



# **TOWN of THOMPSON**

## **BOARD OF FINANCE**

### **Minutes: Regular Meeting**

**Thursday, December 17, 2015**

**Thompson Library/Community Center**

**7:00 PM**

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Aaron McGarry called the meeting to order at 7:00 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, Joe Gaucher, Kathleen Herbert, Steve Herbert, Linda Jarmolowicz, Dr. Michael Jolin, Bill Witkowski, Members of the Public.

#### **II. Approve Board of Finance 2016 Budget Workshop Meeting Schedule**

- A. **Ray Faucher, Jr. moved and Rhonda Rooney seconded the motion to approve the Board of Finance 2016 Budget Workshop Meeting Schedule with the following amendment:**
  - 1. Note that March 3, 2016 is the Budget Presentation, to take place at the school auditorium.

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 Minutes**

- A. November 19, 2015
  - 1. **Larry Groh, Jr. moved and Susanne Witkowski seconded the motion to approve the November 19, 2015 minutes as corrected.**

Jim Bellavance- Yes	Ray Faucher, Jr.- Yes	Larry Groh, Jr.- Yes
Aaron McGarry- Yes	Rhonda Rooney- Yes	Susanne Witkowski- Yes

**The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **IV. Correspondence**

- A. Letter from Dr. Jolin sent to the Board of Selectmen regarding legal proceedings against Green Environmental.

#### **V. Citizen's Comments: None**

VI. Ken Beausoleil: Selectman's Update

- A. K. Beausoleil gave a brief update on recovering the costs related to the accident with the Animal Control Officer, and the hiring process for the Executive Assistant, Recreation Director, and the Assistant Town Clerk.

VII. Dr. Michael Jolin: Education Update

- A. Dr. Jolin stated that most of his update would be covered under 'Old Business.' R. Faucher, Jr. asked about the Board of Education filing suit against Green Environmental. Dr. Jolin explained that the attorney advised that the Board of Selectmen has to initiate the suit because the oil spill occurred on Town property.
- B. Larry Groh, Jr. asked about why it has taken so long to begin the process of filing suit. Dr. Jolin explained that the attorney representing the school was trying to get the company to settle, but because of a two year statute of limitations, they are now asking the Board of Selectmen to authorize filing suit.

VIII. Orla McKiernan-Rafferty: Financial Update

- A. O. McKiernan-Rafferty provided a verbal update to the Board regarding the financial report through November.

IX. Board of Trustees of the Tourtellotte Fund

- A. No report was provided.

X. New Business

XI. Old Business

- A. Blain Rd. Foot Bridge Progress
  - 1. K. Beausoleil explained that the design for the bridge is complete and was presented on December 8<sup>th</sup> at UCONN.
- B. Marianapolis Sewer Project Progress
  - 1. K. Beausoleil explained that the project is going into hiatus during the winter months after having issues with the drilling, that the USDA granted a three month extension on the loan used for the project, and that the interest rate decreased.
- C. Installation of Permanent Fuel Tank at the School
  - 1. Dr. Jolin provided an update to the Board.
- D. Recovery of Remediation Costs from Oil Spill at School
  - 1. Dr. Jolin stated that he will have more information at the next meeting.
- E. Update on the Status of Privatization of the School Transportation System
  - 1. Dr. Jolin provided a written report to the Board. He explained that the Board of Education is seeking, through arbitration, the right to possibly privatize, and stressed that they are fighting just for the right to have the opportunity.
  - 2. There was discussion regarding the currently Town-owned school buses, and what will happen to them if the BOE chooses to privatize the system.
  - 3. Bill Witkowski stated that there are only about six towns in Connecticut that still own their own buses, and he has gotten positive feedback from the Attorney that is handling the arbitration as far as other Towns the Attorney has worked with.

F. Oil Spill at Town Garage

1. K. Beausoleil explained that the remediation costs were just under \$118,000 and that he is working with the insurance company to recover the costs.

G. FY 2015 Education Budget Over Expenditure

1. The Board briefly discussed how to handle the over expenditure, and what caused the over expenditure. Orla McKiernan-Rafferty agreed to discuss the situation with the auditors.

XII. 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 7:57 PM.

Tina Fox

Recording Secretary