

THOMPSON BOARD OF FINANCE
TOWN OF THOMPSON
Library Community Center
July 17th, 2014
7:00 p.m.

Minutes

I. ROLL CALL:

- Chairman Raymond Faucher, Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
- **Members present:** Raymond Faucher Jr., Laurent Guillot, Susanne Witkowski, Aaron McGarry, and Larry Groh, Jr.
- **Absent:** Paul Dery
- **Also present:** Paul Lenky, Michael Martin, Dr. Jolin, Bob Deluca, members of the public, member of the press.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- A motion was made by Aaron McGarry, seconded by Larry Groh Jr. to approve the minutes of the June 19th, 2014 Board of Finance meeting.
Larry Groh Jr. – Abstain. All others voted in favor. **Motion - Passed.**

III. CORRESPONDENCE:

- Mr. Faucher received and then responded to a letter from Mr. Stephen Bordua, the Chairman of the Thompson Recreation Commission. The focus of this correspondence was that Mr. Bordua felt that the surplus in the Recreation Commission account should be used for recreation and money once set aside for a skatepark should also stay allocated for recreation rather than be placed in a general fund. Mr. Faucher's response was that he felt the surplus should be at least partially used to give the taxpayers of Thompson some tax relief and that if the skatepark project moves forward in the future the Board of Finance could re-instate the funds for that.
- The Board of Finance also received a letter from Thompson Recreation in regards to a "go green! Recycle!" themed week which was put together by the Adventure camp. They would also be accepting various recyclables from June 6th, 2014 through July 18th, 2014.

IV. CITIZENS COMMENTS:

- None.

V. PAUL LENKY - SELECTMAN'S UPDATE:

- Mr. Lenky gave an update on the roads in town. This included giving a list of the roads in town which would be chipstoned this year which included Faybian-Woodstock Road, Ravenelle Road, and East Thompson Road.
- Mr. Lenky also spoke to Mr. Adams who said he might start working on Porter Plane Road to get that done.
- Mr. Lenky also met with the State Department of Transportation last Tuesday regarding the Quaddick Bridge. He was informed that the abutments were in satisfactory shape and that the bridge would only need a deck over and some wing wall work. They may however need to narrow the lanes some, Mr. Lenky added. Mr. Lenky continued by saying that once the engineering part is done then they could proceed with contacting companies.

- Mr. Lenky also requested to add under “New Business” a discussion a potential grant of \$500,000 from the USDA which would be used to finance the completion of the Marianapolis Sewer Project.

VI. DR. JOLIN - SUPERINTENDENT’S UPDATE:

- Dr. Jolin began by thanking Mr. Michael Martin for working with their new finance director.
- Dr. Jolin stated that the number they had at the end was a positive variance of \$25,369 but that it might come in higher as the school may be bringing back as much as \$40,000 to the town once they finish closing out outstanding purchase orders.
- Mr. Jolin also mentioned that there was a discussion that was had at the last Board of Education meeting that they have on the August agenda to go to the Board of Selectmen regarding the oil tanks and the possibility of solar power.
- Dr. Jolin thanked Rene Morin for the letter thanking the school for letting them use their printers to print their tax bills after they had run out of ink.
- A citizen asked about the oil tanks and Dr. Jolin responded that they would have some and that others would have some as well and also mentioned the idea of wrapping solar power into it as well.
- Aaron McGarry asked what the timeline would be and Dr. Jolin responded that it may be around two years. Mr. Martin added that the bonding would only take two or three months.
- Mr. Faucher asked if the town tank program was \$270,000 and Mr. Martin responded yes. Mr. Faucher then asked if the school was going to be spending money more and Dr. Jolin responded that he believed it to be about double that.
- Dr. Jolin mentioned that he researched whether or not they could put the school and town together and found that they could not.
- Susanne Witkowski asked dr. Jolin for an update on the Security Grant and Dr. Jolin responded that it was still rolling along and that Bill Burch did the rfp for the design specs. Dr. Jolin also explained that defoliation of trees would be part of the process so that the cameras could see more.

VII. MIKE MARTIN - TOWN FINANCIAL UPDATE:

- Mr. Martin stated that, regarding the surplus, the town was able to collect all but \$22,753 which was the best ever and this was mostly due to the tax sales.
- Mr. Martin also stated that the state fund excess was not what was expected due to special education.
- Mr. Martin stated that the new finance director at the school seems good at what he does.
- Local revenue was in excess of \$208,000.
- Expenses from the town alone will only be about \$75,000.
- Surplus of around 9.4% will be up from 8.7%.
- Overall the town is in good shape.
- Mr. Guillot asked if the town was moving forward with replacing Mr. Martin and the answer was yes. Susanne Witkowski asked how many potential candidates had been interviewed so far and Mr. Martin responded that 4 had been selected for interviews, but 1 had withdrawn their name.

VIII. TOURTELLOTE BOARD OF TRUSTEES UPDATE:

- The update was given by Dr. Jolin as Paul Dery was not present at the meeting.
- During this brief update Dr. Jolin stated that work was being done this summer due to problems on the front steps of the historical building where the concrete has to be re-planked but that this project was coming along well.
- It was mentioned that work on the roof was being done and that was why there was a big crane was at the school complex.
- Further, the purchase of a new floor machine was brought up and praised for the positive impacts that it has had so far.
- It was also mentioned that the fund paid \$100,000 to the town.
- Work to clear out the old gym was discussed and it was mentioned that the long-term goal is to restore it down the line.

IX. OLD BUSINESS:

- Mr. Faucher spoke brought up the ongoing suggestion that an extensive exit audit be done as Michael Martin is stepping down as Finance Director. Mr. Faucher stressed that he had contacted their lead auditor Mr. Gerry Paradis from the Blum Shapiro firm and that during their lengthy discussion on the matter Mr. Faucher was told that in 35 years Mr. Paradis had never heard of such an audit for a municipality. Mr. Faucher also stressed that Mr. Martin handles very little cash, that there were not many areas for fraud to even occur, and that he personally felt as though the town was wasting their energy with this idea of an exit audit. For these reasons, Mr. Faucher stated that such an audit would not be done.

X. NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Mr. Groh to add “Marianapolis Sewer Project with no dollar amount for discussion purposes only” to new business. This motion was seconded by Larry Guillot. All voted in favor – **Motion Passed**
- **Marianapolis Sewer Project with no dollar amount for discussion purposes only:** Mr. Bob Deluca explained, in depth, that additional money was needed to complete the Marianapolis Sewer Project as the bore length increased significantly during the final design plan. However, Mr. Deluca explained that the USDA earmarked money that could be accepted as a grant for \$500,000 to make up the difference for the rest of the cost. However, this money would have to be used last, after the rest of the approximately \$1.9 million is already used.
- After multiple concerns over the short notice of this item being brought forth, a Special Meeting was scheduled for the matter and was decided to be held on Tuesday, July 22nd, 2014 at 7:00 PM.

ADJOURN:

- A motion was made by Mr. Faucher to adjourn at 7:40 PM. This motion was seconded by Mr. McGarry. All voted in favor – **Motion Passed**

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Richardson, Recording Secretary