



TOWN OF THOMPSON  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES OF MEETING

Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014, 7:00 PM

Held in the Merrill Seney Room

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

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Joseph H. Gaucher, Kevin Walsh, Roger Tremblay, Sally White, Jim Pimental, Donald Pimental, Linda Jarmolewicz, Wayne O'Brian, Kathleen Herbert, Brian Howser, 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:**

- A motion was made by Mrs. Forrester to approve minutes from the December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 Board of Selectmen's meeting. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Smith. Corrections in minutes were made regarding the following: On page 1, the 5<sup>th</sup> bullet under correspondence the word "resignation" should be "resign"; on page 2 under "Selectmen's Comments" it should not state that there are numerous homeless shelters in the area; on page 3 under "New Town Vehicle" it should state that "This is \$2,507.00 less than appropriated in the budget." As the town does not get that money back; on page 4 under "Interstate Reliability Project Update" it should state "crews" instead of "cruiser"; under "Marianapolis Sewer Project" it was incorrectly stated that the line-boring was complete as it will actually begin on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015; on page 5, under "Old Business", it should be clarified that generators would not be provided for any business but for the purpose so that food doesn't spoil for the citizens; another correction under "Old Business" so that it is clarified that one goal is to educate the public and create awareness about the risks of certain types of weather emergencies; and a correction to the last motion on page 6, prior to the motion to adjourn, which should state that the motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky not Mrs. Forrester.  
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

**2.) CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Mr. Lenky stated that the Board of Selectmen received an invitation for the Eagle Court of Honor to be held at 1:00 PM on Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the Knight of Columbus Hall in North Grosvenordale with a snow date of January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015.
- Mr. Lenky received, from Town Planner MaryAnn Chinatti, an update on the Transmission Lines and there is no work scheduled in Thompson the week of December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014.
- Mrs. Forrester stated she received the agenda from the latest NECCOG meeting which outlined what was discussed. Mrs. Forrester stated that at some point she'd like to see the minutes of that meeting as there are some issues that the Board needs to discuss, elaborating that by looking at the agenda she believes that they need to proceed with caution when deciding which functions to consolidate to ensure that layers of cost are not added.

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

- Mrs. Forrester reminded everyone of the Public Hearing which is to be held the next day on Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and noted that the venue was changed from the Library to the Tourtellotte Memorial High School auditorium.
- Mrs. Forrester asked Mr. Lenky if he knew if they had yet received a revised Probate Court budget and Mr. Lenky responded that they had not yet. Mrs. Forrester also stated that she believed the Board should push NECCOG to get on correcting that.
- Mrs. Forrester commented that she would like to see, as an agenda item, a review of the term for the Town Clerk as they had received a memo about 3 months ago asking them to consider changing the term limit from 2 years to 4 years. She also stated that, as a Board, they ought to look at the pros and cons of making such a switch and to keep in mind that the Town Clerk position is one that needs certification and there is a time frame for attaining such certification.

- Mrs. Forrester also brought up the former TEEG building on 65 main street and commented that the Board should keep pressure on the Town Attorney and the Connecticut Attorney General to see if they can do something in order to hopefully salvage the building.
- Mrs. Forrester also asked about the relief fund for the victims of the alleged crime of David Kress, which Mrs. Smith had brought up the previous month, and asked what Mrs. Smith had in mind. Mrs. Smith mentioned looking at the budget, local banks, local restaurants, and online fundraising as potential options. Mrs. Forrester mentioned that the names of the victims hadn't been released yet and that there would be a lot in the logistics to figure out. Mrs. Smith also mentioned utilizing TEEG and being proactive by doing something for children if the names aren't released and they aren't able to do anything. Mrs. Forrester suggested that Mrs. Smith lead this project and she agreed. Mr. Lenky added that he liked the idea of asking restaurants in town to help out in regards to a potential relief fund.
- Mrs. Forrester brought up the issue of the Library HVAC system which will soon need replacing and commented that since its winter the Board should follow up on that by exploring possible heating alternatives and speaking with various other HVAC installers to help gauge the potential cost. Mrs. Forrester agreed to take the lead on this particular project.
- A motion was made by Mrs. Forrester to add "Building Office Hours" to the "Other Business" section. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Smith.  
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes
- Mrs. Forrester again reminded everyone in the change of venue for the Public Hearing and concluded her comments.
- Mrs. Smith commented regarding her having finished drafting the Volunteer Applications which now include a commitment clause.
- A motion was made by Mr. Lenky to add "Volunteer Applications" to the "Other Business" section. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Forrester.  
Mr. Lenky – Yes, Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mrs. Smith – Yes
- Mrs. Smith brought up having to go out to bid for the HVAC system at the Library and a potential timeframe for beginning such a process. Mrs. Forrester responded that she would begin the process regarding the HVAC system as soon as next week and that she would inquire with different people to get an idea of what their options are prior to them deciding when to put the project out for bid.
- Mrs. Smith asked if the "Transfer Station Requests" agenda item would include/address the ideas of a sliding-scale and decreased price of permits for handicap residents and Mr. Lenky stated it would.
- Mrs. Smith brought up the former TEEG building and asked if before the weather gets better if there was anything they could do to make minor modifications to make the building look a little more inviting. Using signs to board up the building was also brought up and the Selectmen all agreed that doing that was in poor taste. Mrs. Smith also discussed the sidewalks being in poor shape in front of that building as well as elsewhere in town and recommended the idea of possibly trying to get a grant.
- Mr. Lenky stated that he and Town Planner MaryAnn Chinatti would be traveling to Hartford the next day to make their case regarding the MS4 to DEEP and the tremendous cost factor that it would be for Thompson, especially having to be in tier 1.
- Mr. Lenky also stated that they would have to again go to Hartford on Thursday in regards to the Brownfield Grant for the River Mill as there have been potential businesses that have been scared away at times. There was a brief discussion regarding the details of this, whether Wells Fargo would be foreclosing on the property, and the plans going forward.

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

- Sally White commented regarding the agenda for the Public Hearing the following night. Ms. White made it clear that she did not submit the petition as the agenda had stated and that this was a significant problem that it was being attributed to her.
- Renee Waldron commented in regards to the sidewalks near the TEEG building that trucks by the bakery go over the sidewalk so it may become worn out or damaged again even if the town chooses to repair it.
- Roger Tremblay commented that there were potholes on Brandy Hill Road that need repairing since the town of Thompson's Highway Department are currently repairing potholes in town.
- Paul Baer commented in regards to the numerous broken telephone poles in town. Mr. Baer stated that utilities put splits on them and how it was explained to him that utilities came out and put wires up before another could come out and put more wires up. Mr. Baer presented them with a copy of a photograph which shows no wires up on one of the poles. Mr. Baer explained that they left part of a pole hanging on

East Thompson Road and that utilities should come out and fix this as soon as possible because if more come down there could be potential serious dangers and even risk of electrocution. Mr. Baer asked if the purchase of the new town vehicle went out to bid since it was over \$10,000 and Mr. Lenky responded that it did not. Mr. Baer also asked when the Selectmen's secretary position would be posted and Mr. Lenky responded that they would be soon. Mr. Baer stated that Porter Plane is in bad shape, was supposed to be paved this year, and is deteriorating rapidly. Lastly, Mr. Baer stated that in regards to 65 Main Street it is a case of the town having to react versus being proactive.

- Kevin Walsh asked if the Probate Court rent issue had been taken care of and Mr. Lenky responded that it had. Mr. Walsh also commented that he was glad to hear the Board state that they should be more closely paying attention to the NECCOG agendas.
- Sally White commented that she was disappointed with how bad the former TEEG building has deteriorated in recent years and that she is quite disappointed to see that happen.

#### **5.) EXECUTIVE SESSION – ASSESSOR'S POSITION:**

- A motion was made by Mrs. Forrester for the Board of Selectmen to go into Executive Session at 7:36 PM regarding the Assessor's Position. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Smith.  
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes
- The Board of Selectmen returned from Executive Session at 7:55 PM
- A motion was made by Mrs. Smith to hire Diana Couture as the Interim Assessor for the Town of Thompson to extend through the first quarter of 2015, ending at the end of March. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Forrester.  
Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

#### **6.) NORMAN BABBITT CONFERENCE ROOM:**

- The Board of Selectmen discussed two possible names for the conference room; one which included the word "Veteran's" and one that did not.
- A motion was made by Mrs. Smith to re-name the former Probate Conference Room as the Norman Babbitt Veteran's Conference Room. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Forrester.  
Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

#### **7.) THOMPSON RECREATION MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING:**

- Renee Waldron explained that, last year, the Recreation Commission received call from the State Parks Department saying that they could no longer use the State Park for day camps but were able to receive an extension through this past year to continue the camps through 2014. She further explained that, through Senator Don Williams, they were able to set up a meeting in August with DEP, Senator Don Williams, Representative Daniel Rovero, other State personnel, and parents where they were able to ask why they were being asked to leave. They were then told that they were the only town in Connecticut that has a day camp in a State park which was against a policy the State has. Mrs. Waldron then explained that Commissioner Glee was very open to the reasons they listed as to why they should still be able to use the park. The memorandum was drawn up to allow the Thompson Recreation Commission to continue to be able to use the State park for day camps and included an agreement with the State regarding reserving bus permits for 4 out of 5 days so that one day would be open for others to be able to use the busses. Mrs. Waldron further explained that they were happy with the agreement.
- Motion made by Mrs. Forrester to send the Thompson Recreation Memorandum of Understanding to the State of Connecticut for approval. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Smith.  
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

#### **8.) OLD BUSINESS:**

##### **Transfer Station Requests:**

- Mr. Lenky read a letter from the Transfer Station Advisory Committee which highlighted numerous concerns that they had with the Board of Selectmen passing a motion to decrease the cost of transfer station permits for handicap residents down to \$45.00, the same rate for senior citizens. Some of the concerns were over the definition of the word handicap, the correlation between being handicapped and income level, who would have to be handicapped in order to use discounted permit (someone in the home, head of household, driver of the vehicle, etc.), among others. The letter also brought up the increasing percentage of senior permits and the idea of having a collection at the transfer station for bad/old/used gasoline so that it is not disposed of elsewhere in town improperly.
- A lengthy discussion took place between the Board members. Mrs. Forrester stated that the handicap permits is an issue which needed more consideration than what they had originally assumed. Mr. Lenky

mentioned that he had believed the discounted price for handicapped citizens would be with their cards attached to their license plates. Mrs. Smith brought up that it should be looked at to see how much the Transfer Station would bring in with the Senior Rate implemented versus how much they would bring in if handicapped citizens were kept at the regular \$85 rate. Mr. Lenky also brought up a grant that Brooklyn is looking for in order to set up a hazardous waste collection facility which would be open to all of the towns in NECCOG. The Board also spoke at length regarding hazardous waste, the importance of being able to dispose of such things properly, and what other towns are doing in regards to the disposal of hazardous waste. Mrs. Forrester also recommended the idea of having a Hazardous Waste Day.

**9.) ROAD UPDATES:**

- Mr. Lenky stated that Buck Hill did not get paved this year because of the winter weather and that the Town Highway Department would wait until spring to pave it. Mr. Lenky also stated that pot holes around town are being filled. Mrs. Forrester asked if they have a record of who does what and when. Mr. Lenky responded that he wasn't sure but that they could have Leo Adams do that.

**10.) CITIZENS' COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

- Renee Waldron commented that in regards to the Transfer Station situation that they used to have a collection every year. She also stated that they do a financial aid program for children which takes just a note and not a lot of documents but that a program they do for seniors uses a lot more documentation and because of that much less people take advantage of the program so the town could see that occur at the Transfer Station as well because sometimes people don't want to take advantage of programs when they have to provide a lot of documentation.
- Joseph Gaucher commented regarding the Transfer Station that some people are both seniors and have a handicap sticker. Mr. Gaucher also commented regarding a truck parked on Mason Terrace in Grosvenordale which has mattresses in it.
- Wayne O'Brian stated that he watched a documentary on 60 minutes about how in NYC when they have potholes and fill them they never have to go back and re-do them. Mr. Lenky responded that he was familiar with the procedure but that the equipment was very expensive.
- Donald Pimental commented that the petition was done by the citizens of Thompson, not just Ms. White or himself.
- Paul Baer commented on the Transfer Station and the enforcement forms and stated that they may be waiting to see if the enforcement has occurred because they are pretty lax as he got behind someone on their way to the transfer station who left his trash all over, mentioned to the person at the gate that they should make the guy go back and pick up his trash, and got an apathetic response from that person.
- Sally White commented on the Recreation Memorandum of Understanding and stated that the language in the agreement which allows either side to dissolve the agreement at any time should be paid very close attention to. Ms. White again stressed that, in regards to the petition, they should not be attaching any individual's name as it may give the appearance that there is just one person petitioning which is not the case.

**11.) TAX REFUNDS:**

- Mrs. Forrester made a motion to approve of the following tax refunds: Nissan Infiniti LT - \$253.40 and Nissan Infiniti LT - \$89.37. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Smith.  
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

**12.) OTHER BUSINESS:**

- A motion was made by Mrs. Forrester to approve new Building Office Hours of Monday through Thursday 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM and Friday 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Smith.  
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes
- A motion was made by Mrs. Forrester to approve the new Volunteer Applications with one correction in spelling to "Selectmen" instead of "Selectman." This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky.  
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes, Mrs. Smith – Yes

**13.) ADJOURNMENT:**

- A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Forrester to adjourn at 8:41 PM. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Smith.  
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

*Documented and transcribed by Andrew Richardson, Recording Secretary*