



**TOWN of
THOMPSON**

Board of Selectmen

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Linda Paradise
TOWN CLERK ASST

SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday, June 19, 2018 7:00 p.m.

Thompson Town Hall Seney Room

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.
Also: Al Landry, Linda Jarmolowicz, John Rice, John Lenky, Lynn Landry, Brian Santos,
Members of the public, WINY Representative
Staff: Recording Secretary Dotti Durst

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

I. Approval of Minutes:

**Motion S. Herbert to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2018 BOS meeting
seconded by A. St Onge carried unanimously.**

**Motion S. Herbert to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2018 BOS Special Meeting
seconded by A. St Onge carried unanimously.**

II. Correspondence:

- J & D Civil Engineers, LLC – Public Hearing Notice, Planning and Zoning Commission. Request from Lavallee Construction to split a 2.14 acres lot #18-12. The Town owns abutting land.

III. Selectmen's Comments: S. Herbert – attended graduation which was a great event

A. St Onge – agrees it was a wonderful event, including her family graduates

K. Beausoleil – The BOS meeting scheduled for July 3 is being cancelled. The next regular meeting will be on July 17 at Quinebaug Fire Station.

- On July 12, (Thursday) the Fire Departments will meet at the Quinebaug Station to continue discussion of the Fire Study

- a new insurance plan was approved by the BOE and BOS for a savings of about \$87,000

- a truck lease/purchase agreement is being wrapped up R. Benoit, DPW, has been seeking the best deal to save the town money, and the price will come in lower than anticipated

- the RFP for the town website resulted in Virtual Town Hall's selection, rather than Civic Plus; now news has been received that Civic Plus has acquired Virtual Town Hall. The

meetings to begin the transition process of creating a new website will be underway tomorrow.

- hazardous waste collection day 06/09 was successful; combining with Putnam, after not conducting the collection drive for 3 years, had a positive result for both towns. This will help keep the roadsides cleaner.

- Thompson was awarded an Energy Management Performance Grant for \$10,705.73

- the Emergency Management Drill on Saturday, monitored through the Governor's office, went well. The scenario was a simulated hurricane. Hat's off to the entire town-wide team which performed very well

- Town Clerk Renee Waldron has completed training and is now a Certified Town Clerk

- The next regular BOS meeting will be on July 17; beginning on the 29th and through the July 4th week, there will be heavy travel. Keep safe, everyone.

- IV. Citizens' Comments: L. Jarmolowic, Denise Drive - For the previous BOS meeting at the Museum building, the agenda was not town website. At the town hall, I was provided with one. *This* BOS meeting, I found the Agenda on the website, but there were 2 versions over the span of a few hours. The second added the meeting's location, which had not been inserted on the first version. The protocol for marking the second version as "revised" was not followed. FOIA filings would cost the Town needlessly.
- Al Landry, Randall Road: perhaps it is time to re-consider holding BOS meetings at off-site. People seem to be not attending unless they have a direct interest or role in the agenda. K. Beausoleil – we will review this question when the next scheduling is done.
- V. Planner: about 6 applications were received and will be forwarded to the Selectmen for review. A group made up of the three Selectmen, someone from Planning and Zoning, perhaps Chairman Jor Parodi or Charlene Langlois (who also serves on the EDC Branding Committee) and as well as perhaps the Finance Director can set a 5-member meeting sometime next week to begin the selection process.
- VI. Transfer Station Fee Increase: Minutes from the Transfer Station Advisory Committee, January 24, 2018 note: no fee increases have been implemented since November, 2012. The Committee suggests increasing the Regular Household fee to \$100 annually and the Senior Household to \$50, effective November 2018. W. Averill will be asked to review the other items on the fee schedule; a fresh brochure should be prepared with the fee schedule and inclement weather instructions.
- L. Landry and A. Landry, Transfer Station Committee members, reviewed the current fees including the provision for a half-year permit for those who live out of state part of the year. Fees cover only about ½ of the costs of running the facility, and are among the lowest in the area. As the volume of waste does not actually increase by ½, the recommendation is to increase both the Regular and the Senior Households by \$15 annually. K. Beausoleil – the other fees at the Transfer Station need review as well, such as tire disposal, refrigerants, and bulky waste, to try to bring a closer balance between the costs to the town for disposal of these items and the fees charged for them. An annual review in December is scheduled. A. Landry – kudos to the staff at the transfer Station who carefully sort the materials thereby maximizing the income to the town for the recyclables.
- Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Herbert to raise both the Senior Household and Regular Household Transfer Station fees by \$15 annually, with a second sticker available for both Regular and Senior Households for an additional \$25, carried unanimously.** The ½ year rate will continue to be available for those who reside out of state for half of the year. Signage and social media will be utilized to inform the public before November when the renewals are due.
- VII. Road Closure request by Reverend G. Gray that Bates Road and Chase Extension on the Common be closed on September 22, 3-5 PM for the Blessing of our First Responders.
- Motion S. Herbert seconded by A. St Onge to close the town roads as requested for the Blessing of our First Responders carried unanimously.**
- VIII. Building Committee: J. Rice - Planning for the timing of installation of the oil tank system at the schools is challenging. A. St Onge - the critical components should be ordered as soon as possible to ensure that the installation can take place on time, B. Santos – it is not only the tank itself but also the skid/pump. J. Rice – estimates of \$5,000 seem to cover these items. K. Beausoleil – asking the BOF to allocate these funds now will provide that we can secure the components.

Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Herbert to recommend that \$5,000 be requested from the BOF, in order to secure the critical components for the tank installation, carried unanimously.

J. Rice – Tighe and Bond provided an over-view or summary but little detail. K. Beausoleil – asked questions in a conference call to Tighe and Bond in which J. Rice participated, to determine the most feasible process and clarify terminology. By the end of the week, they will provide the detailed document. The BOS and the Building Committee will want to digest it then schedule a meeting to address the final set of questions.

IX. BID Policy: The 9/21/2004 Bid Policy, which has action 5 points, was reviewed.

A letter dated 6/18/2018 was received from Orla McKiernan-Rafoery, Finance Director re: Bid Policy of the town of Thompson, suggesting modified language. Given that the policy has not been updated in 14 years, and taking in account many factors, including inflation, cost of living and general practice, she recommends:

Item 1. "Any item over \$10,000.00" to "Any item or service over \$20,000"

Item 5. "The Board of Selectmen may decide not to bid" add "or accept any bids"

The BOS discussed the manner in which the bid policy plays out currently; by raising the bid limit to \$20,000, Board action would be facilitated as only one step would be needed, that of pursuing the actual required item. S. Herbert – how many times per year is an item needed that exceeds the current \$10,000 limit? Only a few but with a highway project, for example, drainage costs can rapidly escalate. With inflation, it is not easy to say what might come up. S. Herbert – Item 5 is poorly worded and should be reviewed. And in light of the current on-line systems of soliciting for/finding a needed item, perhaps the "advertising for a bid in a locally circulated newspaper" language needs modification as well. K. Beausoleil - the BOF backs some changes to the parameters, as each referendum brings a cost to the town as well.

A. Landry- members of the community have asked why the BOF cuts the budget after it passes; the legality is questioned. This question will be posed to the new Town attorney.

X. Ordinances

A. 10-005 Budget (March 12, 2008)

B. 10-049 Voting Districts (May 19, 1981)

C. 10-028 Terms of Office (June 27, 1975) CGS 9-187

These topics will need review as we move forward this year. A review group should be set up, involving others who want to participate as well as the Ordinance Committee.

- When the Library was being planned (1994) creating a consolidated voting place was integral. It is time to take action on this and save the town the expense of multiple voting places. S. Herbert – yes, this should be looked at now.
- The Ordinance Committee, together with others to form an action group, can begin to research these three ordinance topics, get the background and examine options. For example, accurate voting turnout, by election type, at each voting place is needed.

XI. Terms of Office/Town Manager: per CGS, the town may select 2-year or 4-year terms for elected municipal officials. K. Beausoleil – examination of the idea of a Town Manager, together with a BOS, seems timely. Question: if we move to a 4-year term, what recourse there is if an elected official fails to perform? We should ask how the town is protected.

- Transition to the new town attorney, Halloran and Sage, will be underway soon and this will be a question posed right away, among others. In answer to a question, all the

candidate legal firms have been notified of the decision by Thompson. Attorney St Onge will continue with the litigation currently underway.

Motion by K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Herbert to re-sequence the agenda, with item XII becoming XV carried unanimously.

- XII. Other business: none
- XIII. Citizens' Comments: none
- XIV. Tax Refunds:
 - Burt, Norman E. and Marjorie L. \$36.04
 - Nissan Infiniti LT 132.30
 - Thompson, Jennifer J. 44.30

Motion by K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Herbert to approve the 3 tax refunds as presented carried unanimously.

Motion S. Herbert seconded by A. St Onge for a five minute recess carried unanimously. Meeting resumed at 8:45 PM.

- XV. Executive Session:
 - Motion by A. St Onge seconded by S. Herbert to go into Executive session at 8:46 PM to discuss**
 - A. MERS
 - B. CBU
 - C. Possible Property Acquisition
- carried unanimously.**

Motion by A. St Onge seconded by S. Herbert to close the Executive session at 9:16 PM carried unanimously. No actions took place.

- XVI. Adjourn:
 - Motion by S. Herbert seconded by A. St Onge to adjourn carried unanimously.**
- Adjournment was by K. Beausoleil at 9:18PM.

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.