



TOWN OF THOMPSON  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES OF MEETING

Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014, 7:00 PM

Held at the East Thompson Fire Department

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

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Joseph H. Gaucher, Kevin Walsh, Paul Baer, Frances Becker, Donald Pimental, Sally White, Kathleen Herbert, Jayson Livingstone, Gail Livingstone, Roger Tremblay, Sarah F. White, Annette Begin, Jim Pimental, and others.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Lenky called the meeting to order at 7:19 PM.

**1.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- Motion made by Mrs. Smith to approve minutes from the August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Board of Selectmen's meeting. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Forrester. Corrections in minutes were made regarding a change in the first paragraph of the word "Selectmen" to "Selectman"; a change in tense to make "fire departments" plural; a correction so that it reads "Mr. Lenky received two names from volunteers" instead of "for volunteers"; under the Correspondence section a revision to the second bullet; on the sixth bullet of the second page a correction to change the word "people" to "she" and the word "they" to "the Board of Selectmen"; a clarification that Mrs. Smith abstained from the approval of minutes of the August 5<sup>th</sup> meeting because she was not there; and on page four a correction to the spelling of "Porter Plain" instead of "Porter Plane".

Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

**2.) CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Mrs. Forrester stated that she had printed out the Memorandum of Understanding regarding Resident Energy Efficiency.
- A motion was made by Mrs. Forrester to move the Memorandum of Understanding regarding Resident Energy Efficiency to the "Other Business" section. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Smith.  
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes
- Mr. Lenky announced that the Water Pollution Control Authority had a public notice at their meeting last week that they are going to raise their rates from \$325.00 to \$400.00 for EDU.
- Mr. Lenky also stated that the Energy and Environmental Protection had sent a letter to the Board of Selectmen stating that they are going to award the Fire Department with a grant of \$2,500.00 after they make their application.
- Mr. Lenky also stated that, along with Mary Ann Chinatti, the Board of Selectmen are looking for Representatives, Senators, and businesses for the 2015 Steep Grant application for the installation of three electrical power for the Industrial Park to provide better resources for and to add more utilities for them.
- Mr. Lenky stated that he had received a letter that the Army Corp Engineers had removed the bridge near the old landfill on Blaine Road and the Coast Guard Academy will do the civil engineering at no cost to put a bridge there.
- CLA Engineering went through the bids for the Marianapolis Sewer Project and CD Utility was the low bidder.
- A letter to the Board of Selectmen from KWP stated that there was a gravel operation on Lower Davis Road where a colder was damaged but that for the operation to continue they cannot use the same type of rope they normally would to get across.

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

- Mrs. Forrester read the charge for the Ethics Committee in response to someone asking her to read it at the last meeting. Additionally, Mrs. Forrester read every reference which had been made regarding the Ethics Committee at Board of Selectmen meetings over the past few months. On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 Sally White had asked the Board to consider renewing the Ethics Committee, on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Mrs. Forrester

presented information on Code of Ethics and ethics policies and also asked about creating an Ethics Committee which the Board of Selectmen approved at that time, on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014 the charge for the Ethics Committee was read and the Board approved the four names of volunteers up to that point, and on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 the Board, Commission, and Committee vacancies including the Ethics Committee had been posted on the town website.

- Mrs. Forrester also stated that she would like the other two Selectmen to make comments on the ordinances for the unrestricted wandering of farm animals, the Thompson Constables, and the Emergency Management proposal which a couple meetings ago Mrs. Forrester suggested that that be added to the existing Emergency Management Homeland Security Agency Ordinance. Mrs. Forrester also stated that she wanted to make sure that these are on the agenda for next meeting so they can be discussed in detail and be approved to send forward.
- Mrs. Forrester stated that she would like comments on the Personnel Policies which she had drafted a few months ago and it was agreed upon by all three Selectmen to put this as an agenda item for the next Board of Selectmen meeting.
- Mrs. Forrester stated that she had attended the NECCOG meeting on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 and that there wasn't a whole lot of discussion other than that there is a hearing on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014 regarding permits and that there is a resolution in Hartford for general permits for the discharge of storm water from small municipal sewer systems. The proposed change that they are proposing would make it so that all storm drains be discharged and monitored on a regular basis. The cost on that for small municipalities will be prohibited. The NECCOG members were asked to put together questions, to ask for a continuance on this, and also to ask the public to also contact their Senator and State Representative to ask for a continuance also and to give opinions. There was then a lengthy discussion between the three Selectmen regarding the issue of storm drains.
- Mrs. Smith asked Mr. Lenky if the town has a Tree Warden and Mr. Lenky responded that they do not.
- Mr. Lenky discussed some of the options for the proper ways to take down the old Stove Shop.
- Mrs. Smith stated that she drafted new volunteer applications for the future for town boards, committees, and commissions. She also discussed what is included on these new applications.
- Mrs. Smith asked if Mary Ann Chinatti had looked into the bridge over near the Library/Community Center and Mr. Lenky responded that she had not yet as she was on vacation during that particular week.

#### **4.) CITIZENS' COMMENTS:**

- Sally White commented that she was glad to hear that there will be personnel policies and encouraged the Board of Selectmen to move it up to this evening's meeting. There was also a brief discussion between Ms. White and Mrs. Forrester regarding the subject of "Citizens' Comments."
- Kevin Walsh also commented regarding the subject of "Citizens' Comments" and stated that there may be differing opinions as to what is productive and what is not. Mrs. Forrester responded that she never said anything being brought up was unproductive but that it is the Board's decision what to add as agenda items and that they may decide to add certain things as agenda items for a future meeting so that they can gather facts. Mr. Walsh also asked about a posting on the town's website about a public meeting coming up and Mr. Lenky responded that that would be discussed under the Marianapolis update. Lastly, Mr. Walsh inquired about the deforestation near the school and who made the decision to do that. Mr. Lenky responded that it was all the school and the Board of Selectmen was not involved with that decision.
- Annette Begin brought up a complaint regarding increased noise levels at the Thompson Speedway.
- Frances Becker asked if they could stop through traffic on Azed Road because, she believes, either a trailer truck or dump truck going from Route 21 and Route 44 towards Route 12 took a big gouge out of a pole on Azed Road. Mr. Lenky responded that the only thing they could potentially do would be to put a weight limit on the road. She also brought up the issue of the town of Thompson needing a new flag outside of the town hall. Mr. Lenky responded that that would need to be brought up to Representative Danny Rovero.
- Sally White commented on the issue of excessive noise coming from the Thompson Speedway and stated that she believes the suggestion for sound barriers is a reasonable one because the noise is relentless.
- Annette Begin again commented on how bad the noise coming from the Thompson Speedway is as she has been forced to keep her door and windows closed despite the summer heat.
- Frances Becker asked if someone could get in touch with the Putnam Selectmen about Azed Road having even numbers on both sides of the road due to it being partially in Putnam. She stated concerns over whether EMTs could find her quickly enough if she were to have a health scare.

- Donald Pimental asked about if there was an update on the three parcels of land being donated to the town of Thompson and Mr. Lenky responded that there was no update.
- Paul Baer suggested there be a report citing the benefits of the add-ons at the Thompson Speedway and stated that he had a flag for the town of Thompson's town hall he'd be willing to donate if the town were interested. Mr. Baer also stated that he would advise that the Board of Selectmen issue directives to all committees, boards, and commissions and also stated that he was miffed at the misrepresentation of facts in the minutes of a recent Fire Protection and Advisory Committee meeting.
- Kathleen Herbert commented regarding the deforestation near the school and stated that she will ask about specifics regarding the funds for this at the next Board of Education meeting.

**5.) PISTOL PERMIT FEE INCREASE:**

- A motion was made by Mrs. Forrester to increase the Pistol Permit Fee in the town of Thompson from \$35.00 to \$70.00. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Smith.  
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

**6.) MARIANAPOLIS SEWER PROJECT UPDATE:**

- Mr. Lenky announced that the town needs to have a public hearing, as an agenda item at the September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Board of Selectmen meeting, regarding the Marianapolis Sewer Project. Mr. Lenky explained that this was a formality for the grant to go through because the Bond Commission and USDA said it must happen.
- Mr. Lenky also stated that they are doing 6000 feet of sewer and 2000 feet of directional boring. Additionally, Mr. Lenky explained that they did meet with the company that was the low bidder and that on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014 the bid will be signed. Also, if the paperwork goes through quickly they will start the directional boring because that is something that tends to take some time and if that goes smoothly they will also do the Route 12 area. However, if weather does not allow they'll wait until April.

**7.) ZEO HOURS:**

- A motion was made by Mrs. Forrester to change the ZEO position from a 20 hour per week position to a 15 hour per week position. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Smith.  
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

**8.) PROCLAMATION PAIN AWARENESS MONTH:**

- A motion was made by Mrs. Forrester to designate the month of September "Pain Awareness Month" for the town of Thompson. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky.  
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes, Mrs. Smith - Yes

**9.) RECREATION REPORT:**

- Mr. Lenky stated that he had received an update from Mrs. Waldron who was unable to attend the meeting. This update stated that the youth programs had a good year at camp and that the staff did a good job at keeping kids both safe and active. Also, the numbers were good as 239 different children had participated with a daily attendance of approximately 100. The after school programs had 57 students and the before school program had 17. Their specialty after school programs included building with legos, science fun, cupcake decorating, and candy making which will begin in October. Adult classes include yoga classes, gentle and stretch, will power and grace, and line dancing. Senior programs include line dancing, yoga, strength training, ice cream socials, and blood pressure screening provided by Merrimack Healthcare. Special events included five band concerts with good attendance within the last year, a movie in the park which was very well attended by more than 200, Community Day will be September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in the park, they'll have a Halloween Laser Light Show on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014, and there will be the Turkey Trot on November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014. On June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014 they had a bus trip to see Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty, and the 9/11 Memorial. On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 the trip to Block Island was sold out, on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014 there will be a trip to the Big E which is sold out, and on November 29<sup>th</sup> a trip to NYC for shopping which also sold out. Park Improvements this year included Duhamel Pond where the walkway was redone and a boy scouts built a picnic table and two benches which was the Eagle Scout project for Jacob Houghton, the fishing plant farm at Gladys Green Pineview was installed by the same scout, and Riverside Park Infield and Track were both redone by the Highway Department and the chain link fence was added to the foot bridge for safety reasons. Also, Mr. Lenky was supplied with a list of the town's parks which include Duhamel Park, Marriott Fisher Elementary School Play Scape, Grosvenoredale Commons, the TEEG Playground, Roselandville Play Scape, Riverside Park, Heritage Way Park, Town Ball Field, Arthur Shawardson Memorial Park, Mechanicsville Park, State Rest picnic Area, State Airline Trail, Quaddick State Forrest, Federal Crossings, and the Town of Thompson has two boat ramps that they take care of –

one off of Fabyan and one near the Knights of Columbus – the other two boat ramps are at the West Thompson Dam and at Quaddick State Park.

**10.) ROAD UPDATES:**

- Mr. Lenky stated that the Town Highway is proceeding with chip sealing on Ravenelle Road, Reardon Road, and West Thompson Road which will all begin this week.

**11.) CITIZENS' COMMENTS:**

- Frances Becker asked if the playground in Mechanicville was still there and Mr. Lenky responded that it was. Mrs. Forrester mentioned that they did update it.
- Kevin Walsh commented on the Marianapolis Sewer Project update and stated that the people have spoken twice on the issue and this doesn't make sense. Mr. Lenky stated that he agrees and that originally the USDA said that they didn't need to have a public hearing but now the USDA and the Bond Commission are both saying that one must take place. Mr. Lenky added that he agrees it is pointless but it must take place in order for them to get the grant.
- Paul Baer asked if there was any update on Porter Plain and Mr. Lenky responded that it will all depend on the weather because they are still trying to finish up roads that were left over from last year and that it may have to be done next year. Mr. Baer also asked if Marianapolis would be paying any of the frontage fees and Mr. Lenky responded that that question would have to be asked of the TWPCA because he didn't know what they do about that.
- Kathleen Herbert stated that she thought that the town of Thompson outsourced for chip and seal projects and Mr. Lenky responded that they do but the imperfections in the road are also being fixed which involves road-cutting and shimming of the roads.
- Joseph Gaucher asked for an update on the Quaddick Road Bridge and Mr. Lenky responded that the state engineers came and said that the head walls are good and that the wing walls only need a small amount of work. Mr. Lenky also stated that there was a misreport that stated that the wing walls need extensive work which is not true. Mr. Lenky also stated that the engineering on it would probably cost around \$7,000-\$8,000 and that it would likely take 6-8 weeks to get parts in place. Additionally, Mr. Lenky stated that if the town gets the SYEEP Grant then they could potentially outsource it and have it cost around \$60,000 instead of \$150,000.
- Sally White asked about the Marianapolis Sewer project bid openings and Mr. Lenky responded that they hadn't been opened yet but most likely would be on September 19<sup>th</sup>. Ms. White also asked if anyone had examined the Trinity Foundation records and Mrs. Forrester responded that they do know that the Trinity Foundation is financially very strong. Ms. White also asked about an extension to Quaddick State Park and Mr. Lenky responded that reports that people had wrecked the park were false. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the parks in town. Ms. White also asked if the new Financial Director had begun yet and if they could release the person's name. Mr. Lenky responded that she had not started yet but that her name is Laura Rafferty.
- Frances Becker asked how many soccer fields are in town and Mr. Lenky responded just one on Buck Hill.
- Paul Baer brought up that he found it ironic that the Northeast District of Health, where Laura Rafferty is leaving, is presently looking for an auditor to do an exit audit on the position that she is leaving. This is because it was suggested that the Board of Finance do an exit audit in regards to their Finance Director position when the last one decided he was stepping down.

**12.) TAX REFUNDS:**

- A motion was made by Mrs. Forrester to grant the following tax refunds: Jeanne Adamuska – \$3.93, Norman J. and Charleen Arguin - \$84.07, Lisa Bernier - \$16.12, Theresa A. Buron - \$34.94, Constance M. Coderre - \$8.98, Honda Lease Trust - \$70.51, Jane B. Johnson - \$14.48, Lorraine D. or James M. Labonte - \$3.31, John G. Larochelle - \$7.98, Roland C. Lataille - \$24.40, Thomas J. Maciejewski - \$10.27, Evan D. J. or Loretta McHugh - \$84.23, Nathan M. Seney - \$7.13, James D. Vear - \$13.35, and Sarah F. White - \$6.07. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Smith.  
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

**13.) OTHER BUSINESS:**

- A motion made by Mrs. Forrester to sign the Memorandum of Understanding regarding Resident Energy Efficiency. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Smith.  
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

**14.) ADJOURNMENT:**

- A motion to adjourn made by Mrs. Smith at 8:40 PM. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Forrester.

Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

*Documented and transcribed by Andrew Richardson, Recording Secretary*