



TOWN OF THOMPSON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING

Tuesday, August 19th, 2014, 7:00 PM

Held at the Thompson Historical Society

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

PUBLIC PRESENT: Joseph H. Gaucher, Kevin Walsh, Wayne O'Brian, Frances Becker, Donald Pimental, Sally White, Kathleen Herbert, Gail Livingstone, Jimmy Andrews 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 August 5th, 2014 Board of Selectmen's meeting. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky. Corrections in minutes were made regarding the addition of the phrase "as well as installing several other safety signs" on the third bullet of the first page under the Correspondence section, the changing of the word "constructing" to the word "finding" in the next paragraph, a clarification that the town does not have a building with that type of space available, on the last bullet of that page the addition of the phrase "with written comments from the required commissions/committees to the First Selectmen", the changing of the word "recite" to "receipt", a clarification on the first bullet of page 2 that the grant money is for improved school safety which would involve working with the fire department as well as improving communication during school emergencies, correct that Mr. Lenky received two names for volunteers in response to the advertisement in the Shopper's Guide, under the second bullet under Selectmen's Comments Mrs. Forrester asked about an appendix for the ordinances which would explain fines and there actually is such an appendix for that, under the fifth bullet a correction that Mrs. Forrester did not agree to take on the responsibility to be in charge of honoring Norm Babbitt, the last bullet on page 2 a clarification that the assessor said flatly no that she would not reduce it so information did not need to be gathered as to why the home was labeled a ranch, on the third bullet of page 3 Kathleen Herbert commented that there was a broken guard rail on Wilsonville Road, under section five a change of "D" to "deed", a re-phrasing to make the issue of the road and land donation separate, on the first bullet of page 4 Mrs. Forrester spoke about improving hardware to improve communication and was not referring to the website, on page 4 Mrs. Forrester was not suggesting a 5 year plan but stated that it needs to be started as it was already agreed to, and lastly on page 5 remove "a map that still has" and "still included."
- Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes, Mrs. Smith – Abstain

2.) CORRESPONDENCE:

- Mr. Lenky announced that the Library Curbing Pavement invitation to bid has been put in the Shopper's guide and will be there for the next two weeks and it will also be on the state website.
- Mrs. Forrester announced that they had gotten the permits issued for the month of July and the value of the permits is \$714,595 and \$7,293 for the fees.
- Mr. Lenky announced that the Gladys Green Phase III grant of \$800,000 has been approved.
- Mr. Lenky received correspondence from the Natchaug River Young Marines who will be having "Red Ribbon Week" from October 23rd, 2014 through October 31st, 2014 for drug awareness.
- Mr. Lenky also received correspondence from a company seeking to do consulting for the town of Thompson which they already have and do not currently need.
- Lastly, the State of Connecticut thanked First Selectmen Lenky for applying for a grant for the rebuilding of the Community Fire Department. The letter also stated, however, that the grant did not go through.

3.) SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS:

- Mrs. Smith brought up that the bridge that is near the library, going over towards Riverside Park, seems somewhat unstable and asked if anyone knew when the last time it was looked at. Mr. Lenky responded

that he would have to ask Mary Ann Chinatti to look into that. Mrs. Smith also mentioned that there were some tree limbs overhanging near that area as well and mentioned that they potentially could be dangerous.

- Mrs. Smith also asked when something was going to be done to honor Mr. Norm Babbitt and Mr. Lenky responded that Veteran's Day was still the planned date to recognize and honor Mr. Babbitt.
- Mrs. Smith also inquired about signs in town which had been vandalized with graffiti. Mr. Lenky stated they had spoken to Leo and that these signs would be replaced but must first be ordered.
- Mrs. Smith also asked about fencing near the Knights of Columbus that had been altered as there is a chain that is no longer there and the fence looks like it is partly falling over. Mr. Lenky responded that this occurred during the winter when a plow was pushed a little too far.
- Mrs. Smith also asked Mr. Lenky about picnic tables in town. Mr. Lenky responded that Leo was already notified about this and that the picnic tables need to be fixed.
- Mrs. Smith also asked a question regarding the Library Curbing Pavement invitation to bid and what process must be followed in regards to the bid opening. Mr. Lenky responded that the bids would be opened at a Board of Selectmen's meeting.
- Mrs. Forrester spoke about Mr. Kevin Walsh's concerns at the previous meeting in regards to the Marianapolis Sewer Grant. Mrs. Forrester explained that people had asked very specific questions during the presentation and that they had actually asked for a second additional \$500,000 but that they said no to that because they felt just an additional \$500,000 would be enough.
- Mr. Lenky commented that Marianapolis would have to pay a connection fee like any other person or business would but stressed that he agreed with Mrs. Forrester fully that nothing has been hidden from the town and that all the questions that they could have asked they did ask.
- Mr. Lenky commented that he and everyone in attendance are all lucky to live in Thompson. He stated that it bothers him when people talk about how bad the 3 rows section is because other towns are much worse in comparison.
- Mr. Lenky also noted that if anyone ever travels to Plainfield that they should eat breakfast or lunch at The Victorian Restaurant. Mr. Lenky said that he had a great experience eating at this restaurant where all the workers are physically handicapped and stated that he really enjoyed himself, was touched at what he saw there, and that the service was exceptional.

4.) CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

- Kevin Walsh asked whether the 11% of open land is Connecticut State Statute or Public Policy. Mr. Lenky responded that it is a state law. Mr. Walsh mentioned that according to WINY radio's facebook page that at a recent meeting there was a process to acquire land that was covered which involved various committees and commissions giving their opinions first and that then the Board of Selectmen could override with a 2/3 vote to approve the town acquiring new land. Mr. Walsh also mentioned that the First Selectmen is Ex Officio and that he was concerned that Mr. Lenky or anyone else in that seat could sway these boards/commissions. Mr. Lenky responded that the First Selectmen can go to the Trails Commission and that he did not influence anyone. Mr. Lenky also stressed that they were talking about the property and not the road when that statement was read but that everyone was allowed to give their opinion regardless and that the Town Attorney told them that what they wrote out did not even legally have to be done. Mrs. Forrester explained that they had read a process for accepting land at the Board of Selectmen's meeting, there was a discussion, and that afterward they agreed to bring it to the town Attorney St. Onge for review. Mr. Lenky further explained that he met with the Trails Committee once, showed them the 3 maps, and asked their opinion. Mr. Lenky also stressed that they had never been out to change anyone's mind and that people talk and things end up getting twisted up. Mr. Walsh stated that that was the reason why he brings things up at the meetings.
- Donald Pimental spoke about how at the last Board of Selectmen's meeting they had discussed the map of Starr Road with a parking lot on it which was attached to the process for accepting land. Mr. Pimental stated that he was concerned over another parking lot that he noticed on that map which wasn't on previous maps which he had seen. Mr. Lenky responded that the Board of Selectmen was not worried about the road because any changes would have to go through the Planning & Zoning Commission and that they were only here to speak about the land donation. Mr. Pimental voiced his concern that things might be hidden and Mr. Lenky stated that Attorney St. Onge has assured them that everything is legal and that they won't be using the map. A lengthy discussion ensued. Both Mr. Lenky and Mrs. Forrester both assured Mr. Pimental that no changes could be made to the road unless it first went through Planning & Zoning and that they were there to focus on the land donation, not the road.

- Sally White inquired about an issue from last Board of Selectmen’s meeting regarding a woman named Abigail who had an issue with the Assessor regarding the listing of her mobile home. Mr. Lenky responded that he could not comment on that issue since it could end up in a court case. Ms. White also asked about the MPS hookup and stated that she hoped that these fees would be disclosed. Mr. Lenky responded that the project is going through and that they’re going to put a brand new line. He further explained that anything additional added will have to be paid for. Ms. White also asked about West Thompson Road and Reardon Road and how they figure into the paving. Mr. Lenky responded that they are both going to be shimmed and chip-sealed. Lastly, Ms. White asked about the boat launch and whether or not the town of Thompson would be responsible for labor and materials. Mr. Lenky responded that the only expense will be any material that has to go to the landfill. He also stated that anything else, as far as materials go, will be donated.
- Kathleen Herbert stated that she advocates for a fishing area so people don’t continue to fish on Wilsonville Road Bridge because of how dangerous it can be there with the train going by. Mrs. Smith responded that it is a dangerous area because arms to stop cars for the train don’t go down in that area and the lights are not always easy to see during the daytime.
- Wayne O’Brian asked a question regarding the book used to value vehicles by the assessor and questioned whether or not she is mandated to use that book since the values given in it are quite different from those given in the Kelly Blue Book. A lengthy discussion ensued. Mrs. Forrester responded that the Assessor told her that the state does mandate that she use that particular book.

5.) EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

- Mr. Lenky read a letter from the State of Connecticut’s division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security which thanked the Board of Selectmen for their nomination of Steve Benoit for the Emergency Manager of the Year Award. The letter goes on to state that Michael Delucca of Norwalk was chosen as the winner of the award as well as congratulating Mr. Benoit in recognition for his nomination as well as his contributions and achievements. Also, enclosed with the letter was a certificate of recognition for Mr. Benoit acknowledging his nomination and recognizing his hard work.

6.) RESIGNATION OF HOWARD PECK FROM INLANDS/WETLANDS COMMISSION:

- A motion was made by Mrs. Smith to accept the resignation of Howard Peck from the Inlands/Wetlands Commission. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Forrester.
Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

7.) NEXT STEP LIVING – PRESENTATION BY ERIN O’NEILL:

- A presentation regarding what is offered through a renewable energy company called “Next Step Living” was given by Erin O’Neill, the Regional Outreach Manager for the company.

8.) FUNDRAISER FOR MATTHEW REGULA APPROVAL:

- Mr. Lenky explained the unfortunate situation regarding Matthew Regula’s passing and the Board of Selectmen approved the use of the Thompson town hall’s parking lot for a bottle and can drive to help Matthew Regula’s family to be held on September 13th, 2014 from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. It was also announced that there will be a gathering held at the Music Lady in Plainfield on August 24th, 2014 at 1:00 PM, also for Matthew Regula.

9.) ETHICS COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

- A motion was made by Mrs. Forrester to accept the following appointments to the Ethics Committee: Al Landry, Ray Dewey, Kathleen Herbert, Frances Becker, Gary Hopkins, Wendy Kirkland, and Jimmy Andrews. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Smith.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes.

10.) ROAD UPDATES:

- Mr. Lenky stated that West Thompson Road and Reardon Road were going to be chip-stoned. Also, Mr. Lenky stated that Fabyan-Woodstock Road and Ravenelle Road were also both still currently being worked on and being chip-stoned.

11.) CITIZENS’ COMMENTS:

- Frances Becker commented that she noticed recently that trees were being cut down on Riverside Drive near the school and stated that she was concerned that this could result in erosion or a mudslide. Mr. Lenky responded that the decision to do that was of the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education. Kathleen Herbert stated that this had been done for reasons regarding security and line of sight.

- Gail Livingstone asked if there was a list of other roads that were going to be done and asked if Porter Plane Road was on the list. Mr. Lenky responded that Porter Plane Road is on the list of roads to be done this year.
- Sally White asked about the Ethics Committee and questioned how much the Board of Selectmen knew about these people and asked what the screening process was for selecting the individuals. Mr. Lenky responded that they are volunteers and Mrs. Forrester responded that she believes that screening volunteers may discourage people from volunteering.
- Gail Livingstone commented that she agrees with Sally White in regards to screening or finding out more about those who have volunteered to join the Ethics Committee.

12.) TAX REFUNDS:

- A motion was made by Mrs. Forrester to grant the following tax refunds: James W. Beauregard - \$8.03, John G. LaRochelle - \$0.94, Robert M. LeBeau - \$46.72, Anthony V. and Katherine A. Pezzano - \$22.99, Norman L. Therrien - \$28.84, Samuel Arthur Yacino - \$46.93, Eugene H. Young Sr. - \$4.88, Tami Richard - \$11.25, and Alison Boutaugh - \$22.16. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Smith.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes.

13.) OTHER BUSINESS:

- None.

14.) ADJOURNMENT:

- A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Forrester at 8:25 PM. Mrs. Smith seconded this motion.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes.

Documented and transcribed by Andrew Richardson, Recording Secretary