



TOWN OF THOMPSON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING

Tuesday, August 5th, 2014, 7:00 PM

Held at the Thompson Historical Society

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

PUBLIC PRESENT: Joseph H. Gaucher, Kevin Walsh, Wayne O'Brian, Frances Becker, Donald Pimental, Sally White, Ted Smith, Kathleen Herbert, and others.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Lenky called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Motion made by Mrs. Forrester to approve minutes from the July 15th, 2014 Board of Selectmen's meeting. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky. Corrections in Minutes were made regarding the spelling of Fabyan-Woodstock Road, a clarification regarding the school allowing the tax office to run postage at the school, an addition of the phrase "due to shortage of help", the addition of "Mr. Lenky had stated that they had not yet hired someone", a change from the word "institute" to be corrected as "pursue", a clarification regarding the state giving the town a go-ahead rather than telling the town what to do, a correction regarding a letter given to Mr. Lenky by Mr. Barske – the letter was from Gail Livingstone not Mr. Barske, a clarification regarding the Selectmen not accepting land with a condition that a parking lot be built, another correction regarding the spelling of Fabyan-Woodstock Road, a correction that RFP should be all capitalized, a clarification that the school would approach the Board of Selectmen but had not yet, the library re-roofing is not part of the 15-16 budget, a clarification that Mrs. Forrester and Mrs. Smith believed the solar RFP bids should have gone back to the bidders, and lastly a correction that Mr. Lenky and Mr. Rawson are friends but do not share a social life. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes.
- Motion made by Mrs. Forrester to approve minutes from the July 22nd, 2014 Board of Selectmen's special meeting. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes.

2.) CORRESPONDENCE:

- Mr. Lenky announced via the Recreation Department that literature regarding before and after school programs could be picked up at the town hall at the Recreation Commission. Additionally, they are listing their 2014 summer bus trips which can also be picked up at the Recreation Commission. Also, "Come Out and Play Together" is a youth program and different events which is scheduled for the fall.
- Mr. Lenky received from CCM information regarding Thompson and the prescription card program which was that 178 claims have been processed by Thompson residents and over \$8,700.00 has been saved in Thompson.
- Mr. Lenky also received information from Jason Burgess from the Connecticut DOT Project that existing stop signs were being replaced with new high-intensity reflective signs. This project is set to begin on August 8th, 2014.
- Mr. Lenky announced that the Town Planner had received correspondence from CERC, which is a site-finding company, regarding a company that they had which was interested in constructing an 80,000 sq. foot building in the town of Thompson. However, the town of Thompson did not have the space available and therefore could not accommodate the company.
- Mr. Lenky received from the Town Planner, and a few other Committees in town, a proposal to be used as a process for accepting land donations or acquiring land. The proposal will be referred with comments by the First Selectmen to the Planning & Zoning Commission who will then return either a favorable or unfavorable recommendation. Upon the First Selectmen's recite of P&Z's recommendation the Board of Selectmen will meet and vote whether to move forward with this proposal. If the recommendation is

favorable a simple majority vote is all that is needed. If the recommendation from P&Z is unfavorable then a 2/3 vote is required.

- Mrs. Forrester received an e-mail from Steve Benoit who has been in contact with Dr. Jolin regarding grant money for safety. He would also be working with the Fire Departments to improve their overall communication throughout the town and there also would be some training on communication and school emergencies.
- Mr. Lenky received two applications: one for the Trails Committee and one for the Ethics Committee.
- Mr. Lenky also received some correspondence in regards to the search for a town vehicle. However, the amounts being asked were, so far, too high.

3.) SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS:

- Mrs. Forrester received an e-mail from Steve Benoit regarding the Emergency Management Homeland Security Agency and mentioned that since that already has an ordinance establishing it that the Board of Selectmen should also add the Emergency Management Personnel Responsibilities to that ordinance and leave the ordinance for the town constables the same as how Mrs. Forrester had presented it.
- Mrs. Forrester also spoke about an appendix to be added to the ordinance regarding the unrestricted wandering of farm animals which would discuss fines and who the fines would be paid to.
- Mrs. Forrester asked Mr. Lenky if it was intended for the issue of wandering dogs to be an ordinance and Mr. Lenky responded that yes that was what people wanted and like the rest of the ordinances it would go to a town meeting.
- Mrs. Forrester also received, from Kathleen Herbert, recommendations on what should be requested in the RFP for the library curbing. Mrs. Forrester then invited Kathleen Herbert to speak on the matter.
- Kathleen Herbert explained that she worked with a woman who did a rough draft take-off of the area and was also able to give Mrs. Herbert the correct wording for what it should say if they put out a proposal. Mrs. Herbert explained that they were not looking for Cape Cod curbing or asphalt curbing but that they were instead looking for 4' by 16' inch vertical granite curbing and/or radius curbing, as well as one 8 foot handicap ramp and one 6 foot handicap ramp. Mrs. Herbert continued by going into greater detail about what needs to be done at the library and stated that the woman she knew could contact a company for them if needed. Mr. Lenky stated that Steve Lewis did the draw-up for the plans. Mrs. Herbert again stressed that they would not be looking for Cape Cod curbing.
- Mrs. Forrester stressed that the recognition for Norman Babbitt should really be done by Veteran's Day and offered to take on that responsibility to ensure that it is done by Veteran's Day.
- Mrs. Forrester also asked that the other Selectmen follow up on the personnel policies so that they could get those implemented.

4.) CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

- A Motion made by Mrs. Forrester to add a second "Citizens' Comments" section as #8 on the meeting's agenda. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes
- Kevin Walsh asked a question regarding the town's arrangement with the former Finance Director who is now acting as a consultant. Mr. Walsh asked how the \$8,000-\$10,000 appropriated for Mr. Martin's consulting would be monitored. Mrs. Forrester responded that he stated that he would not be charging for phone calls, would be keeping track of his own time by filling out time sheets like other town employees, and that he would also be reimbursed for travel expenses. Mr. Walsh then asked about the Marianapolis Sewer Project that was to go out to referendum on Thursday, August 7th, 2014. Mr. Walsh mentioned that he was concerned that not enough information was being given to the citizens on the matter and because it was being presented as a win-win it worried him. Additionally, Mr. Walsh stated that he suspected that the people would vote, it'll end up going forward, and then there will be snags. Mr. Walsh again reiterated the importance of communication in town as well as stating that the town people should be given all of the information, the good, the bad, and the ugly; including any concerns regarding issues.
- Abigail Schmeelk brought to the attention of the Board of Selectmen an issue she has been dealing with regarding the tax assessor and her mobile home which she stated has been listed as a ranch. Ms. Schmeelk stated that the Assessor is refusing to change the listing of her home and asked how she could go about appealing that decision. Mr. Lenky responded that Ms. Schmeelk can pick up complaint forms in the Selectmen's Office, the Assessor's Office, or the Tax Office and that if she fills out the complaint form then things can move forward and information can be gathered as to why her home was labeled as a ranch.

- Sally White asked about the requirements regarding what defines open-space in the town of Thompson. Mr. Lenky responded that federal land and state land does not count towards the 11% of town land which needs to be open-space land by 2024. Ms. White also asked the Board who the new Finance Director is but Mr. Lenky responded that he could not give the name of the person publicly since things were not official yet with the hire. Ms. White also commented on the situation with Abby Schmeelk and the tax assessor and stated that she finds that type of situation as quite scary.
- Donald Pimental asked the Board of Selectmen if they had decided whether or not to accept the land donation with the strings attached, referring to a parking lot potentially being built near Starr Road. Mr. Lenky and Mrs. Forrester both responded that it is an agenda item and that they would give their answer then. Mr. Pimental then asked if they agreed or not that a parking lot was needed there. Mr. Lenky responded that they stated previously at a Board of Selectmen meeting that they did not agree with it.
- Kathleen Herbert commented in regards to the issue of roads that there is a broken guard rail, also that the end of rich road needs work, and that the end of Rich Road could potentially be worked in with Porter Plane.
- Wayne O'Brian praised the workers at the Thompson Town Hall and commented that they all do a great job.
- Sally White asked for a clarification on Citizens' Comments and it was explained to her that comments could be made during agenda item 4 as well as during agenda item 8 which is after all the other agenda issues are discussed.

5.) ACQUISITION OF OPEN SPACE (RIVER JUNCTION LLC):

- Mr. Lenky explained that the Town Planner and other people in the town hall helped to put something together to simplify it so that everybody could easily understand what needs to be done. Mr. Lenky read the following:
 "The Board of Selectmen, to move forward, would acquire easements and ownership rights to three parcels of land belonging currently to River Junction Estates LLC. To have River Junction Estates LLC's attorney prepare and submit said easement and warranty D documents to the First Selectmen for review by the town attorney and approval by the town pursuant to the Connecticut General Statutes Section 824 and to maintain, improve, protect, and limit future use of, or otherwise conserve such open space pursuant to any requirements of Connecticut General Statutes Section 824. Said parcels being 24.5 acre portion of property known as 0 East Thompson Road, map 15, 145 block 5, lot 10 as shown on plan titled 'Lot Division Plan Boundary Line Adjustment Riverview Landing' prepared for River Junction LLC parcel SC 1 and SC2 New Road, Thompson, CT prepared by Messier and Associates Inc., plan date 7/14/14 revised 7/15/14. 3.5 acre portion of property known as 0 New Road, map 154, block 3, lot 2A as shown on a plan titled 'Boundary Line Adjustment Plan' as prepared for River Junction Estates LLC, New Road, Thompson, CT by Messier and Associates Inc., plan date 7/14/14 revised 7/15/14. 5.7747 acre portion of property known as 0 NW Road, map 154, block 3, lot 2A as shown on the plan titled 'Conservation Easement Plan' prepared for River Junction Estates LLC, Starr Road, Thompson, CT by Messier and Associates Inc., plan date 6/14/14 revised 7/15/14. B. Upgrading of existing, unimproved portion of Starr Road, if proposed in the future, shall be referred to the Planning and Zoning Commission pursuant to Connecticut General Statute Section 824."
- Mr. Lenky stated that this procedure, if they decided to sign, would be the same procedure used in the future when it comes to the town of Thompson acquiring land.
- Mrs. Forrester and Mr. Lenky briefly discussed which Boards and Commissions have to okay this before the town could acquire the land. Additionally, the Conservation Commission and Inlands/Wetlands have to okay and send comments before the Board of Selectmen can sign and before the plan can go to Planning and Zoning for approval of the plan and to be able to improve the road. It was stressed repeatedly that any upgrades to Starr Road have to first be approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission.
- A lengthy discussion took place between the two Selectmen and Mr. Pimental.

6.) WEB UPDATE:

- Mr. Lenky stated that the man who does Woodstock's website would be in contact with the town of Thompson about potentially working on the town website.
- It was also mentioned that students at QVCC could also possibly work on the website for credit at the school.

- Mrs. Forrester mentioned possibly having whoever takes over working on the website possibly changing to a new system since the current one has some issues. She also mentioned improving communication as being of importance.

7.) ROAD UPDATE:

- Mr. Lenky spoke to Leo about the shimming of roads including all of Fabyan-Woodstock Road as well as parts of West Thompson Road, Ravenelle Road, and Church Street. This would all be done so they can begin chip-stoning in these areas.
- Mrs. Forrester mentioned and suggested potentially coming up with a 5-year plan for roads.

8.) CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

- Mr. Pimental commented that the map attached to the land acquisition includes a map that has the parking lot on Starr Road still included and suggested that he feels that he and other citizens are setting themselves up to have a lot built in the future which they do not want to happen now or down the road in the future. Mr. Lenky again stressed that any construction would still have to go through the Planning and Zoning Commission. A lengthy discussion then ensued.
- Kevin Walsh commented that he agrees with Mr. Pimental that an updated map should be attached because as a legal document attachment the map holds legal weight. He strongly suggested that they update the map. Mrs. Forrester suggested that the document be taken to Attorney St. Onge for him to look at it and advise them on what to do.
- Sally White also commented that the language of the document is not germane to the gift of the land and stated that if it has no legal weight then it should not be there.
- Frances Becker asked who pays taxes on the land once the town of Thompson acquires it and Mr. Lenky responded that nobody does.

9.) TAX REFUNDS:

- A motion was made by Mrs. Forrester to grant the following tax refunds: Allen McKinley - \$11.86, Norman and Donna Baker - \$9.97, Romeo Blaine - \$8.50, East Cab LLC - \$156.11, D and R Tire Masonry - \$13.52, D and R Tire Masonry - \$36.55, Elzie Franco - \$98.42, George Hibbert - \$64.27, Joseph I. Martino - \$85.13, L and M Transportation LLC - \$192.22, Joseph Marciano - \$7.25, Joseph Marciano - \$41.19, Brian O'Brian - \$232.06, Brian O'Brian - \$128.80, Catherine O'Rourke - \$26.67, Margarite and Michael Toume - \$28.61, Roland and Catherine Toraz - \$8.83, Elliot Webb - \$12.55, Paul Standrovic - \$5.94, Nancy Standrovic - \$10.06, Paul Standrovic - \$18.30, Joey Palaceshea - \$85.76, and Joey Palaceshea - \$7.56. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes.

10.) OTHER BUSINESS:

- None.

11.) ADJOURNMENT:

- A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Forrester at 8:13 PM. Mr. Lenky seconded this motion.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes.

Documented and transcribed by Andrew Richardson, Recording Secretary