



TOWN of
THOMPSON
Board of Selectmen

RECEIVED
TOWN OF THOMPSON, CT.
2018 JUN -8 A 8:53
Linda Paradise
TOWN CLERK AssT

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Tuesday, June 6, 2018 7:00 p.m.
Thompson Historical Society, Chase Road
MINUTES

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

Present: First Selectman Ken Beausoleil, Selectmen Amy St Onge and Steve Herbert.
Representatives of the Thompson Fire Departments: Chief Matt Grauer, Chief John Sharpe,
Assistant Chief Ron Fournier, Deputy Chief Matt Whipple, Ryan Leach and others
Other guests: Joe Lindley (Historical Society), Richard Benoit (Director, DPW), members of
the public
Staff: Recording Secretary Dotti Durst

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

I. Approval of Minutes

Motion A. St Onge to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2018 BOS meeting seconded by S. Herbert carried unanimously.

Motion A. St Onge to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2018 BOS Special Meeting seconded by S. Herbert carried unanimously.

Motion A. St Onge to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2018 BOS Special Meeting seconded by S. Herbert carried unanimously.

II. Correspondence

A. TVCCA – Director of Nutrition Services Farewell

B. Connecticut Water – Merger with SJW Group

C. Community Kitchen – Donation Thank You.

D. P&W Railroad Vegetation Control

E. Announcement: June 29, Grill 37, 7:30 AM, Chamber Legislative breakfast honoring Danny Rovero and Tony Guglielmo for their years of service,

III. Selectmen's Comments:

S. Herbert - none

Amy St Onge – Noted that the budget passed and the town is uniting.

➤ She was approached by some senior citizens to inquire about why she and Steve voted to turn down the 2 vans the town was retaining from the fleet being utilized by the seniors, through the Recreation Department. She asked that the record be clear: no one asked about the vans for the senior citizens, but if they want use, they should ask. The 2 Republicans on the BOS did not say “no” to them using the vans. A misconception: it was the school buses not the vans that could have been used but they were not kept.

K. Beausoleil – Thanks to the Historical Society for use of the Old Town Hall for tonight's meeting. It is nice to be back. J. Lindley confirmed that the structure had been thusly used for 176 years.

- Memorial Day went well. The weather cooperated. Robert Cloutier, a WWII veteran was the Grand Marshal. The American Legion and VFW alternate years for organizing the event. Parade participation may be fading.
- There is an opening on the Water Pollution Authority as a member is moving out of state. The Board can appoint someone but ideally a volunteer will step forward.
- Graduation will be June 18 at 6 PM.
- June 9 is Hazardous Waste Collection Day at the Highway Garage.
- It is excellent that the budget passed at the first referendum. Yes, every vote does count.
- NECCOG's Transit District will use State funding to update its fleet with 8 new buses. 8 will come out of service and become available to the towns in the NECCOG service area around the first of 2019. They are 18-20 passenger vehicles with lifts, some have new motors.

IV. Citizens' Comments: Bob Rickabee, 379 Riverside Drive explained the structural damage occurring repeatedly to his and other properties as a result of the contractors who are working and blasting across the river. First Selectman K. Beausoleil has observed the situation. K. Beausoleil confirmed that the Planning and Zoning Commission controls the permits; he will inquire about it with them. Mr. Rickabee explained the significant financial impact this damage has incurred on his property.

- A resident at 19 Central Street - noted the drug activity in the vicinity of his residence and the park. He asked about considering a Volunteer Community Police Force. K. Beausoleil is already aware of the situation and has worked with the State Police liaison Sgt. McKusker to increase police visibility. In the past the town had a Neighborhood Watch. Perhaps increasing the lighting in the area would be a deterrent.

V. Highway Department: Director Richard Benoit presented a written report, for which S. Herbert thanked him. He reviewed the immediate plans for the Airline Trail, the schedule for roads re-paving, some recent storm damage, and the failure of a bridge inspection due to holes in the structural members which, if closed for repairs, would isolate a residence. A work-around is being considered for that resident. A priority list of activities has been prepared to map out future work. Citizens' comments have been received about potholes, which are being addressed as fast as possible, between the scheduled projects. S. Herbert pointed out questions received regarding work needed on the parking area at the schools and library, again which will be handled when weather permits between other projects.

Mr. Benoit added that in the financial area, a situation has permitted a revision of the contract for uniforms service. By careful negotiation, the cost was reduced by \$9,000 per year and the contract is no longer on an automatic renewal. S. Herbert offered praise to the DPW for fiscal management, which also resulted in a fresh set of uniforms for the staff. Similarly, the contract for bottled gas is being reviewed. The bucket truck which failed inspection has deterred some work; it was confirmed that it is not repairable. The town will be watchful for a good-quality used truck. By asking the Board of Finance to add \$19,999 to the Rolling Stock fund, the town will be in a position to act quickly when the right vehicle comes onto the market. Ideally, the truck that is found will have a chip box, which would expedite tree work and fewer staff would be required.

Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Herbert to present a request to the Board of Finance that the amount of \$19,900 be moved to the Rolling Stock Fund, for the purchase of a bucket truck, carried unanimously.

S. Herbert requested the priority list that has been developed for road work.

A. St Onge thanked Mr. Benoit for attending the meeting and reviewing the activities at the DPW. Positive things are happening. Mr. Benoit extended an invitation to the Board

members to come to the Highway Garage and see all the equipment, and the status of the various activities performed there. The Board of Finance and the public are also welcome.

K. Beausoleil noted that the Board of Finance will consider reviewing the Ordinance which requires funding requests of \$20,000 or more to go to a town meeting, as those numbers do not acknowledge the rate of inflation since the 1990s and perhaps should be revised.

- VI. Fire Department Study: Representatives from the Fire Stations were present. Chief J. Sharpe and Chief Grauer, speaking for the group, reviewed the progress to date of the collaborative work done by the stations regarding the VFIS, which was initiated by the Board of Selectmen last year. No name is available yet for a person to chair a Fire Advisory Committee. The stations' staff have discussed and evaluated the suggestions and begun implementation. Examples: development of unified policy and procedures for all stations. Examination of the Junior Firefighters (16-18 years of age) program, with training on each piece of apparatus, and clarification about the regulations and restrictions on this group at an emergency scene. Alarm cards are under review along with the Rapid Intervention Team concept. Conversion to cloud-based software is being considered, which can be utilized from anywhere and shared. Fire house physicals scheduling could be revised with DKH coming to Thompson, facilitating timely examinations. Some recommendations have a longer time frame; some seem to be based on communities with the same population size but a different geography and area (such as ours with 55 sq miles).

S. Herbert - spoke to the author of the study, who confirmed that they used only population size in the suggestions and did not factor in the geography/area of Thompson.

A. St Onge – the study was done in part to determine if Thompson needs 5 fire stations.

We are beginning to understand how it plays out. I commend all of our volunteers.

Chiefs Sharpe and G- we see it as zero redundancy. It is actually a team, dispersed in 5 buildings. We explain it as being like an insurance policy: you hope you never have to use it, but when the time comes, you want the best coverage. The next joint meeting of the fire departments will be July 12.

K. Beausoleil – have you chosen a day/time you would like to meet with the author of the study to pose a list of questions you have compiled? The BOS and members of the public could participate. Perhaps the BOS could conduct a joint Special Meeting on that date as all three selectmen are available.

- VII. The RFP for a Town Planner went out. M. A. Chinatti will conclude her position here at the end of this week. Since the process of reviewing the applications and scheduling interviews will take some time, M. A. has agreed to remain at Thompson on Fridays, keeping the momentum going and serving in a transition role when the new planner is hired. She will have a 4-day week in Plainfield so this is possible.

- VIII. The Town Building Official is currently split with Woodstock until the end of the fiscal year. At that Point, Mr. Bellman will be a 15-hour a week employee of Thompson.

- IX. Re-appointment of Orla McKiernan-Raftery, NDDH Board of Directors Alternate:
Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by A. St Onge to reappoint Orla McKiernan-Raftery as the representative of Thompson at the NDDH, who will serve as an alternate, from June 5, 2018 through June 5, 2012 passed unanimously.

- X. Town Website Re-Design Recommendation: The Branding Plan from the Economic Development Commission recommended the redesign of the town website. The Committee interviewed 3 candidates who specialize in municipal websites, and are recommending Virtual Town Hall. They cited several factors for their selection including the timeframe to create a site, the platform, and the availability of one-on-one time.

Motion S. Herbert seconded by A. St Onge to move ahead with the Virtual Town Hall proposal carried unanimously.

- XI. Town/BOE 2018-2019 Health Insurance – Presentations by potential providers to the BOS, BOF and BOE, through USI who is the broker, allowed the comparison of options. The national network available through Cigna was the deciding factor. There was also a cost savings compared with other possible providers.
- XII. Town Attorney RFP/Action: Four firms were considered, and the field has been narrowed to two. The Finance Director and Town Clerk, who participated in the interviews, made recommendations to the BOS. A factor will be that one firm states that our inquiries would go to the designated lead attorney, while the other will sometimes refer the question to a paralegal or other staff member. K. Beausoleil – had conversations with surrounding towns which use one of the candidate firms, and found them to be adept at municipal matters. The question arose as to the precise language of whether the town would be billed for travel **time** or travel **costs** or neither. Although it was expected that legal firm would be decided upon at tonight’s meeting, this question must be answered first. Since there will be another BOS meeting before July 1, when ideally a contract would take effect, the consensus was to get an answer to the billing question (travel **time** or travel **costs**, or neither). S. Herbert will make the contact with the firms in question to obtain a complete answer to the issue.
- XIII. Other business: none
- XIV. Citizens’ comments: Charlene Langlois, Lowell Davis Road – praised the fire department representatives for being present. Now that she understands how the 5 stations work collaboratively, she will change her mind about moving to fewer stations within Thompson. The entire community should hear these points, she noted.
- XV. Tax Refunds:

Kasey Chickering	\$16.09
Michael C. Graham	26.56
Dennis Panu	11.23
Dennis Panu	27.38

Motion by K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Herbert to approve the tax refunds as presented carried unanimously.

- XVI. **Motion by S. Herbert seconded by A. St Onge to adjourn carried unanimously.**
Adjournment was by K. Beausoleil at 9:14 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.