



**TOWN of
THOMPSON**

Board of Selectmen

RECEIVED
TOWN OF THOMPSON, CT.

2018 NOV -9 P 12: 06

Linda Paradise
ASST TOWN CLERK

SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Wednesday, November 7, 2018 7:00 p.m.

Thompson Town Hall – Seney Room

MINUTES

I. Attendance:

First Selectman Ken Beausoleil, Selectmen Steve Herbert, A. St Onge
Kim Austin (Fire Advisory Committee), Charlene Langlois (Planning and Zoning
member), Members of the public
Staff: Recording Secretary Dotti Durst

First Selectman Ken Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**II. Motion S. Herbert seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve the October 16, 2018
minutes carried with A. St Onge abstaining.**

III. Correspondence:

- A. Quinebaug VFW – Veteran’s Day Observance: the 100th anniversary of the Armistice ending WWI, Sunday, 11/11, 10:45 AM, Oscar Swanson Park
- B. Community Day – Thank You Letter to DPW staff for support throughout the day which was prompt, helpful and efficient, from Thompson Together (Beth Goldsmith) and the Recreation Commission (Miranda Skaradowski)
- C. Chamber of Commerce – Titan Energy Business After Hours: Inn at Woodstock Hill,
- D. Chamber of Commerce – Tastefully New England: at the Raceway 11/16; 15 local acclaimed Food Service providers
- E. Donna Grant – Thank You Letter for dedication of the TEEG Therapeutic Garden
- F. United Services – 54 Year Celebration: 11/15, Community Partners Awards
- G. Letter from Melissa Frink
- H. City of Woonsocket - Hydroelectric Plant Project Update
- S. Herbert- a new piece of correspondence came in today: an email about cows.
- K. Beausoleil –will ask the ZEO about it

IV. Selectmen’s Comments: A. St Onge – none

- S. Herbert - let’s endure that NECCOG is looking into the letter from M. Frink
- A. St Onge- the matter has appeared in the local media
- K. Beausoleil – Regarding the M. Frink letter; the Board of Directors at NECCOG is taking the letter seriously and is already looking into the matter
- Ballard Road-again. The DEEP has moved the matter to the DOT, since the road intersects a state road. We contacted the Commissioner and now digging is underway to find the obstruction.

- 65 Main Street: Attorney Slater is working with the Tourtellotte Trust to find a way to determine, within their restrictions, how the proceeds of a sale could be directed to the benefit of the students, which seems to be the original intention.
- Starr Road: Another 30-day extension, ending Tuesday, November 27, has been granted,
- the DPW has paved three roads (Seastrand, Rich and Juliette Av.); the action plan is to keep moving ahead, weather permitting
- the storage containers requested to protect our equipment from the weather have arrived and are being utilized by the DPW
- Veteran's Day at Swanson Park: 11/11- a special recognition of the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI: arrive 10:45
- a leaky roof in the foyer of the Library/Community Center is being addressed; a contractor has determined that a roof seam opened up in the 24-year-old roof. Mold found can be treated, extending the roof's life. It appropriate to ask for a price quote for roof replacement using the same architectural shingles, so the budgeting process can begin with a goal of being ready for replacement when the time comes, in 5-10 years
- data has all been migrated from the current website to the new one; each department is now reviewing and modifying as needed
- NECCOG: letter of concern- addressed, above
- Pothole reports are coming town-wide in due to the rainy weather. People can report them to the town hall or the DOT if a state road is damaged (Putnam 860-928-6524)
- congratulations to those who were victorious in the elections yesterday. Voter turnout was strong. We are all working together for the betterment of Thompson.
- K. Beausoleil requests that another matter be added to the agenda (VIII. Other, a) to make an appointment to the Housing Commission. **Motion by S. Herbert to add the specified agenda item, seconded by A St Onge, carried unanimously.**

V. Citizens' Comments – C. Langlois asked the status of utilizing one zip code for all of Thompson. K. Beausoleil – will contact Representative Joe Courtney now that the elections are over to ask about protocols.

- Linda Jarmolowicz, 7 Denis Road: reviewed the status of the on-going disruption by college students who have rented a residential unit on her road. After checking the Planning and Zoning Regulations, there is lack of clarity in interpretation of how many family members and/or others are allowed in a single-family residential unit of this type. The matter has gone to the Planning and Zoning Commission. She has contacted the FOI Commission, following the process she was instructed to use, but has not received a reply yet. K. Beausoleil- are there any photos or other evidence available to support the State Police's investigation? How can some be created? Note was made that the noise level is an issue, but photos wouldn't capture that. K. Beausoleil- Cindy Dunn, Zoning Enforcement Officer has looked into the matter further and has broadened the inquiry by contacting the Land Use Attorney the Planning and Zoning Commission uses. S. Herbert- have the State Police become involved? K. Beausoleil- yes. S. Herbert and A. St Onge- all citizens deserve to be able to live in their homes in peace.

VI. 2019 BOS Meeting Schedule: except for Wednesday meetings on January 2 and November 6, the twice-monthly meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be conducted on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. All meetings shall take place in the Town Hall except June 4, 2019 which will be held at the Thompson Historical Society building.

Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve the Selectman's 2019 schedule as presented carried unanimously.

VII. Bingo/Bazaars/Raffles Ordinance: discussion of waiving the fee for a permit- a significant amount of information has come in from Attorney Slater, including the Public Act under discussion, K. Beausoleil's list of questions and the Attorney's responses, his sample ordinances for other towns, and more. The State stopped approving these permits as of January, but there

is no time pressure to resolve how Thompson wants to handle the matter of the fee. The BOS will determine a plan of action then the Ordinance Review Committee will be charged.

- There are four questions need Ordinance Review; 3 others - the details of how tax abatements are handled for active volunteer firefighters; the break-point in dollars for an expenditure which must go to referendum; the dollar amount of a bid which must go to referendum.

VIII. Town Manager position/Terms of Office: no new information is available. S. Herbert- a Town Administrator may be an alternative, as Thompson is not a Charter town. The reason we keep this item on the BOS agenda is so we can move ahead, and begin a dialogue with the involved parties. Has the town attorney has been asked for an opinion about determining the terms of office for elected positions in Thompson. K. Beausoleil – will pose the question.

IX. Voting District Reevaluation/Update: October 17, 2019 memo from Town Clerk Renee Waldron suggests examination of the possibility of consolidation of the voting districts. S. Herbert prepared a comparison worksheet, showing several surrounding towns, with the population of each and the number of voting districts, including an “on-average” number of voters at each voting place. Thompson, population just over 9 ½ thousand, serves the fewest of any of the towns at the voting places, at 2,365 per location, compared, for example with Brooklyn, whose population is roughly 8 thousand, which has one voting place, as does Woodstock, with roughly 8 thousand population, one voting place. The matter of the size of the town of Thompson is also a factor; Woodstock however is even larger. Registrars and staff were asked to track the voting on November 6, breaking it down in several ways; given the significant voter turnout, the data will be valuable for planning purposes, once it has come in. A referendum is different than an election: the referendum is open for eight hours plus set-up time. The Ordinances state that the town can direct all voters to one voting place for a referendum. For an election, however, the polls are open from eight AM to 8 PM, with additional set up time. Staffing all of the sites for such a long time period is taxing the townspeople who man the polls, and the costs, such as for constables, is significant. K. Beausoleil- the Library/Community Center is an asset the town should begin to use, even if the decision is to retain the same number of voting places. There is greater parking and the building is designed for this additional purpose. A. St Onge- what timeline pressures are there? K. Beausoleil- none, but the next scheduled referendum is May 1, Monday, for the budget vote. That presents a target date we may be able to work with. Kim Austin, speaking as a member of the community- there are costs to the fire stations which serve as polling places which are not incurred by the other stations; an emergency call came in during the election hours and responders had to disrupt the official process to access equipment.

X. Appointment – Fire Advisory Committee, Kyle Cimochofski: **Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by A. St Onge to appoint Kyle Cimochofski to the Fire Advisory Committee for an indefinite period of time carried unanimously.** K. Beausoleil- since 2010 the chiefs have been asked to serve on the Advisory. We should review who is on the Committee and update the list. Kim Austin has conducted the first meeting since her appointment as Chair. It went smoothly; a 7th member is being sought. Their meeting schedule has been revised eliminating conflicts with other Boards/Commissions.

XI. TWPCA Resignation: Donald Morin: letter effective 12/31 states he is moving out-of-state. **Motion S. Herbert seconded by A. St Onge to accept Donald Morin’s resignation with regret and the thanks of the town carried unanimously.** S. Herbert- calls for a Certificate of Appreciation for Mr. Morin’s service to Thompson. K. Beausoleil- it has proved difficult to fill this seat; although it is officially a Republican seat, maybe all parties can be flexible.

XII. Town Planner Update/Options: K. Beausoleil- applications for the Planner position have come in; interviews will be scheduled next week. The proposals for consulting services constitute a fallback. If applicants can't be found who are experienced in handling grants, which is a key part of the position in Thompson, perhaps the duties could be split with one person handling the grants, and another the planning that will work toward the future we want for Thompson. S. Herbert - status of the current planner? M. A. Chinatti works one day a week handling the current grants, and has applied for a new grant for Trails and 2 USDA grants.

Proposals for consulting services were received from- 1).John Guzkowski, Community Development Group Leader, CME- letter 10/20/2108 offers planning consulting and economic development support to Thompson, including weekly town hall hours for public access, as well as attendance at monthly Board/Commission meetings. They propose to invoice the town monthly on a fixed-fee basis at \$4,000 per month not to exceed an annual fee of \$48,000. Alternative town hall hours and fees are included.

2). CPH: 10-25-2018 Alan Carpenter, Vice president and PE. Standard contract of 14 pages

3). NECCOG proposes a shared planner at \$55 per hour for up to 25 hours per month; the hours shall not be transferrable to another month. No town hall or meeting time is included. All files related to the planner's duties will be kept at NECCOG until the matter is resolved. Duties of the planner are listed; grant applications or of support of current grants is not listed.

XIII. Other Business: **Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by A. St Onge to appoint John W. Dalton to the Housing Commission for the term ending October 31, 2023 carried unanimously.**

XIV. Citizens' Comments: none

XV. Tax Refunds:

Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Herbert to approve the submitted tax refunds in the total amount of \$3,077.16 carried unanimously.

ACAR Leasing LTD	\$567.21	Toyota Motor Credit	\$116.14
ACAR Leasing LTD	\$144.23	Vault Trust	\$326.90
JP Morgan Chase Bank	\$329.39	Vault Trust	\$426.44
Kirkland, Wendy	\$12.54	Vault Trust	\$161.95
Przybylek, T. J.& J. T.	\$84.92	Vault Trust	\$531.66
Toyota Lease Trust	\$154.93	Waters, William H III	\$3.37
Toyota Motor Credit	\$217.48		

XVI. **Motion S. Herbert seconded by A. St Onge to adjourn carried unanimously.**
K. Beausoleil adjourned the meeting at 8:43 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.