attend because his daughter was in a program. We presented two awards one to John Rice, Volunteer of the Year and to Joe Iamartino who is Citizen of the Year.

Mr. Babbitt stated that he was on the radio talk show WINY.

Mr. Babbitt stated he met with CIRMA representatives regarding our insurance. Mike and Tonya were also at that meeting. We've been in negotiations with them and because of this we have saved some money.

Mr. Babbitt stated that Union negotiations are ongoing.

Mr. Babbitt stated that he and Kevin Kennedy have met and talked about the Thompson Hill Waste Water District.

Mr. Babbitt stated that he was out of Town Thursday and Kathy Hiatt attended the Board of Finance meeting. Kathy Hiatt stated that the Board of Finance voted to approve the Towns request to spend \$12,000 to purchase an Exchange Server and they also approved the \$14,000 for the new HVAC at the Library. These two items will be purchased before the end of this fiscal year.

Mr. Babbitt stated that he prepared for the Town Meeting and the Planning and Zoning meeting which happened last night.

Mr. Babbitt stated that today he met with people from Applied Graphics (GIS). We have a \$26,000 project through a grant that talked about GIS and how the Town can use GIS. Mrs. Werge and Kevin Kennedy and myself and Claire Berbue from the Assessor's office attended. This system is going to be very helpful. This will be used in Planning & Zoning as well as the Assessor's office. This will help us to update all our maps.

Mr. Babbitt stated that in the future, Representative Shawn Johnson, the Governor's Office and myself are working along with the Town Planner and the Quaddick Lake Association. It seems like there is some potential there. Mr. Babbitt stated the Town Clerk, Jeff Barske has received his \$7,000 to update his records.

Mr. Babbitt stated tomorrow he has a review with the Thompson Hill Waste Water District.

Mr. Babbitt also stated that Thompson Night at the races is this Thursday night.

Mr. Babbitt stated that he will be at NECOG Friday morning.

Mr. Babbitt mentioned the Memorial Day program at the school on Friday afternoon at 12:30 pm and Monday the Memorial Day parade at 9:00 am.

Mr. Babbitt stated that Nancy Wyman, State Treasurer will be at the Chamber of Commerce breakfast in Pomfret.

Kathy Hiatt had one announcement that the School Readiness is holding an early childhood fair on Saturday, June 2nd at the Library Community Center from 12:00p to 3:00p.

Kathy Hiatt also hoped everyone has a safe and happy Memorial Day. Larry Groh also stated that he hoped everyone have a safe and happy Holiday. Mr. Groh also stated that he missed the awards banquet at the Elks because his daughter had a concert. Larry Groh stated he also attended the Relay for Life and walked 12 hours on and off.

Mr. Babbitt stated that the Thompson Recreation summer schedule is out.

Mr. Babbitt reported on the issue of Constables being off the ballot. The ordinance must be in place by July 11. Also a notice in the paper by June 26.

Attorney St.Onge has the Ordinance and is going over it again.

Mr. Babbitt mentioned that Dave Johnson has been asking that the Town do something regarding flags on Thompson Hill. David Babbitt made a motion to move this on the Agenda to 8C. Kathy Hiatt seconded.

Kathy Hiatt	yes
Larry Groh	yes
David Babbitt	yes

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Lynn Landry stated that on June 2nd CT. Forest and Parks will have trail day at 10:00 am. at the West Thompson Dam near the garage. Wendy Barske is also involved in this project.

Bates Craver said that on Saturday June 9th the High School band will have a concert at Riverside Park, the Lions bandstand.

Charlie Seney mentioned the Mechanicsville Housing Project. He asked where the sewer will go. It will go into the Sewer Department. Further discussion continued.

Charlie Seney also questioned the Town plowing and sanding and also sweeping of the roads at the Quinebaug Trailer Park. Charlie said that this is a private road. Mr. Babbitt said that the trailer park pays \$1.6 million in taxes. Mr. Babbitt also stated this work was granted by the previous Board and continued through the current Board of Selectmen.

FIREFIGHTERS REBATE

Mr. Babbitt stated that he met with Attorney St. Onge on Thursday afternoon and he said that Selectmen are free to change Town or Selectmen policy but we are not *free* to change a Town Ordinance. There is no provision for a widow of a firefighter and therefore we cannot, by vote of the

Selectmen, award such a payment. It would take a Town meeting to change such an award. The Firemen's Association should work on this to provide such an award if it should happen again. I'm afraid we have no recourse in trying to provide a refund under the current Ordinance. Larry Groh stated that his feelings have not changed from the last meeting. He also said that he knows that the Board of Selectmen cannot change an Ordinance.

Larry Groh also stated that this money would go to the Estate of the Firefighter. He also stated that the deceased firefighters did a service.

Kathy Hiatt stated that she believes that it's fair for this money to go to the firefighter but she also stated that she does not believe that it's appropriate for the Board of Selectmen to go against the advice of the Attorney. Kathy Hiatt also stated that the firefighters should bring an ordinance change to a Town meeting.

Larry Groh made a motion to release the funds of the deceased firefighters That have met all the requirements for the tax abatement should go to their estate.

Mr. Babbitt stated that if it's legal I'll do it

Kathy Hiatt suggested that at the next Selectmen's meeting that Attorney St. Onge should be in attendance.

REVISED SMALL CITIES

Delayed at the request of Shawn Donohoe.

David Kress – 447 Quaddick Road. Stated that he heard David Babbitt on the radio regarding the sale of the mill. Mr. Kress does not understand completely what the deal is with the Small Cities money. Shawn Donohoe had Small Cities Grants. Mr. Babbitt stated that Mr. Donohoe did not fulfill his obligation with the Grants. Mr. Kress asked when the properties were sold were the Grants paid back to the Town at the time of the sale. Mr. Babbitt stated they were not. Mr. Kress asked that the Grants are being transferred on to the new property owners, Mr. Babbitt said that was correct. The new owners have a two year moratorium on the loan repayment. Just to clear a question that was raised at the last Selectmen's meeting concerning a potential conflict of interest that Kathy Hiatt couldn't vote on this particular item since her husband Joel Hiatt is on the Small Cities Board. As there is no direct gain by Mr. Hiatt, being Chairman of the Small Cities therefore, there is no conflict period, according to the Town Attorney.

APPOINTMENT OF TOWN ASSESSOR

Mr. Babbitt announced that Sabrina Hourx is the new Assessor, she has signed the contract and will be starting June 1, 2007. The Board of Selectmen need to vote on that. Ms. Hourx's health benefits are the same as the Town employees, her salary is \$52,000 which will be adjusted to \$54,900, March 1st, 2008 once CCMA I and certification is obtained. She will be working 40 hours per week Monday thru Friday. All Holidays are according to the Union Contract. Probation period of 6 months. David Babbitt made a motion to approve Sabrina Hourx as our Assessor. Larry Groh seconded. So moved.

Kathy Hiatt	yes
Larry Groh	yes
David Babbitt	yes

The retired Assessor has been coming about 4 hours a week. We've been fairly successful at that.

DEARY MEMORIAL RACE

Mr. Babbitt stated that the people holding the event would like to put up a banner. Kathy Hiatt made a motion to allow the Deary Memorial people to put up a banner as requested. Larry Groh seconded. So moved.

Kathy Hiatt	yes
Larry Groh	yes
David Babbitt	yes

FROM THE DESK OF RENE WALDRON

Mr. Babbitt stated he received a letter says that a fee should not be charged at the Gazebo/Bandstand that it increased our liability. Renee attended a meeting which this was discussed. Larry Groh asked if there is a fee right now, Mr. Babbitt stated, yes, \$5.00 for a resident and \$25.00 for a non resident. Renee is recommending that we exclude the fee. Kathy Hiatt made a motion that we do away with the fees and adopt the application for use of the bandstand as proposed by Renee Waldron after Attorney St.Onge gives approval.

Larry Groh seconded. So moved.

Kathy Hiatt	yes
Larry Groh	yes
David Babbitt	yes

Mr. Babbitt stated he received an E-Mail from Dave Johnson reference regarding putting up flags around Town. We were hoping to have this done for Memorial Day but did not meet that date. An event will be happening on Thompson Hill on July 4th and 17th – Anniversary of the Thompson Hill Fire Company. David Johnson thought that it would be great if we had flags flying from Rte. 395 going up to Thompson Hill and possibly going on to Rte. 193. It would be about 30 flags that would be needed if we did this, the cost would be about \$525.00. If we did all 40 flags that are necessary to cover all the poles in North Grosvenordale, on Main Street the cost would be an additional \$700.00. Larry Groh suggested we check with Town Attorney. Larry also suggested that possibly we could get donations. David Babbitt made a motion that the Board of Selectmen request from the Board of Finance a total of \$525.00 for flags for Thompson Hill for the July 4th celebration.

Kathy Hiatt asked how we are going to mount them. David Babbitt stated that they come with brackets and Jim from the Village Hardware will be giving them to us at his cost. We will ask the Fire Companies to put them up. Larry Groh stated that we should ask for the CL & P & the Telephone Company if we can do this. David Babbitt stated that the motion is dead.

David Babbitt moved motion to adjourn is in order. Kathy Hiatt made a motion to adjourn Larry Groh seconded. So moved.

Kathy Hiatt	yes
Larry Groh	yes
David Babbitt	yes