



TOWN OF THOMPSON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING

Tuesday, May 20th, 2014, 7:00 PM

Held in the Merrill Seney Conference Room

PRESENT: P. Lenky, First Selectmen; K. Forrester, Selectmen; S. Smith, Selectmen

PUBLIC PRESENT: Joseph H. Gaucher, Kevin Walsh, Roger Tremblay, Frances Becker, Linda Jarmelowicz, Kathleen Herbert, Paul Dery, Ted Smith, Sally White, Donald Pimental, and others.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Lenky called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by everyone present.

1.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Motion made by Mrs. Forrester to approve minutes from May 6th, 2014 Board of Selectmen's meeting. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Smith. Six corrections in Minutes were made regarding Attorney St. Onge's proper title, the misspelling of "Stone Top" to be changed to "Stove Shop", correction regarding printing notices, a correction to the spelling of Renee Waldron's name, a correction regarding the Charge for Ethics Advisory Committee, and lastly a correction to the spelling of Adrien LaPalme's name.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

2.) CORRESPONDANCE:

- Mr. Lenky announced an invitation the Board of Selectmen received to the Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 26th, 2014. Assembly will be at the Thompson Town Hall at 8:30 AM.
- Mr. Lenky had spoken to John Filchack about the Northeast Transit District regarding what they do and what areas they cover. Mr. Lenky also noted that they are a very busy group, that their budget for what they spend is available, and that they are considering a possible extension of their service to further into Massachusetts.
- Mr. Lenky mentioned that the Conservation Commission wished to meet Wednesday, May 21st, 2014 at 11:30 AM but that particular time was not possible.
- Mr. Lenky also mentioned that the Transfer Station Advisory Committee gave the Board of Selectmen their agenda and were to meet on Thursday, May 22nd, 2014.
- Mr. Lenky heard from John Mahan regarding land which Dennis Parker of Schoolhouse Pond Road wanted to donate some land to the town of Thompson but the town could not accept the land because the lots were just too small in size and were mostly wetlands. Mr. Lenky said though that the town was still looking into that and were going to see where it goes.
- Mr. Lenky also mentioned a letter that was in the Norwich Bulletin regarding Mr. Babbitt about donating flags and working with the town's Veterans. This is Mr. Babbitt's last year and Mr. Lenky wanted to bring attention to Mr. Babbitt's service. Mrs. Forrester also suggested a formal thank you letter to Mr. Babbitt and referred to him as a consummate veteran who always does a great job.
- Mr. Lenky brought up the recent idea regarding the town of Thompson sharing a town vehicle with the town of Putnam and expressed that he was not in favor of the idea and that it was not in the budget anyways.
- Mr. Lenky also received a letter from CL&P who wanted to inform the Board of Selectmen that they would be participating in the 2014 Connecticut Emergency Planning Preparedness Initiative Exercise. This will include showing how to prepare for a Category 1 Hurricane and showing routines as to what would need to be done in that event. Mr. Lenky also announced that if any of the other selectmen were interested that there would be an annual meeting in Cromwell, CT.

3.) SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS:

- Mrs. Smith shared some more information regarding the Tree City USA program. She discussed how 19 towns in Connecticut are involved with the program including Groton which is the closest in Connecticut to Thompson. It was also mentioned, however, that Charleton, Massachusetts is the closest to us overall and their population is 13,000 which makes them very similar to us overall. Mrs. Smith concluded by stating



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that she would contact officials in Charleton, Massachusetts to get a better idea as to the benefits of being in the program, their costs, and how they went about meeting criteria for the program.

- Mrs. Smith brought up how the Board of Selectmen had received correspondence from Town Clerk Jeff Barske back in April regarding the Board of Selectmen or the Ordinance Committee possibly reviewing the terms of office for the Town Clerk Position.
- Mrs. Smith also brought up how Paul Baer is stepping down from helping to run the town website beginning in June and suggested that the Board discuss how to best utilize funds regarding outsourcing or finding someone new to take on the responsibility. All three Selectmen discussed the issue. Mrs. Forrester stated that the town might need to soon hire a webmaster. Savage Systems in Putnam was mentioned by Mr. Lenky as a potential candidate to consider. Speaking to other towns as to who they use for their websites was also suggested by Mrs. Smith.
- Mrs. Smith brought up the potential for implementing a smoking policy, as some towns have designated properties that are smoke free. Mr. Lenky suggested a smoke shack as one possible solution. All three Selectmen agreed it was beneficial for Mrs. Smith to further look into the issue to see what other towns do as far as implementing policies on the issue of smoking near town buildings.
- Mrs. Forrester brought up the annual town meeting that was held on Monday, May 19th, 2014 and expressed disappointment with the meeting having only lasted just 8 minutes and with only 18 people in attendance.
- Mr. Lenky brought to the attention of the Board of Selectmen a letter he had received from John Mahon which asked for the Board of Selectmen to consider him for a vacancy on the Ordinance Committee. Mr. Lenky also added that it was something for the Selectmen to consider for the next meeting. Mrs. Forrester asked if a potential conflict may exist in town employees serving on Ordinance Committees as Mr. Mahon is already a town employee. Mr. Lenky responded that he would look up to see if a conflict exists.
- Mr. Lenky also mentioned that a question was asked at the annual town meeting on Monday, May 19th, 2014 and that \$92,228 was the amount of funds used for paving.

4.) CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

- Kathleen Herbert had three subjects she wished to discuss. The first was regarding the smoking policies as she mentioned that the School Board had just recently changed their smoking policies which included the banning of e-cigarettes on school property. The second item she addressed was in regards to the town website issue as she mentioned that the Town of Putnam does a very good job with their website and that Woodstock's website is good as well but is always changing so they may be changing webmasters frequently. However, she believed it to be worthwhile to reach out to either of these towns for suggestions as to who or what service they use to maintain their town websites. The third issue which she brought up was thanking the Board for getting new road signs up but also mentioning that there is still a broken guard rail on the corner of Pompeo Road and Wilsonville Road.
- Kevin Walsh brought up the issue of the Fees for Gravel Operations, which was listed as item number 10 on the meeting's agenda, and asked Mr. Lenky if he would be speaking in specifics as to where the money goes. Mr. Lenky responded that he indeed would be answering specifically in regards to where these fees go. Mr. Walsh also brought up the fact that Paul Baer would be soon stepping down, beginning in June, in helping to maintain and run the Town of Thompson's website. Mr. Walsh then publicly thanked Mr. Baer for all of his tireless work and hours of dedication. Mr. Walsh also inquired about the \$5,000 allocated for IT since Paul Baer volunteered all of his work. Mrs. Forrester responded that the money allocated was indeed still spent, specifically on hardware and other technological necessities, and also stressed that the money allocated was not just specifically for a webmaster but for any IT.
- Ted Smith brought up the issue of an establishment of a snow removal policy. Mr. Smith stressed that snow being plowed between 9 AM and 12 PM is ridiculous as nobody he knows goes to work that late in the day.



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He also noted that in the 1960's the snow was often plowed by 6:30 AM and that if an incident occurred because of the later removal of snow that he would not hesitate to sue the town because it is their duty to provide safety. Mr. Smith also brought up the issue of sticky town officials and suggested that non-elected town officials should be given two-year contracts so that at the end of two-years if a town employee is not performing well then their job contract could thus be not renewed. The third concern Mr. Smith brought up was the Belding site as he inquired as to when the Town of Thompson was planning on cleaning it up. Mr. Lenky responded that the town is in the process of seeing what can be done but that the town does not own the site. Mr. Smith's fourth concern was that he hoped that Thompson would not get roped into paying for Putnam's Industrial Park. Mr. Lenky responded that he was not in favor of the idea but that it would be up to the people of the town. Mr. Smith's final concern was in regards to the Thompson Public Library as he asked why on three-day weekends the Library closes for four days as he believed that maintenance could be done during more convenient times. Mr. Lenky's response to the Library issue was that the Board of Selectmen does not control what the Library does.

- Sally White commented that the Library Board of Trustees directly hires the librarian. She also noted that she had expected that there would have been an agenda item regarding the First Selectmen's recent meeting with the Library Board of Trustees and then encouraged any member of the Board of Selectmen to make a motion to add the specifics of such meeting to the agenda. She continued by commenting on the website line item issue by stating that her understanding was that the line item was for purchases and not in addition to salary. She also suggested that a Selectmen should make a motion to elaborate on the website situation and add the subject as an agenda item. Sally White then commented on the situations with Thompson's roads by stating that she found the snow-removal policy suggestion intriguing, that she believed that Mr. Lenky actually had more authority regarding the roads than previously stated, and that it was nonsensical to wait for the police and that the Board should be more proactive with their snow-removal policy.
- Motion made by Mrs. Smith that the Board of Selectmen moves to discuss under the Other Business section the recent meeting between the Library Board of Trustees and the First Selectmen. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Forrester.
Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes
- Michael Salisbury asked how many trucks the town has for the use of snow-removal and Mr. Lenky responded that he was not completely sure but he believed there to be around 12 trucks and he also believed that the staff is usually undermanned.
- Paul Dery commented on an issue regarding the Northeast Probate Court and the Northeast Children's Court by citing a letter addressed to the Putnam Mayor Tony Falzarano. Mr. Dery noted that at \$15 per square foot for 175 feet at the Probate Court and 58 feet at the Children's Court does not necessarily make sense because many more towns use the Northeast Children's Court than the Northeast Probate Court and because of that it puts a wrinkle in the distribution of payment. He also mentioned that at \$3,500 for 233 square feet if proportioned out seems as though they are paying too much for what is implied in the letter. Mr. Dery also spoke about how when the Probate Court was supposed to be in Brooklyn is was going to be 1,200 square feet and now it was down to 175 square feet which makes it seem as though something is wrong with the computations. Mr. Dery continued by saying he wanted some clarification from NECOGG. It was also mentioned that the yearly fee was \$42,000 but the math seemed to come out to \$52,500 so it seems as though there might be under-funding and if that is the case it is a big problem. Mr. Lenky responded that he agreed that the math did not add up but that he was not sure how the \$15 per square foot is broken up between the State of Connecticut, the towns, and the court. Mr. Dery questioned why the judge was deciding how much the courts pay for rent and that it simply did not make sense.
- Kevin Walsh commented that, during the last major snow storm, a neighbor of his, around 9:30 AM, had to plow the road because it was unpassable. Mr. Walsh also added that, in regards to the library, despite the



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library being its own entity the Board of Selectmen are still the ones who appropriate the funds in the budget. Mr. Walsh continued that if the numbers for the library do not make sense to the Board of Selectmen then they should not accept them and that if there are numbers missing then the Board of Selectmen should demand to see all of the numbers. Mrs. Forrester responded in regards to the Library and Community Center by commenting that she did not know when the responsibilities for the budgeting and taking care of the Community Center was passed to the Library Director, that it did not make any sense to her, and that she believed it was a discussion that should be had as she could not believe that they still pay for a paid telephone at the Library that, in this day in age, they refuse to give up and treat as a sacred cow, so to speak.

- Donald Pimental commented on the situation regarding Starr Road and noted that the road cannot be widened nor can it be longer than 1,000 feet long. Mr. Pimental also commented that the water cannot be altered, that Mr. Rossen is only giving away wetlands that are no use to him, and that if he has to he would be willing to sue the town though he does not want the situation to come to that. Mr. Pimental continued by stating that Starr Road is a dirt road and a “no outlet” road which means that the road cannot have branched off roads added to it. Mr. Lenky responded by giving an in-depth background story regarding the ongoing situation on Starr Road.
- Paul Dery commented regarding an e-mail that was sent to Selectmen and Board of Finance members about an agreement to change the insurance plan of town and school employees to ConnectiCare. Mr. Dery noted that he believed it to be in the Board of Selectmen’s authority to make that decision and not Mr. Martin’s authority.

5.) Ordinances for Conservation Commission, Inland Wetlands Commission, Planning & Zoning Commission, and Constables for Emergency Management:

- The first ordinance was in regards to making the Conservation Commission and Inland Wetlands Commission two separate entities.
- Mrs. Forrester asked who had the authority to appoint vacancies, the First Selectmen or the Board of Selectmen. She elaborated by stating that she believed that it should be something that is consistent every time. Mr. Lenky responded that the Board had the authority, not just the First Selectmen alone.
- The second ordinance was to establish the Inland Wetlands Commission.
- In regards to the wandering of farm animals throughout town, Mr. Lenky commented that there would be no new ordinance but a state statute existed already to keep the animals fenced in.
- The third ordinance was in regards to the Planning & Zoning Commission and included the dropping of their membership down to 9 members instead of 10 members.
- The fourth ordinance was in regards to the Constables for Emergency Management. Mrs. Forrester commented that she believed that there was some heavy editing needed in these four ordinances.
- Motion made by Mrs. Forrester to send back for revision the four ordinances pertaining to the Conservation Commission, Inlands Wetlands Commission, Planning and Zoning Commission, and the Constables for Emergency Management. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Smith.
- Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

6.) State of Connecticut Open Space – CT DEEP:

- This came from the town planner and was in regards to the State of Connecticut asking a lot of their municipalities to have 11% of properties in open space by 2023. Mr. Lenky also stated that, as it stands now, the town of Thompson is 381.392 acres short.

7.) Marianapolis Grant – Bob Delucca:

- Mr. Lenky began by stating that Bob Delucca was not present and it was commented by a town citizen that the proper name of the grant was actually the “Trinity Foundation Grant.”



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- Mr. Lenky elaborated on the grant by stating that somebody from DEEP had contacted Bob Delucca about an extra \$500,000 in grant money that was left over and it was proposed that it be put into the houses surrounding Marianapolis. Mr. Lenky continued by stating that he was not in favor of the idea and that the town should not be responsible, Marianapolis should.
- Motion made by Mrs. Forrester for the Board of Selectmen to not accept the \$500,000 Trinity Foundation Grant for Marianapolis. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Smith.
Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

8.) Starr Road:

Mr. Lenky stated that, in regards to the Starr Road situation, no plans had been submitted to the Inland Wetlands Commission, Conservation Commission, or the Planning and Zoning Commission. Therefore, Mr. Lenky said, nothing will be done on Starr Road because, if someone wanted to make changes, they would have to go through the proper channels like everyone else.

9.) Boat Ramp on Riverside Drive:

- Mr. Lenky gave a detailed description of a proposed plan to have a boat ramp adjacent from the Old Stove Shop on Route 12. He stressed that potentially hazardous material from the Old Stove Shop would not be excavated to make this plan possible and that the Town of Thompson would only need to acquire just a small piece of land to make the plan possible as well. Mr. Lenky asked for a motion from the other Selectmen to be able to proceed with this proposed plan.
- Motion made by Mrs. Smith to proceed with plans for a boat ramp on Riverside Drive adjacent to the Old Stove Shop. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Forrester.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

10.) Fees for Gravel Operations:

- Mr. Lenky explained that from his understanding, the money that comes from the either \$0.02 or \$0.03 on the yard or ton that is paid to the town, then goes in to the Building Office, where it is given to the Zoning Officer, who then gives it to the Secretary in the Building Office, where it is then transferred to the General Fund, and the money in the fund pays for the permits for the people who have to go for their Gravel Operations permits.
A lengthy discussion then ensued regarding how this situation really did not make a whole lot of sense at all.

11.) Appointments to Solar Advisory Committee and Thompson Water Pollution Control Authority:

- Motion made by Mrs. Smith for the Board of Selectmen to appoint Dick Trudeau to the Solar Advisory Committee. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Forrester.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes
- Motion made by Mrs. Forrester for the Board of Selectmen to appoint Adrien LaPalme to the Thompson Water Pollution Control Authority. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Smith.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

12.) Purchase of Town Vehicle:

- Mr. Lenky stated that \$15,000 is needed to purchase a town vehicle. He further explained the vehicle is needed as a replacement for the Zoning Officer, Inland Wetlands Commission, and Conservation Commission vehicle that had its breaks go out three different times and was from the early 1990's.
- Motion made by Mrs. Forrester for the Board of Selectmen to go to the Board of Finance and ask for an appropriation of \$15,000 for a new Town Vehicle. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Smith.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

13.) Solar RFP Update:



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Mrs. Forrester briefly updated by stating that there was a pre-bid conference on May 16th, 2014 at 2:00PM where 8 bidders came and asked questions and that now they were just waiting for new bids to come in and that those bids were due by May 29th, 2014 so that the Solar Committee can make a recommendation.

14.) Tax Refunds:

None.

15.) Other Business:

Mr. Lenky spoke regarding the recent meeting he had where he met with the Library Board of Trustees. One of the subjects that came up at that meeting was a decision to put bids out for 185 feet of granite curbing. He explained that the Highway Department had interest in coming in to do this particular project. Mrs. Forrester interjected that if the Highway Department does this that it is a re-allocation of resources when there are other road projects that need to be done. Mr. Lenky explained that the decision to put this out to bid was the best way for Thompson to potentially save some money. Mrs. Smith inquired about the money currently available for the project and Mrs. Forrester clarified that it did not cost anything to go out to bid. Mr. Lenky continued by commenting on another issue that had come up at his meeting with the Library Board of Trustees regarding piping in the attic of the library. Mr. Lenky explained that he was not willing to put this particular project out for bid because he was concerned that it might not be a good idea for someone new to come in mid-project and that, in his opinion, it would be best for those who began the project to complete the project. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding this subject. Mr. Lenky then continued by elaborating on a stairway potentially being put up for the Over 55 people who also use the Community Center. A discussion between the Selectmen regarding specifics of this issue followed. .

16.) Adjourn:

- Motion made by Mrs. Forrester to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Mrs. Smith.
Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

Documented and transcribed by Andrew Richardson, Recording Secretary