



TOWN of
THOMPSON

Board of Selectmen

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TOWN CLERK ASST

SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Tuesday, August 21, 2018 7:00 p.m.
Thompson Town Hall, Seney Room
MINUTES

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

I. Attendance:

First Selectman Ken Beausoleil, Selectmen Amy St Onge and Steve Herbert (On conference call continuously until 7:24 when he arrived at the town hall and joined the meeting)
Steve Benoit (Director, Emergency Management), John Rice (Building Committee), Transfer Station Committee members Karen Durlach, Paul Horanzy, Al Landry and Lynn Landry
Members of the public, WINY
Staff: Recording Secretary Dotti Durst

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

II. Approval of Minutes:

It was noted that in Section V. during discussion of the transfer station, K. Beausoleil had pointed out that the fees there had not been raised since fiscal year 2012-2013.

Motion by A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2018 BOS Meeting with that modification carried unanimously.

Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2018 Special BOS-BOF Joint Meeting carried unanimously.

III. Correspondence

- A. Thompson Library FY 2017-18 Statistics appeared in the Shopper's Guide
- B. Business After Hours: Tuesday, 09/18 5-7 PM in Hampton
- C. Celebrating Agriculture
- C. Website Committee Update: memo from Renee Waldron -the process is moving ahead
- D. Mill Site Committee Update

IV. Selectmen's Comments:

- St Onge – related to the Fire Study, she feels a concern should be brought to the public's attention. The Study indicates that the Community Station floors are unsafe but the department continues to park the heavy fire apparatus there. The question is *how dangerous* the situation is. Public events are held there such as a Chicken BBQ. Our station members are constantly inside the building. Perhaps the Building Inspector should develop a report.
- K. Beausoleil – on August 29 the transition process from the retiring town attorney to Halloran and Sage will begin, with a determination made as to which matters will be concluded by Attorney St Onge and which will be shifted to the new firm. S. Hebert – is the transfer being handled expeditiously? K. Beausoleil answered that it is.

- A Risk Management meeting regarding the insurance package especially regarding the Library and Highway Garage is scheduled.
- A meeting with Eversource to review disaster plans is scheduled. The person who replaced Shawn Johnston will come in to meet Steve Benoit.
- The Tax sale of 4 of the 12 delinquent properties is coming up
- 2 grants are available for replacement of the town hall generator: One from FEMA (S. Benoit is working on it) and one from the USDA.
- Highway Department report:
 - the dump truck and paving box arrived and staff training took place
 - special meetings took place with DATTCO regarding the school bus communication system; there is no available frequency so the matter will stand pat for a while.
 - roadside mowing is progressing. A John Deere has broken hydraulics and repairs are being sought.
- A Neglected Cemeteries (\$2,000) grant for headstone work is available
- Reminder: School opens August 28. School buses and students will be adjusting to a new school year and the new DATTCO service. Everyone is asked to be alert.

V. Citizens' Comments: a question was posed about the mowing equipment, which was discussed in the Highway Department report.

- Gary Kettle, Wilsonville Rd, asked about the reasoning behind the \$25 Transfer Station fee for a second sticker for a Regular Household. A review of how that decision was derived was conducted.

VI. Resignation – Susanne Witkowski, Thompson Housing Authority Commission: K. Beausoleil noted the outstanding job Suzanne has done and he hopes that when the opportunity arises, she will resume helping again. **Motion S. Herbert seconded by K. Beausoleil to accept the resignation with regret carried unanimously.**

VII. Roof Replacement: S. Herbert – a memo was received from Building Official Terry Bellman recommending the contract go to William Higgins and Sons, whose proposal “is very similar to the other that came in in every aspect except price” with Higgins being substantially lower. Since the two proposals were so similar yet so different in price, the town wanted the building official to review the details of both proposals. Mr. Higgins had noted that weather is a factor in re-roofing so timeliness is important. **Motion S. Herbert seconded by A. St Onge to award the roofing contract to William Higgins and Sons carried unanimously.**

VIII. Building Committee Update and Request for funds for Fuel Tank Replacement Project at the school: an estimate for the tank replacement from Tighe and Bond came in at \$341,000. The process requires a recommendation from the BOS to authorize the expenditure of the funds to the BOF which would subsequently schedule a referendum. Timeliness is a factor in this matter. **Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to ask the BOF to authorize \$341,000 for the fuel tank replacement at the public schools, as recommended by the Building Committee, carried unanimously.** A special BOF meeting will be scheduled this month specifically to address this matter.

IX. Emergency Management Budget: S. Benoit reviewed the EMPG grant, applied for annually, which reimburses for phones. There is no revenue line item in the budget the finance director can use to handle the re-imburement; this is under review.

X. Transfer Station Permits: K. Beausoleil, after hearing some citizen's comments especially about the additional \$25 for a second sticker, worked with Lynn Landry, Financial Tax Clerk, to see if they could make slight changes to the proposed transfer station fee schedule in order to eliminate the necessity for this \$25 fee. About \$27,000 would be needed from other sources. Given that the ideas they generated are being presented for the first time at this meeting, the selectmen will take a little time to review the memo carefully. L. Landry – there is an urgency to the matter as the permits go out by October 1, and substantial preliminary work is required in order for that to happen. The Selectmen note that a special meeting may be needed to consider a modification of the previously approved revenue sources to cover some of the transfer station expenses and still meet the deadlines. Several members of the community offered specific suggestions (Kim Austin, Quaddick Town Farm Road and Gary Kettle, Wilsonville Road) and comments, as did K. Durlach, P. Horanzy and A. Landry who serve on the Transfer Station Committee. K. Beausoleil – with no increase in fees since 2012-2013, we are not coming even close to covering the costs to run the transfer station. S. Herbert – the matter is being made more complicated by the drop in revenues from recyclables, as the market has shifted. A. Landry – a warning ticket system was set up some years ago for violators of transfer station rules but was not implemented. Maybe now it should be made active.

XI. Proposal - Solar Energy Land Lease at Landfill: Additional information has been requested by LendLease, the interested developer. The acreage on-site designated as Core Forest is an issue. The proposal cannot be supported unless some factor changes. The proposal is stalled.

XII. Fire Study Recommendations:

- K. Beausoleil – the purpose of the Fire Study is to receive recommendations for our public safety system, to be able to budget appropriately, buy collectively and for all the Stations to work collaboratively.
- A. St Onge – the first step should be to activate the Fire Advisory Committee. The stations are private entities and the BOS's role is to consider their recommendations. Example: the finding that the floor of the Community Station poses a risk.
- S. Herbert – page 8 in the scope of work/Engagement letter specifically asked “how many stations should Thompson have?” but no answer is available. The committed volunteers provide tremendous value in terms of public safety. At some point, staffing exclusively with volunteers may not work and we should look at some structural changes in our system that could permit some paid staff.
- A. St Onge – Is the data required to answer this question available from Q V Dispatch (detailed call/response numbers)? The stations have Software support available.
- G. Kettle – was the first study paid for; it should be expected to provide the answers
- A. St Onge – the study did not provide all the answers we hoped for but the success of future change will come from all parties working together.
- S. Herbert – one valuable finding was in regards to smoke alarms, which are different than smoke detectors. We should look ahead, be pro-active in fatality prevention, ask the town attorney for draft language. The idea of a KnoxBox (lock box on-site for access keys) is another positive suggestion, as is establishing a Fire Prevention chief.
- K. Beausoleil – as a firefighter himself, is careful to balance both points of view on the matter. Non-fire personnel are required to make the Advisory Committee effective and we must look for a person and recruit. S. Herbert – use facebook, the website and conduct an aggressive p r campaign. VFIS will provide training.
- Kim Austin, Quadric Town Farm Road-offered to help find a leader for the Fire Advisory Committee, or would consider serving in that role.
- Thompson does not have a Fire Association; it may be an alternative. K. Beausoleil distributed material showing how fire services are budgeted through the Woodstock Fire Association.

XIII. Other Business: none

XIV. Citizens' Comments:

- G. Kettle thanked the Selectmen for addressing the transfer station fees.
- Roman Jameson, Taylor Road- thanked the selectmen for bringing in a possible solution to the transfer station fees questions he brought up last month. He sked if town staff and emergency responders have access beyond the fences and locked gates on the power lines. K. Beausoleil – keys were issued. R. Jameson – asks that they be checked: both the actual key locations and if they work, since hikers and 4-wheelers do use the power line trails and this could be a safety matter for responders
- W. Higgins discussed smoke detectors and their role in fire safety.

XV. Tax Refunds:

Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by A. St Onge to approve tax refunds totaling \$2,951.10 carried unanimously.

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|------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|----------|
| Barlow, Kaitlin E. | \$39.60 | Gaboury, Dean C. | \$100.76 |
| Bleau, Paula M. | \$10.76 | Gaboury, Dean C. | \$18.40 |
| Bostock, Dorothy M. | \$ 58.16 | Godzik, Donna M. | \$4.52 |
| Cab East LLC | \$133.92 | Gray, Bruce G & Susan E. | \$74.29 |
| Cab East LLC | \$226.42 | Honda Lease Trust | \$251.08 |
| Cab East LLC | \$73.82 | Hyundai Lease Titling Trust | \$302.94 |
| Cab East LLC | \$49.65 | Hyundai Lease Titling Trust | \$278.33 |
| Cab East LLC | \$167.53 | Langevin, B. Janice | \$236.15 |
| Cab East LLC | \$228.53 | Morton, Renee A. | \$6.22 |
| Cab East LLC | \$254.56 | Nissan Infiniti LT | \$154.25 |
| Duquette, Jenny C. | \$302.20 | Rogers, Carolyn J. | \$15.24 |
| Ellison-Groh, Erica. & | | Vault Trust | \$86.30 |
| Groh, Lawrence K. Jr. | \$14.13 | Wiley, David R. | \$53.75 |

XVI. Executive Session: Recreation Director

Motion S. Herbert seconded by A. St Onge to go into Executive Session at 8:45 PM (Replacement of the Recreation Director) carried unanimously.

Motion S. Herbert seconded by A. St Onge to end the Executive session at 8:55 PM carried unanimously.

Regular business resumed at 8:55 PM.

Motion S. Herbert seconded by A. St Onge to offer the position of Recreation Director for Thompson to a candidate carried unanimously.

XVII. Adjourn:

Motion S. Herbert seconded by A. St Onge to adjourn carried unanimously.

K. Beausoleil adjourned the meeting at 8:56 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.