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Linda Paradise
TOWN CLERK ASST

TOWN of THOMPSON

Board of Selectmen

SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Tuesday, October 16, 2018 7:00 p.m.
Thompson Fire Engine Company 70 Chase Road, Thompson
MINUTES

I. Attendance:

First Selectman Ken Beausoleil, Selectman Steve Herbert. Excused: A. St Onge Steve Benoit (Director, Emergency Management), Kim Austin, Melinda Smith (Superintendent of Schools), Francis McGarry (Registrar of Voters), Steve Bodreau (Chief, Quinebaug Fire Station); Members of the public; WINY Staff: Recording Secretary Dotti Durst

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion S. Herbert seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2018 meeting carried unanimously. Two notes were made: II. Approval of Minutes- the spelling of Linda Jarmolowicz was incorrect in the previous minutes and ..."Selectmen's Comments" had a letter missing

III. Correspondence

- A. Northeastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce – Gubernatorial Candidate Luncheon: Oct 17, Black Dog Café in Putnam
- B. State of CT – September 2018 Monthly Police Services Report
- C. State of CT DEEP – New Source Review permit for an Anaerobic Digestion Facility: notification to the town that Fort Hill Farm, Quaddick Road, seeks to generate electricity

IV. Selectmen's Comments: S. Herbert – will follow up on a previous discussion regarding reduction in the number of voting districts, speaking perhaps with the registrars as well as with the town attorney regarding statutory aspects. K. Beausoleil- some materials have been collected regarding the concept (previous Minutes, a survey, other documents), which can be utilized.

K. Beausoleil- Community Day was held a week later than usual and on a Saturday; cooperation by Thompson Together, the Recreation Department, Trails, the DPW and many volunteers paid off in a nice event for the town.

-Two awards were given at Community Day: The Economic Development Commission named the Milltown Grill as the Business of the Year and Thompson's Fire Departments, all 5, were named Volunteers of the Year. This recognizes many decades of effort, beginning in 1832 on Thompson Hill, with a cumulative effort of about 500 years. Thank you for your commitment.

- the school sewer project: December will be the next mediation with all parties
- 65 Main Street- the previous TEEG location: the town attorney is working on a deed

- UCONN Engineering Student Projects: 1). Buckley Hill Road @ Riverside DR, /RT 200 2). The Airline Trail over the steep embankments at RT 193
- Ballard RD: more issues- it flooded, again; DEEP did not get the job done. They now assure us and the DPW they will have it completed prior to winter.
- -Trails: memos from Christopher Murphy, Joe Courtney and Richard Blumenthal show Blain Road has been included as one of only 8 projects in an approved bill (Senate Bill 3021) to implement the design work done by UCONN students 4 years ago at West Thompson Lake
- Recognition has been awarded to 1). Donna Grant for the Therapeutic Garden at TEEG and 2). the Community Center is in John Rice's name. Congratulations to both!!

V. Citizens' Comments: none

VI. Superintendent's Report- Melinda Smith

A. Security Update- The selectmen asked her to bring in details about possibly using a private security provider, while K. Beausoleil would ask constables about any interest. She learned that private contracts usually include 24 hour/7 day coverage with salary in the \$21-22 per hour range (as is the contract at a school in the region, for unarmed staff). The Thompson schools, however, have very good daytime security plans and coverage in place; rather, the need is 2 PM – 10 PM to cover events/sports in the various schools (sometimes more than one at the same time). Looking at these hours only, the totals would be about \$840 per week/24 weeks (November – April) for a budget need of about \$20,000. Woodstock Academy was asked for information; they use armed staff and offer benefits but a little lower hourly rate. K. Beausoleil – 5 of Thompson's 6 constables indicated in interest in learning more about what is needed. One advantage is that, being local, they could be available for events on a Saturday or Sunday. M. Smith – favors local people who may have more investment in the well-being of the town. Local, hourly security staff may be the most budget-friendly, as security is not needed every evening nor is it always needed until 10 PM, depending on the event. Overall, it seems that trained, unarmed security staff pay, rounded off for planning purposes at around \$20 per hour would be all inclusive (Workman's Compensation and other basic costs of employment). S. Herbert – the next step seems to be for the BOE to determine the exact needs, based on the school schedule (days/times), and types of events such as meetings, music events, sports events and others, then determine the funding requirements to meet those school security needs. M. Smith- will ask if a private security firm can state that they will hire local people, who are familiar with the town; she will bring in a price quote for comparison purposes.

B. Athletic Track Update: M. Smith: the High School Track which needs significant repair may be somewhat similar to one in Derby which received a STEEP Grant of \$2.4 Million, which funded most of the upgrade of their facility. The BOS, by consensus, granted M. Smith permission to approach the Building Committee with this challenge.

VII. 2019 BOS Meeting Schedule: the consensus is to remain at the Town Hall for all BOS meetings in 2019 except for the single traditional meeting at the former town hall/Thompson Historical Society. No action was taken, in light of the absence of Selectmen A. St Onge.

VIII. Emergency Management & Homeland Security Resolution: annual renewal is required in order to apply for certain grants.

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

IX. Bingo/Bazaars/Raffles: a memo from the town attorney notes that only one town (Killingly) has waived the revenue from Bingo. The ordinance will be reviewed; any proposed change will go to the Ordinance Committee then to a Town Meeting.

X. Town Planner Update: applications have been received and distributed to the BOS members. Two engineering firms have offered contracted services, and NECCOG could provide a regional Planner's services; the town has options should none of the applicants meet the required qualifications.

XI. Town Manager position/Terms of Office: keeping this agenda item visible reminds the town that under CGS Title 7, Elections, the spans in the terms of office are defined. S. Herbert – advocates for moving ahead to a decision.

XII. Appointment - Planning & Zoning Commission Alternate: a letter of nomination was received from the Democratic Town Committee for Brian Santos, who serves on the Economic Development Commission and the Building Committee. Since an alternate has moved up to a full seat, an alternate seat is open for appointment by the BOS. **Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Herbert to appoint Brian Santos to the alternate seat on the Planning and Zoning Commission, through November 19, 2019, carried unanimously.**

XIII. Zoning: Noise/Peaceful Use of Property: The Zoning Enforcement Officer has been asked to look at the Denis Road situation, now that it has been confirmed by the town attorney that the Town regulations prevail. It is the PZC which governs these matters; the BOS has no authority. K. Beausoleil – the ZEO is actively working on the matter.

XIV. Community Fire Station Floor/Safety Concern: Following the raising of public safety concerns in the Fire Study, the town Building Official was asked to examine the situation. His memo notes that he could not determine the situation, as the suspended ceilings blocked visibility. He said he would make a second visit when staff can be there with him, although he is not a structural engineer. That examination has taken place but the report has not arrived as of this tonight. The Station's own Building Committee is also looking into it.

XV. Other Business: none

XVI. Citizens' Comments; F. McGarry- on the subject of the number of voting districts and the calls to referendum: it was about 20 years ago that \$50,000 was established as the breakpoint as to when a matter has to go to referendum. He advocates for changing that number to a certain percentage of the annual budget, given inflation and other factors over the years. Perhaps 1% of the current year's annual budget is workable. Some matters could then be handled at a town meeting, saving the town the repeated referendum expense. The BOF was receptive when asked about considering this change. The Registrars are supportive.
-S. Bodreau, Chief of the Quinebaug Fire Station- WINY radio reported the discussion at the last BOS meeting concerning the safety of the floor of the Community Station and whether the station should exclusively house the ambulance/EMS service. The Quinebaug Station has no open bays in which a piece of apparatus from the Community Station could be housed; housing equipment outside would be detrimental to the longevity of the piece of equipment.

-M. Smith: while not a resident, she speaks as the person responsible for the schools complex, with as many as 1,000 members of the public, staff and students on site at any time. Moving the responding vehicles further away from the vicinity would pose a concern for her.

- F. McGarry: on the subject of school security, what level of protection could be provided by unarmed staff? K. Beausoleil – even just the presence of an authority figure, in uniform, who has been trained in dealing with confrontation, is a deterrent. At this time, there is no one.

XVII. Tax Refunds

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

Nissan Infiniti LT	\$85.05	Ronald Meseck	\$38.23
Nissan Infiniti LT	\$ 273.03	Ronald Meseck	\$22.19
Nissan Infiniti LT	\$139.59		

XIII. **Motion S. Herbert seconded by K. Beausoleil to adjourn carried unanimously.**

K. Beausoleil adjourned the meeting at 7:55 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.