

THOMPSON BOARD OF FINANCE  
TOWN OF THOMPSON  
Library Community Center  
June 19, 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., Susanne Witkowski, Aaron McGarry, Paul Dery

Absent: Laurent Guillot, Larry Groh, Jr.

Also present: Paul Lenky, Kirsten Forrester, Rene Morin, Dr. Jolin, William Witkowski, members of the public, member of the press.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion** by Aaron McGarry, seconded by Paul Dery to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2014 Board of Finance meeting. **All voted in favor. Motion—Passed.**

**Motion** by Aaron McGarry, seconded by Paul Dery to approve the minutes from the June 5, 2014 Board of Finance meeting. Susanne Witkowski noted a typo on the second page, second paragraph, first sentence the word “he” should be “she”. Ray Faucher asked that a clarification be made in the last paragraph on page two that the mechanic referred to is the bus mechanic. **All voted in favor. Motion—Passed.**

**III. CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

**IV. CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Kirsten Forrester suggested having a detailed audit conducted prior to Mr. Martin’s departure both for his benefit and the benefit of the new employee. Mr. Faucher stated he will call Mr. Paradis from Blum Shapiro regarding this. Kathleen Herbert suggested the school also be audited due to the recent turnover in the Business Manager’s position and she suggested another firm other than Blum Shapiro be hired for both audits due to the nature of the audits.

Paul Baer stated he expects the firm who does these audits would be another firm as the current firm being used by the Town did not find any issues with payments made in violation of State Statute.

Mr. Baer noted Mr. Guillot expressed concern at the May 15, 2014 meeting that someone who is not a town employee is working on the website. Mr. Baer explained the Town paid \$3,500.00 to an outside contractor who did not fulfil their contract and the website was down for about a month.

Mr. Baer suggested the audits be done using some of the \$150,000.00 to be received from the State for the West Thompson roof project.

Mr. Baer stated the bids for the Marianapolis sewer project were opened at the Town Hall by the engineering firm that was hired by the Town and not opened during a public meeting. Mr. Faucher suggested these concerns be addressed with the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Baer stated the Housing Authority recently met and voted to give their Clerk of the Works a raise even though that person stated he was happy with what he was making.

Mr. Baer suggested the Board of Selectmen use some of the money they saved in not having to hire a web master to go towards the purchase of the vehicle they are requesting. Mr. Baer also noted the recording secretary fees that were not paid over the last several months could also be used toward the purchase of the vehicle.

Rene Morin urged the Board of Finance to hold a special meeting the evening of the referendum on Tuesday, June 24, 2014 to set the mil rate so that tax bills can be generated as quickly as possible.

## **V. PAUL LENKY—SELECTMAN'S UPDATE**

Mr. Lenky provided information on the number of building permits issued in May, 2014.

Mr. Lenky stated a letter to the Town from Senator Williams was received indicating the Town would receive the \$150,000.00 to cover the West Thompson roof project.

Mr. Lenky stated he is working with Janet Blanchette from the J&D Engineering and the State DOT regarding options to repair the Quaddick Lake bridge.

Mr. Lenky explained the bids for the Marianapolis sewer project were opened by the engineering firm as he was away at a disaster mitigation seminar. The engineering firm was authorized to open the bids without a town official present.

Mr. Lenky explained the Board of Selectmen would like to purchase a newer vehicle for Town employee use as the current vehicle is mechanically unsafe to drive at this time.

Discussion was held regarding how the \$150,000.00 received from the State for the West Thompson roof project will be handled. It was noted there are no grant requirements which need to be followed at this time. Mr. Martin will know more about how this money will be handled once he receives the official documentation from the State.

## **VI. MIKE MARTIN—FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mr. Martin reported everything is going well with the exception of State and Federal Grants which are \$130,000.00 less than budgeted and there is \$212,000.00 less than prior year on the special education line item. Mr. Martin stated this may be an issue of paperwork not being filled out properly for reimbursement. Mr. Martin stated he reduced the surplus projection because of this which still leaves the surplus above 9%. If there is an error on the calculations it will be added for the ECS for next year.

## **VII. DR. JOLIN—SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

Dr. Jolin stated he is working to get an answer regarding the reimbursements. The Business Manager position at the school has been volatile with an unexpected resignation with only 2 days' notice and an interim was in place but had to leave due to complications from surgery and now a temporary employee is in place to assist.

Dr. Jolin stated his end of year financial report is due to the Board of Education next week.

Dr. Jolin reported interviews are being conducted for a new Business Manager.

Paul Dery asked about the 2 accounts from North Carolina and Rhode Island that were to be collected. Dr. Jolin responded those were relatively small amounts and he will check on the status.

## **VIII. RENE MORIN—SUSPENSE REPORT**

Mr. Morin presented the Suspense Transfer for 2012 Grand List Year for Fiscal year ending June 30, 2014 report.

**Motion** made by Aaron McGarry, seconded by Paul Dery to approve the suspense of accounts totaling \$114,779.92 for fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. **A roll call vote was taken—all members voted yes. Motion—Passed.**

Mr. Morin provided an update of the tax sales recently held. Of the 14 accounts, 13 were collected with one account holder filing bankruptcy. There were 19 properties to begin with and

5 accounts were paid before being sent to the tax attorney. Nine accounts were paid in full with four sold at tax sale.

#### **IV. BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOURTELLOTE FUND**

No report.

#### **X. OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. McGarry explained he would like to revisit the minutes from the April 3, 2014 meeting as he feels an error was made that needs to be corrected. Mr. McGarry stated he suggested taking a total of \$10,000.00 from the fire departments and not \$10,000.00 from each fire department. Mr. McGarry stated he realizes the minutes were approved and he voted to approve them but later found the error. Mr. McGarry stated there are two ways to handle this. One is to reconsider the vote and the other is to rescind it. The reconsideration can only be done at that meeting or the following day so he would like to have that motion rescinded.

**Motion** by Paul Dery, seconded by Suanne Witkowski to rescind approval of the April 3, 2014 minutes. **All voted in favor. Motion—Passed.**

**Motion** by Aaron McGarry, seconded by Paul Dery to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2014 Board of Finance meeting with the correction noted that Mr. McGarry suggested taking \$10,000.00 out of the fire departments and to remove the words “each of” in that sentence. **All voted in favor. Motion—Passed.**

**Motion** by Aaron McGarry, seconded by Susanne Witkowski to revisit the request of \$15,000.00 from the Board of Selectmen to purchase a newer vehicle for town hall use. Mr. Martin noted that contingency will be used for overages in the snow removal budget and if the Board is going to approve this expenditure it should take the money out of surplus. **All voted in favor. Motion—Passed.**

Mr. Lenky explained he will be looking for an economical and fuel efficient vehicle and the funds will be taken from the current budget and the vehicle will be purchased by June 30<sup>th</sup>. It was noted the money could also be placed in a transfer account and be used in the next fiscal year.

**Motion** by Aaron McGarry, seconded by Susanne Witkowski to authorize the expenditure not to exceed \$15,000.00 to be funded out of surplus and be put into a transfer account for the purchase of a replacement vehicle for town hall employee use. **A roll call vote was taken—all members voted yes. Motion—Passed.**

#### **XI. OLD BUSINESS**

Ray Faucher thanked the recording secretary for her work over the years.

## **XII. ADJOURN**

**Motion** by Aaron McGarry, seconded by Paul Dery to adjourn. **All voted in favor. Motion—passed.**

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Roberta Baublitz, Recording Secretary