



TOWN OF THOMPSON
Board of Selectmen- Minutes
Tuesday- April 16, 2024
Merrill Seney Room - Town Hall
and via ZOOM Online Meeting Portal

I. The call to order by First Selectman Amy St Onge was at 7:00 pm, with all 3 Selectmen present
Roll Call: First Selectman Amy St Onge, Selectmen Ken Beausoleil and Susanne Witkowski.
Joe Tkacik (DPW Director), Steve Benoit (Emergency Management Director), Alison Boutaugh
(Library Director). Michelle Giammarinaro (H R Director). Members of Boards & Commissions.
Members of the public (in person and via Zoom), Recording Secretary Dotti Durst.

II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve the BOS Regular 03-19-2024 Meeting minutes carried unanimously:

B. Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the minutes of the BOS Special 03-27-2024 Meeting unanimously.

IV. Correspondence

A. The DESPP Services February 2024 and March 2024 were read aloud by A. St Onge. K. Beausoleil noted a burglary did occur earlier this year, and hoped was for no recurrence, which has proven out.

V. Selectmen's Comments:

- K. Beausoleil: thanked Quinebaug Fire Company which hosted the VFW Community Awards Event. He praised the schools/student's participation; it is these young people who carry the torch forward for our town. He thanked the DPW for tree removal on Walker Road.

- S. Witkowski suggested 3 future BOS agenda items. 1). Consider a camera on the outdoor absentee ballot box, for reassurance. Another town site uses "Ring" cameras and that can be considered here. 2). An Early-Voting mandate is supported with Grant funds this year but not in the future. Each polling location has required hours (6 AM- 8PM) and staffing, but now there is also a 14-day early voting option, as well as absentee ballots. Consider consolidating voting places, removing the strain on the Fire Departments as polling places and reducing costs. 3). If not fewer voting places, discussion is needed for planning. Having 2 Senate Districts will have an impact. The Registrars should be involved in the planning and the public should be well informed for feedback. A. St Onge will add the subject to a future Agenda.

K. Beausoleil: Check similar towns for the number of polling places, staffing and other details.

- A. St Onge * Thompson's Poet Laureate will be at the Library on Monday evening * The Opening Day Little League Parade is Saturday at 11 AM *the Art Show in the Library is underway * The Quinebaug Fire Department's Chief Bodreau and she met about the File For Life magnetized folder that a resident would use to put essential information in, for emergency personnel/first responders' access. It includes places for medications being taken by the resident, emergency contact data for family or physicians, and other information. They are available throughout the Town Hall at no charge; take one home and place it on your refrigerator, where emergency personnel will look first. * A Capital Improvement fund drive will address some mandates for the Animal Control facility (Concrete floors, improved fencing, other specific State expectations). Right now, there are 4 dogs available for adoption, and a mama cat and kittens!

-S. Witkowski: Quaddick Lake season is at hand; asks if the State has addressed security there.

VI. Citizen Comments:

- Valerie Clark, Alm Road, pointed out that her comments in the previous meeting Minutes should be clarified; she spoke about **IF** a Town Fire District is created, and added that Mr. Jamieson's name had a transposed letter.
- Steve Benoit, Emergency Management Director * spoke of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) for which the State covers the training (traffic control, rescue, radio operations, serving as extra "eyes" in emergency situations). 23 people have already had the training in this region. * noted the emergency shelter will move to the schools * praised all the years of excellence by the Fire Departments, made up of volunteers.
- Sally White, E Thompson asked the difference between CERT Staff and Constables. These volunteers serve in addition to Constables. A. St Onge added that Constables are called upon first, noting that S. Benoit has worked in recent years to strengthen the Constables as a group.

VII. Department of Public Works – Request to Sell Equipment: Director Joe Tkacik reviewed a prepared list of 11 pieces of in-operable DPW equipment. Some are not safe/ road worthy, others no longer have parts availability, while others are inoperable. In the process of preparing for the new Salt Storage facility, all of these items will need to be moved; it seems a logical time to dispose of them. Many will probably have no buyer and go to scrap metal yards, but they can be marketed for a reasonable period of time.

Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the disposition of the list of unusable DPW equipment as prepared by the DPW Director carried unanimously.

VIII. Staff Non-Commercial Vehicle Driver Policy: H R Director M. Giammarinaro reviewed the insurance company's mandate that the policy as presented be put in place, specifically for town employees' use of a town vehicle or a person using a vehicle in the performance of town duties. This does not apply to CDL drivers as they are already covered. If approved, this Policy will go to the Insurance provider then will take effect soon and can result in favorable rates.

Motion S. Witkowski seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve the Non-Commercial Vehicle Driver Policy as presented carried unanimously.

* S. Witkowski asked for a follow-up discussion of town policy which handles other details such as approved personal uses, number of occupants in a town vehicle, and other details.

IX. Open Bids – Library Underground Oil Tank Replacement: 5 bids were received and passed to the Building Committee for careful review. * Kropp Environmental Contractors, Lebanon CT * SRS Petroleum Services, Bridgewater, CT * Service Station Equipment, N. Franklin, CT * American Petroleum Equipment, Walden, NY * True Blue Services, Inc, Wallingford, CT

X. Legal Notice of Annual Town Meeting and Referendum: The BOF approved a budget to go to the voters. A. St Onge read aloud the Legal Notice for the Town Meeting May 6 and for the Budget Referendum May 20. The proposed budget is \$31, 325,114.

Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the Legal Notice for the Town Meeting and Budget Referendum as presented carried unanimously.

XI. Town Meeting-Referendum Flyer – distribute at Transfer Station: the document was approved by the Town Attorney, per Statute.

Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Witkowski to allow public distribution of the Legal Notices for the Town Meeting and Referendum on April 27 and May 4 at the Transfer Station carried unanimously.

XII.– Request for Boot Drive/Donut Sales; the donut sale was requested separately.
Motion S. Witkowski seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve the Community Fire Company request for a Boot Drive and Donut Sale at the Transfer Station on May 18, 2024 carried unanimously.

XIII. Appointment:

Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Witkowski to appoint Keith Elliott as a member of the Housing Authority Commission through October 31, 2027 carried unanimously.

XIV. Re-appointments:

Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Witkowski to re-appoint Renee Waldron and Ashley Lynn Lewis as members of the Recreation Commission through March 15, 2027 carried unanimously.

XV. Other Business: none

XVI. Citizen Comments: none

XVII. Tax Refunds:

Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve tax refunds in the mount of \$157.89 carried unanimously. Stanley, Ricky D. \$81.90 Hopkins, Madison E. \$75.97

XVIII. Executive Session:

Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to go into Executive session at 7:55 PM to discuss a Personnel matter (Veterans Officer) with all 3 Selectmen in attendance as well as H R Director Michelle Giammarinaro carried unanimously.

The Executive session ended at 8:09 PM with no action taken and the Regular BOS meeting was resumed.

XIX. Adjourn:

Motion S. Witkowski seconded by K. Beausoleil to adjourn at 8:09 PM carried unanimously.

To view the meeting, click or copy/paste to your search bar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/luDSWdm1xWXeJisycGnFf5THhtWBdaeKDkydGKROOioeeJGwzjfA1UKtC91o0a-J.2bQ2ck7oB-8kHY-N> Passcode: 2*pvA14Y

Respectfully submitted by Dorothy Durst, Recording Secretary *Dorothy Durst*

These minutes have not yet been approved by the Board of Selectmen. Please refer to next month's meeting minutes for approval of and/or amendments to these minutes.