



TOWN of
THOMPSON

Board of Selectmen

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TOWN OF THOMPSON, CT.

2017 NOV 13 A 11: 51
Jinda Paradise
TOWN CLERK / ACST.

Minutes: Regular Meeting
Tuesday, November 8, 2017
Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall

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First Selectman Ken Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: Ken Beausoleil
Laurent Guillot
Steve Herbert

Staff Present: Marie C. Mongeau, Recording Secretary
Also Present: Amy St. Onge, Selectman Elect
Members of the Public

I. Approval of Minutes

- A. **Steve Herbert moved and Laurent Guillot seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the October 17, 2017 regular meeting as written.**

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Laurent Guillot- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

- B. **Steve Herbert moved and Ken Beauseoleil seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the October 20, 2017 special meeting as written.**

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Laurent Guillot- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

- C. **Steve Herbert moved and Laurent Guillot seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the October 26, 2017 special meeting as written.**

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Laurent Guillot- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

II. Correspondence

- A. Thompson Recreation Commission Letter of Appreciation
B. Chamber of Commerce Invitation to Event, Request for Sponsorships, Chamber Awards
C. Thames Valley Council for Community Action (TVCCA) Invitation
D. TVCCA Home Delivered Meals
E. Tommy Toy Fund
F. DESPP Monthly Police Services Report
G. RX Prescription Plan Savings Summary
H. Town Attorney Bill. St. Onge sent over the Quit Claim Deed for the Ellen Larned Museum; he suggested that the Historical Society include a "no later than" date for the roof. He also recommended that they do a quick title search. The Historical Society is reviewing it at their meeting tonight,
I. Letter regarding Thompson Trails acquiring the Ithiel Town Covered Bridge. This item was moved to Other Business, Item 9. A.
J. The cleaning service for Town Hall completed their work with us as of last week. Our building maintainer is putting in extra time for the moment but we'll need to decide how we wish to proceed.

III. Selectmen's Comments

- A. S. Herbert congratulated K. Beausoleil on his victory in the campaign.
- B. K. Beausoleil presented the following Selectmen's Comments:
 - 1. This weekend is the Veterans Day Holiday weekend; the Transfer Station will be closed Saturday, Nov. 4; Town Hall will be closed Friday, Nov. 3.
 - 2. The Fire Study is ongoing. The consultant is continuing to gather information; he's currently working on getting a breakdown of calls from Quinebaug Valley Dispatch.
 - 3. The Town is making a partial payment of \$25,000 to each Town Fire Department from their funding from the Town.
 - 4. K. Beausoleil would like to congratulate the Town Highway Department - they did fantastic job with the storm that came through. We had 13 roads closed and approximately 1000 homes without power. The highway crew came in at 5:00 a.m. Monday and they cleared everything on our roads which wasn't impeded by trees in wires by 3:00 p.m. One of the biggest problems was communications from Eversource. Our rep was communicating with us but we weren't getting the trucks. We had only one truck at 9:00 p.m. Monday. Live wires were down from 8:00 a.m. Monday through 7:30 p.m. Tuesday. We contacted the Governor's Office, Emergency Management in Colchester, and Rep. Danny Rovero to get trucks here. School was closed for three days. It was the end of the day Thursday before everyone but a few stragglers had power. Ballard remained closed through Friday as it was flooded. Eversource's response was totally unacceptable. It will be under review.
 - 5. Regarding the Blaine Road Bridge proposed near the West Thompson Dam - we're working with Senator Chris Murphy (who is sending out correspondence seeking funding) as well as with Senator Joe Courtney.
 - 6. Camden Properties - John Gumpert came up from Atlanta with an investor for a tour of the mill and the surrounding property and then stopped by the Selectmen's Office. Mr. Gumpert felt very positive about the interest in the project.
 - 7. On Saturday, Nov. 11 at 11:00 a.m., there will be a Veterans Day program sponsored by the V.F.W. in Swanson Park honoring the Connecticut National Guard.
 - 8. Congratulations all candidates elected Nov. 7; he looks forward to working with them.
 - 9. Thank you to Larry Guillot for stepping in and helping out with the Board of Selectmen. It is greatly appreciated.

IV. Citizens' Comments

- A. Linda Jarmolowicz brought up that the dates for Veteran's Day closures were stated as Nov. 4 and Nov. 5. K. Beausoleil corrected his statement - the dates are Nov. 10 and Nov. 11.
- B. Karen Durlach said her power went out again over the weekend and last night. She also received a call about the Blaine Road Bridge.
- C. Charlie Obert said he believes the road blocking during the storm could've been done better. K. Beausoleil said we blocked the roads with everything we had - cones, barrels, barriers - we just didn't have enough to take care of everything in this storm.
- D. Rene Morin, Tax Collector - Congratulated K. Beausoleil and S. Herbert for their re-election to the Board and to Amy St. Onge for her election to the Board.

As Tax Collector, he wanted to inform the Board that if the 4th referendum fails, there will not be enough time to schedule a 5th referendum before tax bills need to go out on Jan. 1, 2018. He wanted to remind the current Board and the new Board that the Selectmen have the authority to set a mill rate so bills can go out. If the referendum passes, the Tax Office will be able to send out the motor vehicle tax bills which should've gone out in July, the 2nd half of the adjusted real estate and personal property tax as well as the supplemental motor vehicle tax bills.

S. Herbert asked, if it passes, when the tax bills would go out. R. Morin responded they'd go out December 29th or 30th. S. Herbert brought up the ramifications for tax deductions. R. Morin stated that the Tax Office is working with taxpayers who request to make payment now for that purpose. They use the same dollar amount as they were billed in July. With this option, down the road, the Tax Office will have to send them an adjusted bill. S. Herbert mentioned an option to bring money in other than through taxes would be to borrow money. R. Morin commented that he would like to see the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Finance and the Finance Director, and whoever else, work in concert to best estimate what the expenses will be and set a mill rate based on that. They can set the mill rate at whatever is deemed to be appropriate. On the night of the Referendum, if it fails, the Board of Finance will be meeting to authorize another 30 days of spending. The Board of Selectmen will set a meeting to discuss the next step. If the Referendum passes, the Board of Selectmen will meet the next day to approve the mill rate. S. Herbert asked if the referendum should pass, could tax bills can go out Dec 15th rather than the 30th. R. Morin stated yes, potentially, they could; he is working with the Assessor's Office to make sure all information is ready.

Charlie Obert asked about setting a mill rate sooner - as Ashford did. Mr. Morin responded that Thompson has an ordinance which states that any increase in the mill rate of 2% or more has to go to a Town-wide Referendum. If it were under 2%, it could be decided at Town Meeting. It is currently a 3.6% increase.

V. Town Meeting and referendum dates.

As the voting machines must remain sealed until Nov. 21 and the cards need to be programmed, the Town Clerk and Registrars chose Monday, Nov. 20 for the Town Meeting and Thursday, Nov. 30 for the Referendum. The Legal Notice was presented.

Steve Herbert moved and Laurent Guillot seconded the motion to approve the Legal Notice of Town Meeting and Referendum as written.

Ken Beausoleil- Yes

Laurent Guillot- Yes

Steve Herbert- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

VI. Director of Public Works

The Board of Selectmen have applicant information to review and return to the office. Interview dates and times will then be set. K. Beauseoleil proposed asking a resident, who's been in the construction business for many years, to take part in the interviews and give input. He recommended Ron Desrochers of Desrochers Excavating. K. Beausoleil recommended that the current and incoming Board members, as well as Ron Desrochers, make up the interview committee.

VII. Recording Secretary

Tina Fox has resigned as Recording Secretary from five Boards/Commissions. In the past, the interview committee for Recording Secretaries was comprised of a representative from each of the Boards/Commissions/Committees seeking a Recording Secretary. We have a couple of applicants. We hope some may work with more than one Board/Commission.

S. Herbert recommended we hire more than one person so we have flexibility and one may be able to cover for the other. One of our current Recording Secretaries will help out in the interim. With consensus of the Board, K. Beausoleil will reach out to the other Boards/Commissions involved to arrange a time to hold the interviews. K. Beausoleil will represent the Board of Selectman in the interviews.

VIII. Certificate of Appreciation

K. Beausoleil has prepared certificates of appreciation for volunteer Board/Commission members who have resigned or retired. These include Cathy Thomas, Al Lafleur, Ron Tillen and Mary Poulin. If you think of anyone who has been missed, let us know. For those who are retiring from elected positions, and have served for many years, he would like the Board of Selectmen do a proclamation. K. Beausoleil will review and come back to the board with names.

IX. Other Business

A. Ithiel Town Covered Bridge – Karen Durlach and Charlie Obert from the Trails Committee came to discuss acquiring this bridge. The Ithiel Town Bridge is available free to Thompson. Karen Durlach stated they would like to bring the bridge to town as an attraction. In addition, Ithiel Town was originally from Thompson so there is an historical tie to the town. It is a partially constructed bridge and is currently in New Hampshire. They are working on how and when to get it here, the costs, the permits, where to place it in Town, etc. They will be making a trip to take a look at the bridge. They aren't asking the Town for money. They're looking for private, state, federal and historical grants. They're asking for the Board of Selectmen's support to bring it here and store it at the town garage. A decision must be made quickly as the current owners may destroy it. The Board of Selectmen agreed to back the Trails Committee in acquiring the bridge but stated there will be no funding provided by the Town.

X. Citizens' Comments: None

XI. Tax Refunds

Ken Beausoleil moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to refund Toyota Motor Credit Corporation the amount of \$59.73.

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Laurent Guillot- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

XII. Adjourn

Steve Herbert moved and Ken Beausoleil seconded the motion to adjourn.

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Laurent Guillot- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

First Selectman Ken Beausoleil adjourned the meeting at 8:20 PM.

Marie C. Mongeau
Recording Secretary