

THOMPSON BOARD OF FINANCE  
TOWN OF THOMPSON  
Library Community Center  
February 20, 2014 7:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**I. ROLL CALL**

Chairman Raymond Faucher, Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Paul Dery, Aaron McGarry, Larry Groh, Jr., Raymond Faucher, Jr.

Members absent: None.

Also present: Gary Wilcox, Paul Lenky, Kirsten Forrester, Michael Martin, Michael Jolin, members of the public.

**II. APOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

Aaron McGarry nominated Paul Dery as Vice Chairman. The nomination was seconded by Larry Groh, Jr.

Aaron McGarry moved to close nominations, seconded by Larry Groh, Jr. All members were in favor of closing nominations. **Passed—Unanimous.**

A roll call vote was taken for the appointment of Paul Dery as Vice Chairman. **All members voted yes. Passed.**

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion** made by Aaron McGarry, seconded by Paul Dery to approve the minutes from the December 19, 2013 Board of Finance meeting. Mr. Dery asked that it be noted during the election of officers, votes were taken and should not be listed as motions. This correction is noted. **Motion—Passed. Unanimous.**

**Motion** made by Larry Groh, Jr. seconded by Susanne Witkowski, to approve the minutes from the January 30, 2014 Special Board of Finance meeting. **Motion—Passed. Aaron McGarry abstained.**

**Motion** made by Aaron McGarry, seconded by Larry Groh, Jr. to approve the minutes from the joint meeting of the Board of Education, Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen dated December 5, 2013. **Motion—Passed. Unanimous.**

#### **IV. CORRESPONDENCE**

Mr. Baer provided Mr. Faucher with information regarding library expenditures. Mr. Baer also provided Mr. Faucher with information regarding legal duties and legal immunity of members of various State boards

#### **V. CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Melissa Bonin stated she sent a letter to the Board of Finance on behalf of the Quaddick Lake Association regarding the town taking on financial responsibility for the invasive weeds at Quaddick Lake. Mr. Martin explained he received the letter and will provide a copy and further information during the budget process. Ms. Bonin noted there is some money left from the grant received by the State which will take care of the weed control for early this summer however the Association is looking to the Town to take over the expense for the next fiscal year in order to maintain what has already been done. It was noted this item will be reviewed by the Board of Selectmen at their meeting next week. Mr. Martin stated this item will be a requested capital expenditure in next year's budget.

#### **VI. PAUL LENKY—SELECTMEN'S UPDATE**

Mr. Lenky provided the Board with the proposed Grand List from the Assessor.

Mr. Lenky reported the building office issued six permits in January.

Mr. Lenky stated he recently spoke to the public works director in Woodstock regarding the repairs needed to a bridge on Sand Dam Road. Woodstock has recently had a similar issue and replaced a bridge with a box culvert, which would be less costly and less disruptive to traffic for the Town. Mr. Groh noted a grant for this work was applied for through NECCOG and asked for the status of that grant. Mr. Lenky stated he was not aware of this possible grant and will research to find out status.

Mr. Lenky stated the Town is looking to alternatives to the repairs needs Quaddick Bridge without using grant money. Mr. Lenky explained if the Town accepts the grant money it will have to adhere to rules and regulations set by the State and the bridge could be out of service for many months and this is not acceptable to him. Mr. Lenky stated he is currently researching having this work done in house to save money and to lessen the impact on the citizens.

Paul Dery asked if the other six towns have paid rent for the Probate Court. Mr. Martin explained the rent would come from the Probate Court itself and not the other towns. It was noted the Probate Court agreed to pay rent in the amount of less than half of what it was going to pay Brooklyn.

Mr. Dery asked about the gathering of individuals after the recent NECCOG meeting. Mr. Dery stated this gathering is considered a meeting under Freedom of Information and no agenda was posted and no minutes were taken. Mr. Lenky explained the judge mentioned places she was looking into to move the Probate Court. It was noted if the Probate Court was to move there should be a committee formed to research places and provide suggestions.

## **VII. DR. MICHAEL JOLIN—SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Dr. Jolin reported the Board of Education is working on the budget. Dr. Jolin noted the major increase in this year’s budget is the increased cost of healthcare which is being projected at 18-20%. Dr. Jolin explained the Board is monitoring this expense very closely and is reviewing other plans available including the State plan.

Dr. Jolin stated Danielle has agreed to work on the annual report cover for the Board of Finance if assistance is needed this year.

Paul Dery asked for information he previously requested on the meetings of the Finance Subcommittee in April and May of 2013. Mr. Dery is concerned about the mention of an additional teacher found in the budget and a large transfer made in May of 2103 that the Board of Finance should have been made aware of while it deliberated on a budget.

Aaron McGarry asked for clarification on the insurance plans being considered. Dr. Jolin explained the State has developed a plan to bring together a variety of school districts and cities and towns to provide them a plan with a lower rate as a group. The unions are concerned as this plan calls for caveats in that individuals must have annual physical exams and maintain certain health requirements in order to participate or the individuals would face a financial penalty. Dr. Jolin stated he should have the rate information in the next week or so. It was noted if the school goes with the State plan then the Town would have to switch as well. Dr. Jolin stated he would have discussions first before any changes are made.

Paul Dery asked for a spread sheet showing each bus in the fleet and its mileage. Mr. Dery would like information from previous years as well for comparison purposes. Dr. Jolin will get this information to Mr. Dery.

## **VIII. FINANCIAL REPORT—MICHAEL MARTIN**

Mr. Martin reported the revenue is going extremely well. Tax collections are a small percent behind where it was last year with \$75,000.00 short of budget in tax collections due to the way it is budgeted. Currently the budget does not allow enough for uncollected taxes. State grants will be over budget by \$150,000.00 because of a change made at the State level after the budget was passed. It was anticipated that road aid would be doubled and no transportation would be included but the road aid did not double and the State put \$125,000.00 in transportation. Local revenue is \$100,000 more than budgeted.

On the expense side, the snow removal budget was originally \$204,500.00 and current \$197,000.00 has been spent which includes the salt delivered on February 12. Mr. Martin stated \$33,000.00 is expected to be expended in the upcoming months for sand. This will bring the line item to \$25,000.00 over budget. Mr. Martin noted there is enough in contingency to cover this overage. Mr. Martin stated the Board can also add \$20,000.00 to this line item if necessary however it is his opinion that this line item is okay at this time.

Paul Dery suggested Mr. Lenky look into computerized sanders and salters to save money. Mr. Lenky will check with Leo Adams to see what the trucks are equipped with. Paul Dery asked Mr. Martin to check with Brooklyn to see what savings they have realized as they are using this equipment.

Raymond Faucher asked about the status of the West Thompson roof project. Mr. Martin stated the Town has not received the reimbursement and the outlook is not good at this time. Mr. Lenky explained the paperwork submitted was inadequate and there is an issue going back and forth between the State and Town on missing paperwork. The State inspector has signed off on all of the paperwork but now the State is not accepting the documentation. Aaron McGarry asked if the Town attorney should get involved at this point. Mr. Lenky explained Don Williams and Danny Rovero are working with the Town to try to get this rectified. It was suggested that Mary Ann attend the next Board of Finance Meeting to present further information on the status of this issue. Mr. Martin stated the \$150,000.00 would have to come out of surplus to rectify this situation either through the budget process or at referendum. Paul Dery asked if there is a timeline to recover the money. Mr. Martin stated he does not know if there is a time line as he does not know how it works at the State level.

## **IX. BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOURTELLOTTE FUND**

Dr. Jolin reported the annual meeting was held recently and the Trustees went over the planned expenditures. A representative from Crestwood will be attending

the next meeting to go over the investments and then the Trustees will determine what to put into the budget for the upcoming year.

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

The proposed Annual Report cover was discussed. Mr. Faucher asked Board members and citizens to provide any suggestions on a possible cover and get them to him for discussion at the next meeting.

**XI. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**XII. ADJOURN**

**Motion** made by Aaron McGarry, seconded by Paul Dery to adjourn. **Motion—Passed. Unanimous**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Baublitz  
Recording Secretary