



TOWN of
THOMPSON
BOARD OF FINANCE

Minutes: Budget Meeting
Thursday, March 12, 2015
Thompson Library/Community Center
7:00 PM

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Chairman Ray Faucher, Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

- I. Roll call and seating of alternates
 1. Members Present: Raymond Faucher, Jr., Paul Dery, Larry Groh, Jr., Aaron McGarry, and Susanne Witkowski.
 2. Members Absent: Laurent Guillot.
 3. Staff Present:
Tina Fox, Recording Secretary
Orla McKiernan-Rafferty, Finance Director
 4. Also Present: Dr. Michael Jolin, Paul Lenky, Shaina Smith, Members of the Public
- II. Correspondence
 1. Handout from Alison Boutaugh, Head of the Thompson Library
 2. Letter provided by Orla McKiernan-Rafferty from Rene Morin, Thompson Tax Collector.
- III. Citizen's Comments
 1. Ken Beausoleil expressed his worry that in previous years, there has always been a capital for a school bus, and that it is not in the current proposed budget.
 2. John Sharpe expressed his worry that there is no capital set aside toward ambulance replacement. Ray Faucher, Jr. stated that it was his understanding that the ambulance would be self-supportive this year. The chief responded that it was not yet.
- IV. Budget Workshop
 1. Ray Faucher, Jr. clarified that the current budget is looking for a 1.5 mil increase.
 2. Orla McKiernan-Rafferty discussed the letter from Renee Morin, Tax Collector. Mr. Morin was requesting that the revenue numbers be moved up. There was a consensus amongst the Board that the revenue numbers should be moved up if Mr. Morin feels they should be. The Board agreed to discuss the reserve for uncollected taxes at a later date.
 3. Page 7: There was discussion regarding the Pequot Indian Grant. The Board agreed to continue the discussion at a later date. There was also discussion regarding the school's Transportation System and Special Education Placement (line 430332). Dr. Jolin stated that he will bring more details to the next meeting.
 4. Page 8: Line 440342 Miscellaneous Income was discussed. Orla McKiernan-Rafferty specified that the removal and replacement of the fuel tank is included in that line.
 5. Page 9: In regards to recycling, Paul Lenky discussed the fact that scrap prices are down from previous years.

6. Page 10: Ray Faucher, Jr. asked if any surplus has been used yet. Orla McKiernan-Rafferty answered in the negative.
7. Board of Finance: Ray Faucher, Jr. stated that the only increase in the BOF budget is a 2.5% increase in pay for all non-union personnel.
8. Board of Selectmen: The Board discussed the line item for Professional Organizations and Town Dues, as well as the amount of hours each position in the Selectmen's Office will work in the coming year.
9. Data Processing: There was discussion about the Professional Services line item. There was a consensus that the line will be revisited later.
10. Finance and Treasurer: The Board discussed the Financial Clerk position requesting a 5% raise.
11. Assessor: There was discussion about the Assessor position, including what the hours will be for that position and a possible over-time line item. Shaina Smith specified that the Assessor position has to be paid hourly because of a State statute.
12. Town Clerk: The Board discussed the fact that the Town will likely be losing both the Town Clerk and Assistant next year. Paul Lenky agreed to bring more information regarding the Town Clerk's position to the next meeting.
13. Town Counsel: Paul Lenky specified that Union negotiations are covering the next three years.
14. Probate Court: The budget for the Probate Court is non-negotiable. However, Paul Dery expressed concern over the amount of rent that is being paid for the Probate Court.
15. Maintenance of Municipal Buildings: The Board discussed custodial hours as well as the heating fuel line item.
16. Fire Departments: There was discussion about a possible increase to the 911 system budget, as well as to hydrant costs and voluntary fire insurance.
17. Canine Operation: The Board discussed the possibility of increasing the dog food line item. Paul Lenky will provide the Board with more information in regards to how much the employee working in this position is currently paying out-of-pocket for dog-related expenses.
18. Tow Garage: The Board discussed the line items for both heating and repairs.
19. Public Works: The Board specified that the ten hours of employment per week in the Public Works budget is for the position in the Selectmen's office, and that the Board will need to address gas and diesel fuel at a later date.
20. Ground Supplies/Parks: There was discussion about the possibility of increasing the Summer Temp again. They will come back to that at a later date.
21. Transfer Recycling Center: The Board discussed the remediation line item.
22. Snow Removal: Orla McKiernan-Rafferty stated that she will be distributing numbers for the Board regarding snow removal the following day. The Board agreed to look at the numbers at the following meeting.
23. Building Official: The Board discussed the fact that the Building Office is no longer open on Fridays, to which Paul Lenky stated that soon the office will be open on Fridays again.
24. Library Administration: Alison Boutaugh explained that the library is looking to hire a new part-time clerk to expand the libraries weekend hours.
25. Library/Community Center Building: Alison Boutaugh expressed concern that the repair line shows a \$10,000 decrease. The Board asked her to bring more information to the next meeting regarding repair costs.
26. Recreation Commission: There was discussion regarding the Recreation Director Position pay increase of 3.5%.

27. Planning Department: The Board discussed the Director of Planning and Development Position pay increase of 5%. The Board will discuss the increase further at a later date.
28. Inland Wetlands: There was discussion regarding the Wetlands Recording Secretary pay.
29. Fringe Benefits: Orla McKiernan-Rafferty specified that many of the increases are based on numbers that she received as an estimate.
30. Municipal Insurance: The Board discussed a possible reason for the 16% increase.

V. Adjournment

1. **Larry Groh, Jr. moved and Aaron McGarry seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.**
2. Chairman Ray Faucher, Jr. adjourned the meeting at 8:55 PM.

Tina Fox
Recording Secretary