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TOWN of THOMPSON
Board of Selectmen

SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 4, 2018 7:00 p.m.

Thompson Town Hall – Seney Room

- I. Roll Call: First Selectman Ken Beausoleil, Selectmen Amy St Onge and Steve Herbert.
Rich Benoit (Director, DPW)
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 A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2018 Meeting carried, with S. Herbert abstaining

Motion S. Herbert seconded by A. St Onge to approve the minutes of the November 26, 2018 Special Meeting carried unanimously.

III. Correspondence

- A. Chamber of Commerce – Business After Hours Tommy Toy Fund Benefit, 12/04, 5 PM
- B. NECCOG – Animal Services: Outline of the Program
- C. CT DOT – Electronic Tolling presentation advocating that Connecticut implement highway tolls and use all-electronic toll collection
- D. Additional correspondence received today: National School Choice Week and memo from TEEG requesting use of the parking lot

Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Herbert to add an agenda item under# 11, Other, to address the TEEG request, carried unanimously.

IV. Selectmen's Comments- none

- V. Citizens' Comments- Linda Jarmolowicz, 7 Denis Dr: regarding a possible Ordinance revision for when the outcome of a budget referendum at which the general Government budget passes but the Education budget doesn't, keep in mind the impact of the MBR (Minimum Budget Requirement). Towns may not reduce the Education budget below the formula; any other required reduction has to come from the General Government budget. Towns which fail to comply can face significant fines. Since Thompson is an Alliance District, there are tight rules regarding this question. Voters who reject an Education budget are often not informed about this aspect of state controls on municipal budgeting. –Kathleen Herbert, Wilsonville: at a BOE/BOF/BOS meeting the subject was reviewed. She confirmed that the 30 towns in Connecticut which are part of the Alliance District, of which Thompson is one, may not reduce their budget below the MBR. Perhaps it is time to offer a single, combined budget at the referendum.

- VI. Transfer Station – Replacement Sticker Complaints: an 11/27/18 Memo from Rene Morin regarding changes in Transfer Station stickers was received. R. Benoit: the DPW facility staff are hearing negative comments about the new \$10 fee for a replacement sticker (should a person trade a vehicle, for example), but not about the general over-all fees adjustments. While trying to build public support and recognition of the good work being done by the DPW in Thompson, this negativity is not helpful. He calls for a re-examination of the \$10 replacement sticker fee.
- S. Herbert: there are costs to the town including purchasing the stickers in bulk and especially the labor costs. After reviewing the matter in detail, he estimates that each replacement sticker costs the town about \$6.50.
- K. Beausoleil: there are efficiencies that the DPW has put in place, and increases in revenues have developed that could offset a reduction in this fee.
- Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Herbert to reduce the replacement sticker fee to \$5 carried unanimously.** A. St Onge: Perhaps \$5 could be refunded to those who paid \$10.
- VII. Fire Marshal Resignation –Rick Hayes after 25 years, effective 12/31/2018.
- Motion S. Herbert seconded by A. St Onge to accept the resignation of Rick Hayes with regret and thanks for his service carried unanimously.** He will be serving the 50Th District in the General Assembly. K. Beausoleil- after review of the Statute regarding a Fire Marshall: the BOS appoints the Marshall, with preference given to a member of a local fire department. Thompson has had a Deputy Fire Marshall, Jamie Seney, for quite a while. He has begun research to assist the town in budget planning and to create a document identifying specific duties and other factors for Thompson. Rick Hayes will retain his Certification until 2020 and is willing to provide backup if needed until then.
- VIII. Ordinance Discussion: K. Beausoleil distributed a history of the changes in the structure of the Thompson budget over a long time span. For Ordinances update, one task is to determine the breakpoints for when a budget request goes to a Town Meeting and when it is sent to Referendum. In addition, the percentage factor needs review, with the suggestion of changing to a flat percentage of the total budget, which would automatically adjust with inflation. Consider: 1). going back to a combined General Government/Education budget such as was used in 1966. 2). the cost of each referendum is frequently about \$5,000, which could be reduced if there were fewer automatic referendums. 3). the adjustments regarding Bingo, Raffles and Bazaars seem straightforward. 4). some language needs to be updated; State police issue tickets against a particular Ordinance number, for example. 5). someone should continue the work previously begun of organizing the history of each Ordinance, with all modifications sequenced and dated.
- A. St Onge – we as the BOS should make Ordinance decisions with a target date of January, before the budget calculation process begins to take a high percentage of time. A referendum is already scheduled for the first Monday in May. This could become the BOS target date to call for a vote to modify some of the Ordinances, making adjustments which seem prudent.
- IX. Voting District Reevaluation/Update: S. Herbert- voting/polling places are not the same as Districts/Precincts. He has created a chart for comparison among local communities. A town may have 2 voting places but 7 precincts, for example. We need to look at how many referendums are held per year and the costs associated with each as well as other impacts (fire stations must be able to immediately respond to an emergency call; voting traffic and logistics can create an impediment. Only Quinebaug is set up in a way that precludes this).
- K. Herbert, Wilsonville: 5 ½ years ago, a study was begun to examine the actual voter counts, by type of election (municipal, presidential, etc). Care should be taken that efficiency does not result in a feeling of dis-enfranchisement.

-K. Beausoleil: the Quinebaug Station is ADA compliant. The Library/Community Center was designed to handle voting traffic with separate entrance/exits and is ADA compliant.

X. School Security: Superintendent of Schools Melinda Smith could not be present; a memo from her sets out security recommendations, noting there are many multi-function activity dates with the various schools levels, music, sports and community events/Recreation events/meetings. Based on local comparisons and a 25-28-week window, at the going rate for 16 after-school hours per week (5 days) and either 2 or 3 trained security staff, the cost could be around \$50-70,000. The Superintendent will meet with the BOF; she is asking the town to be present.

-K. Beausoleil: this expense may belong on the General Government budget. If the BOF approves an amount for security, \$50,000 or less does not go to referendum.

-A. St Onge/S. Herbert: school security may be found to be a town responsibility.

-K. Beausoleil: the BOS will meet again previous to the BOF meeting; the oversight of the security force can be worked out at that time.

-A. St Onge: I believe it is the feeling of the BOS that we offer whole-hearted support for improving our school facility security; K. Beausoleil and S. Herbert heartily agreed.

XI. Other Business: after reviewing the TEEG request for use of the town parking lot to park the bus for their collection efforts:

Motion S. Herbert seconded by A. St Onge to approve the TEEG request carried unanimously.

XII. Citizens' Comments- none

XIII. Tax Refunds:

Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by A. St Onge to approve tax refunds totaling \$350.47 carried unanimously.

Honda Lease Trust	\$94.83	Belloise, Daniel F.	\$72.82
Hyundai Lease Titling Trust	\$46.93	VW Credit Leasing LT	\$135.89

XIV. **Motion to go into Executive session at 8:22 PM by K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Herbert carried unanimously.**

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|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| A. CBU vs. Thompson | D. Possible Land Acquisition – |
| B. Starr Road | Riverside Drive |
| C. Trinity Sewer Update | |

A. St Onge departed at 8:22 PM

Motion to come out of Executive session at 8:31 PM by S. Herbert seconded by K. Beausoleil carried unanimously. No action was taken.

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

K. Beausoleil adjourned the meeting at 8:32 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.