



TOWN OF THOMPSON  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES OF MEETING

Tuesday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014, 7:00 PM

Held in the Merrill Seney Conference Room

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

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Linda Jarmolowicz, Joseph H. Gaucher, Kevin Walsh, Wayne O'Brian, Gail Livingstone, Roger Tremblay, Steve Benoit, Donald Pimental, and others.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Lenky called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

**1.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- Motion made by Mrs. Forrester to approve minutes from the June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Board of Selectmen's meeting. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Smith. Corrections in Minutes were made regarding a correction in hours, a change in phrasing to the word "responsibility" instead of "power", a clarification of an issue where a citizen had a Putnam P.O. box, a removal of a facetious comment from a citizen that was mistaken for being true, the removal of a word, a correction/change from "general budget" to "general fund", a correction regarding the ZEO being notified of a gravel operation that had not paid, and a correction to the phrasing of a citizen's question.  
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes.
- Motion made by Mrs. Forrester to approve minutes from the June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Board of Selectmen's special meeting. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Smith. Mrs. Smith suggested that the mil rate number be included somewhere within the minutes.  
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes.

**2.) CORRESPONDANCE:**

- Mrs. Forrester received a thank you e-mail from the West Thompson Fire Dept. in regards to the town not giving up and seeing through the reimbursement for their roof being repaired.
- Mr. Lenky received a letter from Mary Ann Chinatti stating that the Planning & Zoning Commission approved the Rocky Brook Estate subdivision. This was in regards to a parcel of land which was given to the town of Thompson.
- Mr. Lenky stated that Mary Ann Chinatti also wrote a thank you letter regarding the West Thompson Fire Dept. reimbursement.
- Mr. Lenky also stated that Renee Waldron sent a letter to French River Materials thanking them for donating materials to the town for the walking path that the boy scouts and town highway did work on. The town was able to save a lot of money on this project due to the donation of materials and hard work of the town highway workers and boy scouts.
- Mr. Lenky announced that the ARC Rubber Duck Race would be held at Rotary Park in Putnam on Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014.
- Mr. Lenky also mentioned the Town Clerk's office asking the Board of Selectmen to consider changing the length of terms for the Town Clerk from 4 years to 2 years.
- Mr. Lenky lastly announced that a meeting was held for the new YMCA in Putnam but the notice came late.

**3.) SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS:**

- Mrs. Forrester stated the Board did receive the NECCOG minutes.
- Mr. Lenky spoke about the last meeting where the Executor spoke about the walking trails, covered handouts regarding new legislation, talked about grants, talked about the Regional Transit Program, and some of the minor changes to the regional referrals. Mr. Lenky also explained that most of this was on the website.
- Mrs. Smith asked about some elaboration on the insurance options discussed at the June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014 meeting.

- Mr. Lenky clarified that having more people on the insurance and having towns group together were both discussed as potential ways to see if rates could be lowered.
- Mrs. Forrester also noted that with this type of solution things don't get weighted correctly.
- Mrs. Smith announced to the town that the Board of Finance set the mil rate last week at 22.87 mils.
- Mrs. Smith also thanked everyone who came out to the polls last week.
- Mrs. Smith noted that with the Smoking Policy, which has been discussed recently, there are a few potential options as to what approach the town of Thompson may take. A smoke-free program or a campaign are both possible instead of necessarily having a town ordinance in regards to smoking.
- Mrs. Smith and the rest of the Board sent their condolences to the Mahon family regarding the passing of John Mahon.
- Mrs. Smith asked about the Marianapolis Sewer Project bids and if they were open.
- Mr. Lenky responded that they were opened by Mr. Bob Delucca and that legally the Board did not have to be present during the opening.
- Mr. Lenky told Mrs. Smith that she can replace him at the Northeast District of Health meeting so that she can address the smoking issue.
- Mrs. Smith also noted that the Finance Director Position was inquired about by residents and asked when someone would be hired.
- Mr. Lenky responded that two meetings would be taking place in July, one on a Tuesday and one on a Thursday, and Mrs. Forrester added that the hiring process would be done by a committee which includes members of the TWPCA, Board of Selectmen, and Board of Finance.
- Mrs. Smith also asked if the Board would be looking at the cost of the extensive audit which had recently been being discussed for the Finance Director who would be stepping down soon.
- Mrs. Forrester responded that this is the duty of the Board of Finance and she also noted that they should go with a third party auditing firm to conduct the audit more thoroughly and without bias.
- Mrs. Smith asked where the funds come from for the temporary hire.
- Mr. Lenky responded that the funds come from overtime pay not used and then FMLA after that.
- Mrs. Smith thanked the Eagle Scouts for all their hard work on the park recently.
- Mrs. Smith also mentioned that Wilsonville Park is in need of some mowing.
- Mr. Lenky responded that mowing of parks and cemeteries would be taking place soon.
- Mrs. Forrester agreed with Mrs. Smith that the Boy Scouts did a very good job.
- Mr. Lenky stated that, in regards to the lots, he had recently spoke to a man who would be willing to give them an estimate so the town could have an idea how much the cost for asphalt and construction of the lots would be. The specifics of the process were explained in further depth.
- Mrs. Forrester asked the other two Board members for feedback regarding the Personnel Policies which she had drafted and also mentioned again that something special for Mr. Norm Babbitt needs to be done soon.
- Mr. Lenky stated that he would like to take on the task for doing something special for Mr. Norm Babbitt.
- Mrs. Forrester also asked for an update on the money asked for in regards to a town vehicle. Mr. Lenky stated that he would cover that as an agenda item.

#### **4.) CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:**

- Kevin Walsh thanked the Board of Selectmen for requesting the independent audit to be conducted on the outgoing Finance Director at the last Board of Finance meeting. Mr. Walsh also mentioned there was also a recommendation for the school to be done as well which he agreed with. Additionally, Mr. Walsh asked about the vacant Finance Director position in regards to hiring and payment for any temporary hire. Mr. Walsh continued by questioning whether or not it was a wise procedure for the Board of Selectmen to allow bids to be opened without a Board member present. A lengthy discussion took place on this issue between Mr. Walsh and Mr. Lenky.
- Donald Pimental asked if the letter by Mary Ann Chinatti, which Mr. Lenky mentioned earlier in the meeting, was about the potential lot being built on Starr Road. Mr. Lenky responded that the property in question was on New Road. A discussion also took place regarding all of the proper channels that would have to go through for a re-subdivision process to take place. A discussion took place between Mr. Pimental and the Selectmen. There was a clarification made that the land in question was, in fact, the same land Mr. Pimental was also talking about. Mr. Pimental also asked if he could get a clearer copy of the last Board of Selectmen's meeting from June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

- Steve Benoit commented regarding the Hurricane Preparation Drill, stating that he believes they are ready for such an event and continually praised the volunteer Fire Fighters and Emergency Personnel who are involved in the process.
- Kevin Walsh commented suggesting that the Board of Selectmen consider having stricter guidelines for opening bids and expressed that he really believes the Board should take care of that issue.
- Gail Livingstone commented regarding the Starr Road situation. The letters from Congressman Joe Courtney were brought up and Mr. Lenky stated that he had not yet received the second letter but reiterated contacting Congressman Courtney's office after receiving the first letter. A lengthy discussion took place in regards to the proposed land donation from Mr. Rossen. Mrs. Livingstone brought up that the donation had a condition where a parking lot be built and Mrs. Forrester responded by reading an excerpt from last meeting's minutes where she emphasized that the Board of Selectmen was not interested in negotiating a land donation which included a contingency. Mr. Pimental also commented by thanking Mrs. Forrester for stating what she said at the last meeting.
- Joseph Gaucher asked the Board whose duty it is to pick up dead animals on the side of the road. Mr. Lenky responded that if it is in the road the state highway is called but if it is 4 feet off the road it is the town's responsibility but someone has to call first.
- Wayne O'Brian thanked Mr. Lenky for setting up a meeting for him regarding Mr. O'Brian's ongoing issue with the tax assessor. Mr. O'Brian also stated, however, that he did not agree with much of what the woman at the meeting had to say. Mrs. Forrester brought up that she was concerned about the Assessor being at the Board of Appeals and reiterated that members should not be reviewing their own appeals or those of their peers on the Board. A conversation about this issue and what went on at the meeting took place between Mrs. Forrester and Mr. O'Brian.

#### **5.) ROAD UPDATES:**

- Mr. Lenky explained that he had spoken with the Town Highway Foreman who told him that they were going to be chip-sealing on Ravenelle Road, Fabian Road, Woodstock Road, and part of the West Thompson Road. Mr. Lenky also mentioned that they were just finishing up on some catch basins that they had been working on repairing and that there would also be some grass mowing in progress throughout parts of the town. Mr. Lenky also brought up an issue in town regarding catch basin grates being removed, by a man and woman, to be sold for scrap metal. A brief discussion about this issue took place between citizens and Board members. Also, Mrs. Forrester requested that a list be composed of all of the streets in town that have been chip-sealed and another list of those that have been paved. More potential solutions for preventing the catch basin grates from being stolen were then, once again, discussed.

#### **6.) UPDATE ON TOWN VEHICLE:**

- Mr. Lenky explained that the town was going out to bid to local dealerships for a town vehicle with a spending limit of \$15,000 allocated for such a purpose. Mrs. Smith asked what type of vehicle was preferred and Mr. Lenky explained that he does not care what kind of car as long as the vehicle is efficient and long-lasting as the town mostly just uses the vehicle for inspections. Mr. Walsh asked if \$15,000 was the maximum amount the town would spend and the Board responded that it would be. Mr. Tremblay asked if the vehicle had to be new and the Board responded that purchasing a used vehicle would be fine too.

#### **7.) STARR ROAD ACQUISITION:**

- Mr. Lenky announced the Special Selectmen's Meeting taking place on Wednesday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 on Starr Road which is a site walk being held so the Selectmen can take a look at the land that will potentially be donated to the town of Thompson. Mr. Lenky also read a letter from Attorney St. Onge which was in regards to a recent petition signed by citizens opposed to any changes being made to Starr Road. Mr. Lenky also pointed out that at the last Planning & Zoning Commission meeting there was agreement that no plans are currently in process for any sub-division or anything to be done on Starr Road. Mr. Lenky also took exception to, and was offended by, some comments made on WINY radio which implied that Thompson's elected officials were not doing their jobs. A lengthy discussion about Starr Road then took place between the Selectmen and some of the citizens present.

#### **8.) ORDINANCES:**

- Mr. Lenky announced that there were four ordinances which he would like the other Selectmen to review. These included a proposed change to the length of Town Clerk terms from four years to two years, the creation of the Inlands Wetlands Commission from the Conservation Commission, Constables, and the fencing-in of farm animals in town. Mr. Lenky also stated that if anyone in town wished to view these proposed ordinances that they could do so by picking up copies available in the Selectmen's Office. Mr.

Walsh commented on this issue by telling the Board that they have an option not to advance these ordinances.

**9.) TAX REFUNDS:**

- None.

**10.) OTHER BUSINESS:**

- None.

**11.) ADJOURNMENT:**

- A motion adjourn was made by Mrs. Forrester at 8:42 PM. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Smith. Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky - Yes

*Documented and transcribed by Andrew Richardson, Recording Secretary*