



TOWN of THOMPSON

BOARD OF FINANCE

Minutes: Regular Meeting

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Thompson Library/Community Center

7:00 PM

p. 1 of 4

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

I. Roll call

- A. Members Present: Jim Bellavance, Ray Faucher, Jr., Larry Groh, Jr., Aaron McGarry, Rhonda Rooney, Susanne Witkowski.
- B. Members Absent: None
- C. Staff Present:
Tina Fox, Recording Secretary
Orla McKiernan-Rafferty, Finance Director
- D. Also Present: Ken Beausoleil, Steve Benoit, Neal Breen, Kathleen Herbert, Steve Herbert, Brian Howell, Linda Jarmolowicz, Joe Lindley, Dr. Michael Jolin, Kerstin Forrester, Bill Witkowski, Members of the Public.

R. Faucher, Jr. welcomed new Board members Jim Bellavance and Rhonda Rooney.

II. Election of Officers (Chair and Vice-Chair)

- 1. **Larry Groh, Jr. moved and Susanne Witkowski seconded the motion to nominate Aaron McGarry for Chairman.**

Jim Bellavance- Yes

Ray Faucher, Jr.- Yes

Larry Groh, Jr.- Yes

Aaron McGarry- Yes

Rhonda Rooney- Yes

Susanne Witkowski- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

- 2. **Larry Groh, Jr. moved and Jim Bellavance seconded the motion to close nominations for Chairman.**

Jim Bellavance- Yes

Ray Faucher, Jr.- Yes

Larry Groh, Jr.- Yes

Aaron McGarry- Yes

Rhonda Rooney- Yes

Susanne Witkowski- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

- a. A. McGarry thanked R. Faucher, Jr. for his services as Chair.

- 3. **Ray Faucher, Jr. moved and Jim Bellavance seconded the motion to nominate Larry Groh, Jr. as Vice-Chairman.**

Jim Bellavance- Yes

Ray Faucher, Jr.- Yes

Larry Groh, Jr.- Yes

Aaron McGarry- Yes

Rhonda Rooney- Yes

Susanne Witkowski- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

MUNICIPAL BUILDING

815 RIVERSIDE DRIVE · NO. GROSVENORDALE, CONNECTICUT 06255

TELEPHONE (860) 923-3593 · FAX (860) 923-9897

4. **Rhonda Rooney moved and Susanne Witkowski seconded the motion to close nominations for Vice-Chairman.**

Jim Bellavance- Yes

Ray Faucher, Jr.- Yes

Larry Groh, Jr.- Yes

Aaron McGarry- Yes

Rhonda Rooney- Yes

Susanne Witkowski- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

III. Approve Board of Finance 2015 Meeting Schedule

1. **Larry Groh, Jr. moved and Susanne Witkowski seconded the motion to approve the 2016 Board of Finance schedule.**

Jim Bellavance- Yes

Ray Faucher, Jr.- Yes

Larry Groh, Jr.- Yes

Aaron McGarry- Yes

Rhonda Rooney- Yes

Susanne Witkowski- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

2. R. Faucher, Jr. reminded the Board that they will need to approve a Budget Workshop schedule at the December meeting, which usually consists of every Thursday beginning the first Thursday of March through the end of April, with the exception of Holy Thursday.

IV. Approve Minutes

1. October 15, 2015

a. **Ray Faucher, Jr. moved and Larry Groh, Jr. seconded the motion to accept the October 15, 2015 minutes as written.**

Jim Bellavance- Yes

Ray Faucher, Jr.- Yes

Larry Groh, Jr.- Yes

Aaron McGarry- Yes

Rhonda Rooney- Yes

Susanne Witkowski- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

2. October 22, 2015

a. **Ray Faucher, Jr. moved and Larry Groh, Jr. seconded the motion to accept the October 22, 2015 minutes as written.**

Jim Bellavance- Yes

Ray Faucher, Jr.- Yes

Larry Groh, Jr.- Yes

Aaron McGarry- Abstain

Rhonda Rooney- Yes

Susanne Witkowski- Yes

The motion carried.

V. Correspondence

- A. Letter from Attorney St. Onge concerning school budget deficit.
B. Financial update for October from Orla McKiernan-Rafty.

VI. Citizen's Comments

- A. Joe Lindley commented that Mr. Faucher helped the Town get through some difficult budget years, and he appreciates everything Mr. Faucher put into the job.

VII. Ken Beausoleil: Selectman's Update

- A. K. Beausoleil briefed the Board on the situation with replacing the fuel tank at the Highway Garage. \$270,000 was budgeted to replace the tank, and the contract bid came to \$243,200. The cost for the remediation issue came in at \$117,926.59. He stated that he instructed the Town Planner to look into reimbursement for the remediation through the State. He also stated that the advertising budget is going to be over budget.

- B. The Board discussed the fact that the remediation issue was discovered in September, but only being brought before the Board now. K. Forrester believed that P. Lenky mentioned the remediation previously in a Selectman's Update. K. Beausoleil explained in detail that the 30 year old underground tank was scheduled to come out and unforeseen contamination, dating back to the time of lead gas, was found.
- C. R. Faucher, Jr. asked if the DEP issued a statement that the remediation was an emergency situation so that the bidding process could be skipped. K. Forrester answered that she's not sure if they made it an emergency situation.

VIII. Dr. Michael Jolin: Education Update

- A. Dr. Jolin provided the Board with a written report. He mentioned that enrollment is up to 1,114 students.

IX. Orla McKiernan-Rafferty: Financial Update

- A. O. McKiernan-Rafferty provided a verbal update to the Board regarding the financial report through September. She mentioned that she is not sure if the audit will be presented at the December meeting, but that it is the goal.

X. Board of Trustees of the Tourtellotte Fund

- A. Joe Lindley provided a verbal update to the Board. He stated that they will meet in January with the investment firm then have a public meeting in February to outline the next Fiscal Year budget. He mentioned that by virtue of the position of Chair of the Board of Finance, Aaron McGarry is now a member of the Board of Trustees.

XI. New Business

- A. Information and Pricing for Hum-Vee Presented by Brian Howell, and Discussion (\$5,990)

- 1. Brian Howell provided the Board with correspondence. He explained that in April of this year, the Town acquired a used military Hum-Vee at no cost to the Town; the Town must perform basic repairs. Emergency Management was requesting funds for various upgrades to the Hum-Vee, totaling \$5,990.

- 2. **Larry Groh, Jr. moved and Ray Faucher, Jr. seconded the motion to fund the \$5,990 for Emergency Management.**

Jim Bellavance- No

Ray Faucher, Jr.- Yes

Larry Groh, Jr.- Yes

Aaron McGarry- Yes

Rhonda Rooney- Yes

Susanne Witkowski- No

The motion carried.

- B. FEMA Reimbursement Funds Discussion

- 1. O. McKiernan-Rafferty explained that the Town received \$36,744 from FEMA for the snow storm that occurred at the end of January/beginning of February 2015.
- 2. There was a consensus amongst Board members to not take action on the \$36,744 FEMA reimbursement at this meeting.

XII. Old Business

- A. FY 2015 Education Budget Over Expenditure

- 1. N. Breen stated that the BOE deficit is currently \$3,057.69.
- 2. The Board discussed how to fund the deficit. Dr. Jolin stated that he believes the BOF can authorize a transfer from surplus. R. Faucher, Jr. was worried about the precedent that would be set with this situation. Larry Groh, Jr. stated that he agrees with not setting a precedent, but that the money has to come from somewhere.

3. A. McGarry asked what can be done to make sure there is not a deficit next year. N. Breen answered that if the budget seems to be heading in that direction, they will put a freeze on spending again.
4. K. Beausoleil asked if the deficit can be paid from this fiscal year's budget. The Board explained that it would be illegal to take money from this budget to pay the deficit.
5. The Board agreed to wait to vote on the issue until the auditors are contacted.

XIII. Adjourn

- A. **Larry Groh, Jr. moved and Susanne Witkowski seconded the motion to adjourn.**

Jim Bellavance- Yes

Ray Faucher, Jr.- Yes

Larry Groh, Jr.- Yes

Aaron McGarry- Yes

Rhonda Rooney- Yes

Susanne Witkowski- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

- B. A. McGarry adjourned the meeting at 8:09 PM.

Tina Fox

Recording Secretary