



TOWN of
THOMPSON
BOARD OF FINANCE

Minutes: Budget Meeting
Thursday, March 19, 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: Neil Breen, MaryAnn Chinatti, Kerstin Forrester, Dr. Michael Jolin, Paul Lenky, Shaina Smith, Members of the Public

Aaron McGarry moved and Paul Dery seconded the motion to add an Education Update from Dr. Michael Jolin to the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

- II. Approve Minutes
 1. **Aaron McGarry moved and Susanne Witkowski seconded the motion to approve the February 19, 2015 minutes with the following corrections:**
 - a. Page 5, the word "blessing" should have a question mark to indicate that a question was being asked.
 - b. Page 5, "\$150,000 gallons" should not have a dollar sign.
The motion carried unanimously.
 2. **Aaron McGarry moved and Paul Dery seconded the motion to approve the March 5, 2015 minutes with the following correction:**
 - a. Page 2, Section 2,c: the word "lots" is used (by a citizen and by Paul Lenky), and P. Dery believed a different word should have been used in its place.
The motion carried unanimously.

III. Correspondence

1. Memo from MaryAnn Chinatti, Director of Planning and Development

IV. Citizen's Comments

1. Sally White, East Thompson Rd., asked what the basis (justification) would be that the community could bear keeping the mil rate at the same rate or raising it. She stated that there are some instances where people in the Town pay their taxes but struggle to do so, and that she hoped the Board would keep that in mind.

2. Ken Beausoleil, Walker Dr., brought up a concern with the ZEO position receiving a 14% pay increase as of March 2, 2015. He also mentioned the pay increase to the temporary position in the Selectman's office, and that he believed it would have made more sense to keep the hourly pay for that position the same, and increase the hours for the position.
3. Kevin Walsh, Blain Rd., brought up a concern in regards to a comment R. Faucher, Jr. had made to Sally White previously in the meeting, in regards to using back taxes as an indicator that the community can bear the mil rate. R. Faucher, Jr. clarified that he was referring to current taxes, not back taxes.

V. Paul Lenky: Selectman's Update

1. Paul Lenky discussed a proposed project to put solar panels on Thompson WPCA property in an effort to lower electricity bills. He stated that there would be no revenue and no cost to the Town of Thompson. He also mentioned a group from Oxford proposing to expand an indoor sports complex into Thompson.

VI. Dr. Michael Jolin: Education Update

1. Dr. Jolin thanked the community for supporting the referendum. He stated that they are looking into getting reimbursed through the insurance company. He also stated that oil price per gallon for the school has been locked in at \$2.04.

VII. Orla McKiernan-Rafferty: Financial Report

1. Orla McKiernan-Rafferty gave a verbal financial report.

VIII. Board of Trustees of the Tourtellotte Fund

1. Dr. Jolin stated that there was nothing new to report.

IX. New Business

Aaron McGarry moved and Larry Groh, Jr. seconded the motion to add Discussion of Blain Rd. foot bridge as an agenda item. The motion carried unanimously.

X. Old Business

1. WPCA request for \$750,000
 - a. The Board discussed the WPCA request. The discussion was tabled for the next meeting when a resolution is presented to the Board.
2. West Thompson Dam/Army Corps-Blain Rd. Foot Bridge
 - a. MaryAnn Chinatti presented the Board with information in regards to the engineering of the Blain Rd. foot bridge. She clarified that if the Board approves the \$1,000 request, the full \$3,000 that is needed for the engineering of the bridge will be accomplished.
 - b. **Larry Groh, Jr. moved and Paul Dery seconded the motion to approve designating \$1,000 from the contingency to help with the engineering costs of the Blain Rd. foot bridge. The motion carried unanimously.**

Aaron McGarry moved and Susanne Witkowski seconded the motion to have a short break before the Budget Workshop. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting reconvened at 7:55 PM.

XI. Budget Workshop

1. The Board briefly discussed page 98, page 99, the Debt Retirement Page, and the proposed contingency.
2. The school board budget was discussed with Dr. Michael Jolin and Neil Breen.
3. Capital Improvement Requests were discussed. R. Faucher, Jr. asked P. Lenky if the \$150,000 request for the Sand Dam bridge repair could be lowered, to which P. Lenky responded that it was a possibility and that he would provide the Board with an estimate at a later date. P. Lenky also explained why the fence was needed surrounding the municipal sand.
4. Civic and Cultural: the Board discussed the library HVAC system. Kerstin Forrester stated that additional information will be provided at a later date in regards to the library HVAC. The new library roof was also discussed.
5. Park Improvements, Etc.: The Board discussed the fact that, currently, the budget has no new school busses listed. The Board briefly discussed the replacement of two more fuel tanks at the school, as well as a new roof request.

XII. Adjournment

1. **Aaron McGarry moved and Susanne Witkowski seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.**
2. Chairman Ray Faucher, Jr. adjourned the meeting at 9:22 PM.

Tina Fox
Recording Secretary