



# *TOWN of THOMPSON*

## *BOARD OF FINANCE*

### **Minutes: Budget Meeting**

**Thursday, April 7, 2016**

**Thompson Library/Community Center**

**7:00 PM**

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Chairman Aaron McGarry 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-Raftery, Finance Director
- D. Also Present: Members of the Public.

McGarry stated that there are three and a half budget workshops left, and he was approached by members of the Board who felt the meetings were not moving quickly enough. He stated that citizen's comments would be limited to three minutes per person. He also added that, for now, the meetings would continue to end at 9:00 PM.

#### **II. Correspondence**

- A. Correspondence provided by Paul Baer sent via email from Tina Fox.
- B. Information regarding the school budget sent by Danielle Pederson via email.
- C. Summary of changes made at the previous Board of Finance (BOF) meeting provided by O. McKiernan-Raftery, which also included proposed changes to revenue.

#### **III. Citizen's Comments**

- A. John Sharpe, Pasay Rd., regarding the fire hose that he mentioned at the previous meeting needing to be replaced, he spoke to another testing company who agreed to test the older hose contingent upon each chief signing a waiver releasing the testing company from liability.

#### **IV. Budget Workshop**

- A. The Board discussed the summary of the Recreation surplus account, which O. McKiernan-Raftery distributed. She explained that the donations portion cannot be touched, and the surplus minus donations is approximately \$5,725.
- B. The proposed changes to revenue were made to the budget (**Education Equalization decreased by \$427,180 to \$7,230,542; Transportation increased by \$7,054 to \$89,935; and Non-public Transportation increased by \$2,365 to \$4,458**), increasing the proposed mill rate to 28.11.
- C. Planning and Zoning Commission: S. Herbert stated that the increase in hours for the ZEO is 25 hours per year.
- D. Zoning Board of Appeals: S. Herbert stated that the increase in the advertising line is supposed to reflect the actual year-to-date costs.

- E. Economic Development Commission: S. Herbert stated that there is no full-time Commissioner, and something probably needs to be done in this area of the budget in order to make a change in the community. R. Rooney asked if this would be the portion of the budget that Shawn Brissette referred to at the previous meeting when he suggested appointing a new position for economic development.
- F. Fringe Benefits: R. Rooney asked if the unemployment has been audited. O. McKiernan-Rafferty answered that the Town does not pay a percentage, but rather gets billed based on actual costs. S. Herbert mentioned that health insurance is roughly \$12,500 per Town employee.
- G. Capital Expenditures:
  - 1. O. McKiernan-Rafferty stated that there is approximately \$140,000 in the library repairs transfer account, and L. Groh, Jr. stated that the account would hold approximately \$190,000 if the proposed budget passed.
  - 2. O. McKiernan-Rafferty stated that there is a five year contract with NECCOG for revaluation services, and the proposed budget includes what will be billed for Fiscal Year 2017 as well as a portion of what was billed for Fiscal Year 2016 but never budgeted for.
  - 3. O. McKiernan-Rafferty stated that the Tourtellotte Trust requested \$30,000 last year that was not included in the budget, plus \$70,000 this year. L. Groh, Jr. stated that those funds are paid for by the Trust, and the BOF just 'waves it through.' **There was a consensus amongst the Board to include \$100,000 for the Tourtellotte Trust in Capital Expenditures.**
  - 4. When asked, Alison Boutaugh stated that there are currently more pressing building matters that need to be taken care of before the library roof is replaced. Some of the repairs planned are to the cooling tower, sprinkler system, and walkway. The Library/Community Center roof is the original roof from 1994.
  - 5. The Board discussed the request for a new sweeper. O. McKiernan-Rafferty agreed to find out if the Town is paying insurance on the two sweepers that are being used for parts only. Leo Adams agreed to look into the cost of leasing a sweeper.
  - 6. The Board discussed the request for a mower and forklift, and the possibility of leasing either of those pieces of equipment. Leo Adams stated that the figure in the budget for the cost of the mower is too high, and he will provide the Board with more accurate figures for the next meeting.
- E. Board of Education Budget: N. Breen stated that some ways the school is saving money includes transitioning the accounts payable position from full-time to part-time, purchasing a washer and dryer to save on cleaning services, receiving a donation of chrome books, negotiating contracts for the copiers, elevator maintenance and insurance broker, implementing time and attendance software to reduce the use of paper, automating requisition orders, utilizing donations of office supplies from Staples. The Board discussed various line items in the school budget including substitute teachers, paraprofessionals, special education, legal fees, custodial substitutes, maintenance, fuel and health insurance. The Board also discussed the condition of the middle school building, with J. Bellavance stating that the building is in disrepair. **There was a consensus amongst the Board to decrease the BOE budget by \$550,000, and to start a capital improvement plan with \$50,000 for repairs related to the locker room, gym, and middle school.**
- F. General Services: The Board discussed the TEEG and United Services lines. **There was a consensus amongst the Board to decrease the United Services line from \$6,215 to \$3,215, and decrease the TEEG line from \$45,390 to \$40,000 (with \$2,000 of that \$40,000 for Youth Services).**

- G. Fire Marshal: **There was a consensus amongst the Board to increase the Manuals and Subscriptions line from \$0 to \$25.**
- H. Emergency Management: **There was a consensus amongst the Board to decrease the Payroll line from \$2,000 to \$0, and to decrease the Hummer Equipment line from \$500 to \$0.**
- I. Ground Supplies Parks: **There was a consensus amongst the Board to decrease the Temporary Summer Help line from \$13,000 to \$12,500, and the Ground Supplies Parks line from \$5,500 to \$5,000.**
- J. Board of Selectmen: **There was a consensus amongst the Board to decrease the Town Dues and Memberships line from \$15,886 to \$15,061.**
- K. Building Board of Appeals: **There was a consensus amongst the Board to increase the Books line from \$0 to \$5, to bring the department total to \$10.**

II. 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 9:15 PM.

Tina Fox

Recording Secretary