

**TOWN OF THOMPSON, CONNECTICUT
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
JUNE 26, 2007**

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting Tuesday, June 26, 2007 at 7:30 pm at the *East Thompson Fire Department*.

PRESENT:

A.David Babbitt, First Selectman, Kathleen A. Hiatt, Selectman, Lawrence K. Groh Jr., Selectman, Leo Adams, Al Landry, Lynn Landry, Jim Esslinger, Worcester T&G , Joe Gaucher

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Hiatt has 3 corrections to the June 12, 2007 minutes: *1st on page 2 "the closest office, the next is on page 3 par 8 1st sentence add; about the proposed cell tower, line 3 delete a; page 6 par, 5 2nd sentence – It was opened to all Pre-schoolers. Page 5 1st sentences added after 95,232, for our school budget. On page 5, 4th par correct to read \$15,000,000.* Kathy Hiatt made a motion to accept the minutes with the corrections, Larry Groh, seconded.

Kathy Hiatt	yes
Larry Groh	yes
David Babbitt	yes

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Babbitt asked to have a motion to add Invitation to Bid to the Agenda, Larry Groh made the motion to make this item 5A after Citizens Comments. Kathy Hiatt seconded.

Kathy Hiatt	yes
Larry Groh	yes
David Babbitt	yes

Mr. Babbitt mentioned a letter he received from Governor Rell asking for co-operation with the Census Bureau.

Mr. Babbitt mentioned a letter he sent to Randy Kempain regarding the fire hydrants. We have a hydrant that didn't work. Randy called Mr. Babbitt and said that he would meet with the Fire Chiefs. Randy stated the only hydrant that was not in service was the one at the Community Fire Company which is now in service. When a fire hydrant is not in service a bag will be covering it.

Mr. Babbitt mentioned he received a note that a grant is being received by the School. This is part of the Grant that the schools are getting from CL&P and the note states that it is nice to see the Thompson Schools being aggressive and looking out for every dollar possible. Mr. Babbitt stated that Bill Birch from the school worked hard on this Grant.

Mr. Babbitt stated he received a request for our Sanitary Landfill identification numbers. Mr. Babbitt said that Winston Averill, the Towns Consultant will be working on this.

Mr. Babbitt stated that FEMA came in the office today and left some flyers. The Town of Thompson had very little damage reported in the April Nor'easter.

Mr. Babbitt stated that the Siting Council, from New Britain, on Tuesday July 3rd will hear the Verizon Wireless notice for Quinebaug Road, Thompson. Another Cell will be going on the Tower at the Quinebaug Fire Station. There will be no change to the height of the Tower.

Mr. Babbitt stated he received from the State Police the arrests and re-arrest warrants report.

Mr. Babbitt stated that he received approval for the Buckley Hill Estates. They received approval from the EPA to hook up.

Mr. Babbitt mentioned he received terms of Agreement from Wheelabrator which was passed on to Leo Adams.

Mr. Babbitt stated Michelle Bourgeois has resigned from her commitment from the Mystic Country Tourist Board. We will be looking for a replacement.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Babbitt stated that we have had a number of meetings regarding the budget with reporters, various Town Meetings, Selectmen's Meetings. The Board of Finance is meeting now to try to determine the new Mill Rate. A Town Meeting will be held on the 9th and the Referendum on the 17th.

Mr. Babbitt stated that we have had a problem with a Firefighter not getting his workman's comp request. Mr. Babbitt said that a meeting was held at the Town Hall with CIRMA and all parties involved. It seems the process is back on track.

Mr. Babbitt has met with a couple of lobbyist particularly Tom Charette who is helping us with the Alternative System Sewer Bill which was passed in January 2008.

Mr. Babbitt stated he and Mr. Groh, attended Graduation at the High School. Mr. Babbitt said it was his 50th year anniversary along with Dave Johnson.

Mr. Babbitt stated he met with the Chair of Economic Development, Sally White.

Mr. Babbitt stated the Thompson Historical Society had its annual meeting.

Mr. Babbitt stated he went to the Town Meeting where Budget and ordinance changes for Constables, firefighters tax abatement and Economic Development alternates were acted on.

Mr. Babbitt stated on Tuesday, June 19th he went to Cromwell for the CCM annual meeting.

Mr. Babbitt went to Monroe to visit the Business Park that's being developed by John Kimball Group, and Dan Julian. They met with Inland Wetlands, and Conservation they also met briefly with Planning & Zoning last night. They will meet with the Industrial Commission tomorrow. They will be bringing their business to Thompson. The Business Park will be developed on Reardon Road. It will be called the Thompson Rail Industrial Park.

Mr. Babbitt stated that the Board of Finance is meeting tonight.

Mr. Babbitt stated there will be a Small Cities conference tomorrow. Kevin Kennedy is going to attend. Kevin will try to get money for Small Cities and verify what the regulations are. We are hoping to do the Town Hall with ADA dollars.

Mr. Babbitt stated that publicity was sent to the Villager, Norwich Bulletin, and the Telegram and the Shoppers Guide regarding the Referendum.

Mr. Babbitt stated that negotiations continue tomorrow afternoon.

Mr. Babbitt stated that there is a reception in Hartford for Terry Larson.

Mr. Babbitt stated that on July 2nd, we were scheduled to go to court. We've been dealing with Richard Roy regarding junk vehicles on School Street for over a year. We were told there is no judge available and the court date cancelled.

Mr. Babbitt stated that on the Fourth of July the Thompson Hill Fire Company will have a small ceremony on the steps of the Vernon Stiles Inn commemorating their birthday – 175 years ago.

Mr. Babbitt stated on July 7th there will be a Band Concert at 5:00 pm at Riverside Park.

Mr. Babbitt stated that on Sunday the Senior Picnic will be held.

Kathy Hiatt stated that the Concession stand at Quaddick will not be open this year so Camp Adventure attendees will not be able to use the refrigerator. Chase Road Growers Jane Reynolds, donated some annuals that will be planted at the Library. I'd like to thank Chase Road Growers for that. Also, I'd like to thank Lynn & Al Landry for donating all of the plants and all the work to make the Town Hall look so beautiful.

Larry Groh mentioned that he was not able to make the previous Town Meeting. He had a few kids at his house that he had to entertain. Larry Groh asked if the question was asked of the Town Attorney which was with the new ordinance that passed would it be retroactive. Kathy Hiatt stated that the Attorney very specifically said that we covered the families of the firefighters that have died within the past year. Kathy Hiatt asked a 2nd question "under the existing ordinance could we have paid the estate of the fallen fire fighters" and Attorney St. Onge said in his legal opinion no way shape or form could we have paid the estate under the old ordinance.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Joe Gaucher questioned the fence at TEEG. It was to be discussed when we get to that item on the agenda.

Al Landry asked regarding the Selectmen's Update. Kathy Hiatt stated that the update is not ready so we had to postpone the folding party.

Al Landry also stated that when they have the car wash at the Town Hall that they are careful not to do any damage to the flowers in front of the Town Hall, to be careful with the hoses and recommends they use environmentally friendly products and processes.

Sally White asked on Quaddick Town Farm Road that quite a bit of gravel is taken out. She also wanted to know if it was the Town removing the gravel. Leo Adams stated that the builder is taking the gravel out. Sally said that we are losing our character of our land.

Sally White asked about the Kimball Group in regards to the name Thompson Rail because she has met with the railroad business manager who was not aware of the project. Could they be linking it to the Providence and Worcester line?

Mr. Babbitt stated that Dan Julian has done a number of these sitings for P&W. They have a real good working relationship with P&W. Dan Julian may not have talked

directly to the person you (Sally) spoke with but the people that he deals with are aware of what he is thinking and they are excited.

Larry Groh asked David Babbitt if he mentioned anything to Leo Adams about a crushed drain pipe in that area. Larry said a resident has complained. Leo Adams will look into this. Mr. Babbitt stated that we have a problem on Main Street with people putting their trash on Town property. The Department of Health is involved. We have cleaned this mess up and have sent to the landlord the bill.

INVITATION TO BID

Mr. Babbitt asked Larry Groh to open the bids and they are as followed:

Columbia Ford Lincoln Mercury	\$21,985.00
Putnam Chrysler Dodge Jeep	\$25,785.00
Putnam Ford Mercury	\$21,400.00
Gates GMC (Boston Post)	\$24,178.00
Gates GMC (Boston Post)	\$24,743.31
Liberty Chevy	\$22,271.00
Interstate (Hartford) Ford	\$19,986.00

Total of 7 bids were opened. The procedure is that the Board takes the 3 lowest bids and then passes them on to Leo Adams for final review and come back to the next meeting and gives us his recommendation. Larry Groh made a motion to review all the bids that came in to be sure that they meet all the specifications that were sent out by the Town of Thompson and return to the Board with his recommendation. David Babbitt seconded the motion.

Kathy asked if we could wait a month. Leo Adams said yes.

Kathy Hiatt	yes
Larry Groh	yes
David Babbitt	yes

ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION

Mr. Babbitt received a letter of resignation from Kevin Beno from the Economic Development Commission. If we do accept this resignation, we do have a person that Sally White has recommended, her name is Beverly Kennedy. Kathy Hiatt made a motion to accept Kevin Beno's resignation and also write Mr. Beno a letter thanking him for his service to the Town.. Larry Groh, seconded.

Kathy Hiatt	yes
Larry Groh	yes
David Babbitt	yes

Kathy Hiatt made a motion to accept Beverly Kennedy as her appointment to the Economic Development Commission. Kathy said that she read what Sally wrote but she also stated that Bev Kennedy was the owner of the Simple Elegant Tea Room. She always wanted to be involved in the Town. Kathy moved to appoint Beverly Kennedy. Larry Groh, seconded.

Kathy Hiatt	yes
Larry Groh	yes
David Babbitt	yes

Mr. Babbitt stated that the ordinance that we put in for the alternates should come into effect in 15 days once that has come into effect Mr. Babbitt will try to get an article in the paper so that we can get 2 alternates.

LAND USE LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Mr. Babbitt stated he received a letter from PACE University School of Law – Land Use Law Center. They are asking us to pass a resolution supporting the program. We sent 4 or 5 people to their seminar and we have found it to be very helpful. Kathy Hiatt's concern with this is what Attorney St. Onge said in a previous this is a resolution of the legislative body. Does that mean we need to take this to the taxpayers or can we make it a resolution of the Board of Selectmen? Kathy Hiatt made a motion that we support this resolution as the Board of Selectmen and modify what they have presented. Larry Groh, seconded.

Kathy Hiatt	yes
Larry Groh	yes
David Babbitt	yes

APPROVAL OF PROJECT GRADUATION

Mr. Babbitt stated that he received a letter from Jim Oleksiak Co-Chair of Project Graduation 2008 requesting to have a Can and Bottle Drive at the Town Hall. Larry Groh made a motion to accept, Kathy Hiatt, seconded.

Kathy Hiatt	yes
Larry Groh	yes
David Babbitt	YES

Kathy Hiatt asked if these folks need to use and if so do they know how to use hoses. David Babbitt said no they don't need hoses. Kathy just wants to ask that they continue to not harm the plantings.

REQUEST FROM TEEG –FENCE

Mr. Babbitt stated that the TEEG property is the property of the Town of Thompson. They have a dangerous situation in there parking area. The neighbor's children are cutting across the parking lot to get to the play ground and they have had a couple of near misses with people backing their car up. Mr. Babbitt suggested to TEEG to get a couple of bids and then see what we could do. They got a number of bids and the cheapest bid was Thompson Fence. We do not have any money to purchase the fence. Mr. Babbitt stated that he would like to bring it to the Board of Finance. Further discussion continued with alternatives. Leo Adams will investigate the property lines and will put up a "caution children" sign in the meantime

Kathy Hiatt thanked the East Thompson Fire Department for allowing us to have this meeting.

ADJOURN