



TOWN of
THOMPSON

Board of Selectmen

Minutes: Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 3, 2017
Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: Ken Beausoleil
Laurent Guillot
Steve Herbert

Staff Present: Tina Fox, Recording Secretary
Orla McKiernan-Rafferty, Finance Director

Also Present: Members of the Public

K. Beausoleil called for a moment of silence for the Las Vegas shooting victims.

I. Approval of Minutes

A. **Steve Herbert moved and Laurent Guillot seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the September 19, 2017 regular meeting as written.**

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

The motion carried unanimously.

II. Correspondence

- A. A claim was filed with MERS based on a previous declaratory ruling.
- B. Assessor asked for waiver for totally disabled homeowner's tax relief, and the waiver was granted.
- C. Proposal for solar project for TEEG through Charlie Whedon. There will be an additional \$50 charged for insurance for the building.
- D. The State will be re-doing their salt sheds in Ashford, Pomfret, and Thompson.
- E. Statistics on the prescription plan savings.
- F. The school is having workshops regarding their strategic plan starting the past Saturday. S. Herbert stated that he attended the meeting and encouraged others to attend in the future.
- G. CT Water newsletter.
- H. Thank you letter from the Make-A-Wish foundation.
- I. Thank you letter for the donation of a raffle basket from Elison Sound Studios.
- J. CCM Business After Hours on October 11th from 5:00 to 7:00 PM.
- K. Resignation from a member of the Quinebaug Valley Senior Center.
- L. General correspondence from Hometown Bank.
- M. Toy fund auction at the Thompson raceway on November 10th.
- N. Connecticut Lawn and Systems Public Safety night in October in Hamden.
- O. Red Cross cocktail reception on March 3rd in Hartford.
- P. ACCESS annual reception and award ceremony on October 12th.

III. Selectmen's Comments

A. K. Beausoleil presented the following Selectmen's Comments:

1. The Transfer Station will begin operating under their winter hours, and mailings for sticker renewals were sent out.
2. Received a call from Troop D at 1:07 AM Monday morning. A large pile of construction debris was dumped on Cortiss Rd. They pushed the debris aside and cleaned it up the next day.
3. A street light was out on Cortiss Rd. As a reminder, if someone sees a street light out, they can call the Selectmen's Office to report it.
4. State DOT did as much road mowing as they could in front of Town Hall between the guard rails and railroad tracks.
5. Chip stone on Linehouse Rd. and Tufts Hill Rd. was swept today.
6. Another truck at the Highway Garage is out of commission and there is not an estimate to fix it yet.
7. Fire prevention week is October 8th – 14th, and various fire departments will be having activities.
8. Community Day was a great success. Barbara Pickett was named volunteer of the year. Thank you to the Recreation Commission, Recreation Department, Thompson Together, and other volunteers.
9. Line painting will be conducted on some roads. Approximately 46 miles of road will have lines painted.
10. A Town Meeting has been scheduled for October 11th at 7:00 PM in the Library. There will be three ordinances, three property donations, the transfer of the Ellen Larned building, the \$300,000 transfer for the window project at the Tourtellotte building, as well as the budget on the call of the meeting.
11. A request for applications for the Director of Public Works went out, and the interview process will begin at the end of three weeks.

IV. Citizens' Comments

- A. Rob Mann, 15 Meadow Dr., asked if Babula Rd. would be mowed. K. Beausoleil stated that all roads get mowed once a year and the Highway Department is currently mowing and making their way through Town.

V. Ellen Larned Contract Language

- A. The Board discussed potential problems with the current wording of the contract, with the intent of bringing the issues to the Town Attorney to address.
- B. K. Beausoleil stated that the Town needs to have an option to review the liens on the property if the Town is in a position to take the building back. S. Herbert stated that the current wording says the Town would be able to take the building back free of any liens, but he is not aware that it would be legally possible to do so. He also brought up the ability to have the building insured.
- C. L. Guillot asked if the Thompson Historical Society already has the funds for the roof. K. Beausoleil stated that they were looking at funding through a grant, fundraising, and either a conventional or USDA loan that would have a yearly payment around \$6,800.
- D. Rob Mann, 15 Meadow Dr., asked if the donation from the Town every year to help heat the building would continue. K. Beausoleil stated that the lease would be null upon the transfer of the property, but the Thompson Historical Society may request a yearly amount for the maintenance of Town records.

- VI. Process and Approval of Expenses and Payables
- A. K. Beausoleil stated that he and O. McKiernan-Rafferty have been discussing how to approach approval of expenses. He presented a set of invoices to the Board to review, and added that more may come in the next day or so.
 - B. O. McKiernan-Rafferty stated that payroll checks will need to be signed the following Tuesday.
 - C. K. Beausoleil stated that they hope to approve expenses every two weeks at BOS meetings and do accounts payable every other week.
- VII. Other Business
- A. O. McKiernan-Rafferty presented a memo from Bay State Consultants. She stated that through the end of December 2016, the Town had a contract with TransCanada for electricity. The Town now uses Eversource. CCM was going out to bid and three Towns expressed interest: Killingly, Killingworth and Thompson. The bids will be opened at approximately noon on October 4th. The three Towns will hear the bids during a conference call and decide on the call if they would like to move forward with one of the bids. Eversource costs continue to increase. Depending on the bid and how high Eversource rates continue to climb, the Town could potentially see a \$5,000 savings in Fiscal year 2018. Each bid will be a 1, 2 and 3 year contract, and the Towns will have to decide which one to choose. She asked permission from the Board for her and the First Selectman to attend the conference call and decide if the Town should pursue one of the bids.
 - B. S. Herbert stated that he does not want to give permission to allow the Town to enter a contract. He would want to hear the proposal and consider it. He stated that it is not reasonable to receive the proposal at 8:00 PM the night before the conference call when the proposal is dated three weeks ago. O. McKiernan-Rafferty stated that in the past, the First Selectman and Finance Director entered into the contract on behalf of the Town. The nature of the process is that it's done via phone call and they want an answer immediately.
 - C. L. Guillot stated that he does not think it's a good idea to put all of the responsibility on the Finance Director. He was in favor of the Board deciding together if they should move forward with a contract.
 - D. The Board agreed to schedule a special meeting for October 5th at 11:00 AM to discuss the bids and make a decision, if possible.
- VIII. Citizens' Comments: None
- IX. Tax Refunds: None
- X. Adjourn
- A. **Steve Herbert moved and Laurent Guillot seconded the motion to adjourn.**
Ken Beausoleil- Yes Laurent Guillot- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.
 - B. First Selectman Ken Beausoleil adjourned the meeting at 8:02 PM.

Tina Fox
Recording Secretary