



TOWN of
THOMPSON

Board of Selectmen

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2018 MAR -8 P 3:26

Linda Paradise
TOWN CLERK, ASST.

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday, March 6, 2018

Thompson Town Hall, Seney Room

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

Present: First Selectman Ken Beausoleil, Selectman Steve Herbert, Selectman Amy St Onge

Staff: Recording Secretary Dotti Durst

Representatives of other Boards/Commissions: Steve Benoit, Emergency Management;
John Rice, Building Committee, Suzanne Witkowski, Housing Chair; John Sterling
representing council.

Members of the public, Representative of WINY Radio

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

I. Approval of Minutes

Motion by S. Herbert, seconded by A. St Onge to accept the minutes as presented of the Special Meeting, February 16, 2018 carried unanimously.

Motion by S. Herbert, seconded by A. St Onge to accept the minutes as presented of the February 20, 2018 Meeting carried unanimously.

Motion by S. Herbert, seconded by A. St Onge to accept the minutes as presented of the February 27, 2018 Special Meeting carried unanimously.

II. K. Beausoleil noted that the following correspondence has been received:

- A. Business After Hours Event
- B. CT Charity Triple Crown Event
- C. CT Chamber of Commerce Legislative Breakfast Meeting
- D. Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut re: International Women's Day
- E. CT Siting Council Petition No. 1247 Approval of Plan Revision
- F. CT Siting Council TS-T-Mobile-141-180221
- F. Conservation Memo re: Donation of Land

III. Selectmen's Comments: A. St Onge-none. S. Herbert-none

K. Beausoleil:

- * Board of Finance Budget Workshops begin on Thursday and continue each Thursday, from 7-9 PM in the Library, excepting March 29, until completed
- * Starr Road litigation has been completed; briefs will be filed next. Then there is 180 days for the judge to reach a decision.
- * Ballard Road is experiencing icing, with water backing up from an obstructed culvert. We have been waiting 3 weeks to hear from the Commissioner of the DOT; this is an unacceptable situation.
- * A storm is expected mid-day tomorrow, March 7, for which our crew is ready. The previous storm resulted in power outages which were only completely resolved at 5:22 PM today, which is unacceptable. The Emergency Manager and Fire Departments have done an outstanding job over these 5 days.

S. Herbert added a thank you to K. Beausoleil for presentation of the budget.

IV. Citizens' Comments:

*Jasmine Berti, 23 Oak Hill Road, asked about school security in light of the recent school shooting. K. Beausoleil responded that at our schools, all personnel are very aware of the situation and precautions are in place.

*Steve Benoit, Emergency Management, commented on the lack of service and delays from Eversource over the 5 days since the last storm, which resulted in power outages to 521 homes, including 492 in the Quaddick Town Farm Road area. Communication was lacking. K. Beausoleil agreed that communication IS the key. At least a Make-Safe crew should be provided.

V. Executive Session –

Motion by K. Beausoleil, seconded by S. Herbert to go into Executive Session at 7:12 PM to discuss CHRO Housing Litigation carried unanimously. Attending will be Suzanne Witkowski, Housing Chair and John Sterling, representing council. The close of Executive Session was at 7:29 PM.

The Regular Board of Selectmen's meeting resumed at 7:30 PM.

Motion by S. Herbert, seconded by A. St Onge, based on the matter just discussed, to approve the settlement by the town's insurance firm as recommended by the town council in the CHRO complaint. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. A Fair Housing Resolution is required annually.

Motion S. Herbert, seconded by A. St Onge to adopt the Fair Housing Resolution as presented passed unanimously.

VII. The Fire Study Report from VFIS has been received and review has begun. It has been sent to the Fire Departments and the Board of Finance, with a copy available for the public. K. Beausoleil noted the many recommendations, some of which will be easily implemented, while others will be challenging. The study identifies several areas for improvement. A. St Onge inquired about the process for execution of the study findings. K. Beausoleil noted that the next step is to digest the entire report, and meet with the Fire Departments to work on creating an implementation plan. S. Herbert commented the 5 volunteer fire departments are valued at \$2.5 million. Equipment comparisons with other towns, based only on population, but not including the differences in geographic area, indicate that our equipment types and numbers may be adequate. K. Beausoleil noted that it took 7 months to pull the report together. Now an advisory committee, made up of a broad range of perspectives, including fire department personnel and others with the aim of building community camaraderie, should be the next step to address the issues presented. As a result, our fire services will be even stronger. S. Herbert suggested that the advisory committee, with clearly defined roles, should be revived. K. Beausoleil noted that the Plan, including utilization of the Supplements and a possible action list, will be moved ahead.

VIII. Review of the 5 Library/Community Center Cooling Tower bids. A. St Onge noted that each bid includes a sound attenuator. K. Beausoleil confirmed that the current equipment has this sound-baffling system, which moderates noise in the neighborhood. Many of the details of the bids were reviewed, including re-use of

fluids and other aspects. The EMCOR (Vernon, CT) bid is lowest at \$65,400, and includes all the components (base, VFD, attenuator) as well as \$4,400 for the controls upgrade.

Motion by S. Herbert, seconded by A. St Onge to accept the EMCOR bid of \$65,400 for the Library/Community Center Cooling Tower passed unanimously.

- IX. Re-appointments to Inland Wetlands Commission:
Motion by K. Beausoleil, seconded by S. Herbert to re-appoint Jasmine Berti and H. Charles Obert to the Inland Wetlands Commission for the term of March 6, 2018 through March 15, 2023, was approved unanimously.
- X. Tri-State Trek Request for Use of Roads: K. Beausoleil noted that a certificate of liability by the sponsoring organization has been submitted.
Motion S. Herbert, seconded by A. St Onge to approve use of Thompson roads on June 22, 2018 for the Tri-State Trek was approved unanimously.
- XI. Building Committee Discussion and Request: John Rice, Building Committee Chair, reviewed a document dated March 6, 2018 from the Building Committee which enumerates the current and likely expenses of the oil cleanup. Several line items were reviewed and explained, including some amounts which were not in the original contract (\$5,000 for ground-mounted solar at the school will be handled by a Tighe and Bond contract and \$2,000 related to the Notice of Violation/Gary Roberts response). Tightness testing of the current tank has been completed satisfactorily, with a second test required in 3 months. As of the end of June, it is possible that tanks may have to be rented, and approximate amounts are listed on the report. Once the subsurface investigation is completed, the town will know if any further remediation will be required. After considering all of the projections presented, including a 10% contingency, the selectmen discussed adding an amount for professional services in case there is a trial; it would be better to send to the Board of Finance a higher number than in the end is needed than to be low.
Motion by K. Beausoleil, seconded by S. Herbert to ask for \$232,000 from the Board of Finance to cover the expenses involved in the oil cleanup and associated activities, including possible trial expenses, was approved unanimously. K. Beausoleil noted that The BoF will now determine what assets/budget lines can be used for each of the expenses. If the Board approves the request, the town can enter into the contracts. If bonding is required, the matter will go to a town meeting.

On another matter, John Rice asked about the question raised last meeting by a member of the public regarding the Building Committee's authorization of the expenditure of funds. K. Beausoleil reiterated that the Committee is advisory: it reviews invoices, signs off on them/authorizing their payment and sends them to the Selectmen for payment. S. Herbert noted that by statute, only the Selectmen are authorized to expend funds.

K. Beausoleil encourages the Committee to continue to explore alternative energy.

- XII. Union Contract: K. Beausoleil noted that there is a tentative agreement for the contract between the town and the union, ratified by the union members with no

changes.

Motion A. St Onge, seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve the Union contract as presented, effective through June 30, 2020, carried unanimously.

XIII. Other Business:

Motion K. Beausoleil, seconded by S. Herbert to add an agenda item under Other Business, regarding the proposal that land be donated to the town, carried unanimously. A letter of inquiry, received from the Boy Scouts, considering the donation of a parcel of land to the town. The Conservation Commission was contacted, which sent back comments but not a recommendation. The Inland Wetlands Commission was sent a letter: there is an invasive species present, the free-flowing stream may be more desirable than the current dammed water body, and it should be kept in mind that there is a mandatory inspection at 7-year intervals. Most importantly, liability to the town must be avoided.

XIV. Citizens' Comments:

* Charlene Langlois (369 Lowell Davis Road) asked about moving a process forward regarding a river issue. K. Beausoleil notes involvement by IWWA and DEEP and asks for a list from her.

* Francis Langlois (369 Lowell Davis Road) added that in Dudley, the decision was to remove a similar dam and let the stream revert to free-flowing.

XV. Tax Refunds:

Motion K. Beausoleil, seconded by S. Herbert to approve reimbursement of the taxes itemized below carried unanimously.

Crystal Pump LLC	\$32.05
Crystal Pump LLC	\$43.65
Honda Lease Trust	\$47.44
Honda Lease Trust	\$73.71
Monahan, Robert J. and Cecile A.	\$246.59
Wagner, Douglas H.	\$83.83

XVI. Motion by S. Herbert, seconded K. Beausoleil by to adjourn carried unanimously. Adjournment was by K. Beausoleil at 8:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Dorothy Durst, Recording Secretary

Dorothy Durst

These minutes have not yet been approved by the Board of Selectmen. Please refer to next month's meeting minutes for approval of and/or amendments to these minutes.