

BOARD OF FINANCE
TOWN OF THOMPSON

Budget Presentation
Thompson Public Schools Auditorium
Thursday, March 5, 2015

MINUTES

p. 1 of 2

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

I. Roll Call

1. Members Present:

Raymond Faucher, Jr.
Aaron McGarry

Paul Dery
Susanne Witowski

Larry Groh, Jr.

2. Members Absent:

Laurent Guillot

3. Staff Present:

Tina Fox, Recording Secretary

4. Also Present:

Kerstin Forrester
Orla McKiernan-Rafferty
Members of the Public

Michael Jolin
Shaina Smith

Paul Lenky

II. Budget Presentations/Public Hearings

1. Dr. M. Jolin – Thompson Public School

- a. Dr. Jolin presented the 2015/2016 proposed budget for the Thompson Public Schools.
- b. Kerstin Forrester, 593 Fabyan Rd., No. Grosvenordale, asked if the grants that Dr. Jolin mentioned during his presentation are restricted, or if the grants could be used for whatever was needed for their corresponding program. Dr. Jolin responded that all of the grants are restricted.
- c. Renee Waldron, 79 Main St., noted that Dr. Jolin mentioned a statistic that Thompson is rated third in graduation rates among Thompson's demographic reference group. R. Waldron asked if there is data or statistics that show how prepared Thompson graduates are compared to graduates from other schools. Dr. Jolin responded that some of the data the Board of Education is beginning to look into as part of the communication plan with the public is persistence rates in higher education among Thompson residents, but that data is not available yet.

There was a break in the budget presentations at 7:25 PM. The meeting reconvened at 7:30 PM.

2. P. Lenky, First Selectman – General Budget, Local Capital Improvement Projects, Capital Improvements Plan
 - a. Paul Lenky presented the 2015/2016 proposed budget for the Town of Thompson.
 - b. Renee Waldron, 79 Main St., asked Paul Lenky to clarify the budget for the Zoning Enforcement Officer position. She stated that P. Lenky highlighted that the Town is saving over \$3,000 by decreasing the ZEO hours to 15 hours per week, but R. Waldron believed she had read in the minutes from one of the Board of Selectmen Budget Workshops that the ZEO was receiving a 14% pay increase. Paul Lenky clarified that the ZEO's hours are being cut to 15 hours per week, but that the pay for the ZEO is being increased per hour, with an overall budget decrease of \$3,000.
 - c. Ken Beausoleil, Walker Dr., wanted clarification regarding the budget for paving the lots. K. Beausoleil was under the impression that the total amount for paving the lots would be \$70,000, but P. Lenky stated that it would cost \$275,560. P. Lenky explained that the lots are in terrible shape, and that the ground underneath the lots was never properly maintained, and that the Town is likely going to have to regrind everything that is there. K. Beausoleil asked if the Town is providing the labor or if the Town would be contracting out. P. Lenky specified that while there is not a fixed plan as of yet, the Town is looking into the Highway Department doing the preparation work and then outsourcing the paving.
 - d. K. Beausoleil also wanted clarification regarding the clerk's position in the Board of Selectman's office. He stated that during the budget presentation, P. Lenky said that the clerk position was being downgraded. K. Beausoleil wanted clarification on this because he noted that at previous Board of Selectmen meetings, the Board discussed upgrading that position to 30 hours per week, and that the Board seems to have not yet agreed on the job specifications of this position. K. Beausoleil felt that the Board should have had to finalize their decisions before presenting the budget. P. Lenky explained that the Board is going to discuss the needs of the office and that position.

III. Adjourn

1. Raymond Faucher, Jr. stated that the Board would be holding budget workshops every Thursday in March and April (with the exception of Thursday, April 2, 2015) starting Thursday, March 12, 2015 in the library at 7:00 PM.
2. **Larry Groh moved and Aaron McGarry seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.**
3. Chairman Raymond Faucher, Jr. adjourned the meeting at 7:52 PM.

Tina Fox,
Recording Secretary