



TOWN of THOMPSON

BOARD OF FINANCE

Minutes: Regular Meeting

Thursday, April 21, 2016

Thompson Library/Community Center

7:00 PM

p. 1 of 4

Chairman Aaron McGarry called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

I. Roll call

- A. Members Present: Jim Bellavance, Ray Faucher, Jr., Aaron McGarry, Rhonda Rooney, Susanne Witkowski.
- B. Members Absent: Larry Groh, Jr.
- C. Staff Present:
Tina Fox, Recording Secretary
Orla McKiernan-Raftery, Finance Director
- D. Also Present: Members of the Public.

A. McGarry stated that there are one and a half budget workshops left, citizen's comments will be limited to three minutes per person, and if anyone has questions or comments during the meeting, they can write them down and forward them to the Board.

II. Approve Minutes

- A. **Ray Faucher, Jr. moved and Jim Bellavance seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2016 meeting as written.**

Jim Bellavance- Yes

Ray Faucher, Jr.- Yes

Aaron McGarry- Yes

Rhonda Rooney- Yes

Susanne Witkowski- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

- B. **Ray Faucher, Jr. moved and Jim Bellavance seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the March 31, 2016 meeting as written.**

Jim Bellavance- Yes

Ray Faucher, Jr.- Yes

Aaron McGarry- Yes

Rhonda Rooney- Yes

Susanne Witkowski- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

- C. Ray Faucher, Jr. moved and Jim Bellavance seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2016 meeting.

- 1. The Board discussed the consensus to remove \$550,000 from the Board of Education budget and add \$50,000 to Capital Improvements for repairs at the school. The Board was unsure if there had been a consensus for the Capital Improvement portion. The Board agreed to revisit the approval of these minutes at the next meeting.
- 2. Ray Faucher, Jr. withdrew his motion and Jim Bellavance withdrew his second.

III. Correspondence: None

IV. Citizen's Comments

- A. Steve Herbert, 122 Wilsonville Rd., stated that at the prior meeting, the Library Director distributed a chart showing the budgets for various sections of Town that indicated the Library budget declined over a ten year period. He stated that from 2004 to 2014, the Library budget increased 4.6% in terms of spending, the Community Center increased 55%, and the Library Director's salary increased 55%. S. Herbert asked the Board to revisit the request from TEEG. He stated that TEEG gave back \$10,000 ten years ago and now has asked for 10 cents for every dollar they spend in Thompson. He stated that a 2-2.25% increase is appropriate for elected officials. He suggested the Town Hall custodian position should not be permanent.
- B. John Rice, East Thompson Rd., asked what action the Board is contemplating regarding the Historical Society roof repair.

V. Kenneth Beausoleil: Selectmen's Update

- A. The Belding Mill Brownfield grant is in its final stages, a report is expected within the next two to three weeks, and the project is slightly under budget. The contract for the 929 River Mill Brownfield project has been awarded and the project will begin in the near future. There will be a pre-construction meeting soon for the Quaddick Road Bridge replacement, and the bridge will be closed for a maximum of 30 days.

VI. Dr. Michael Jolin: Education Update

- A. In process of installing oil tank at middle school. Anticipate having a draft RFP for the possible bus privatization from the BOE's attorney shortly, which will be shared with the BOF and BOS. Related to the oil spill remediation, the BOE and Town attorney have reached an agreement in terms of sharing information, and there may need to be a joint BOF, BOS, and BOE meeting to discuss going further.
- B. R. Faucher, Jr. asked if the reimbursement for the oil tank would be received this Fiscal Year. Dr. Jolin could not confirm that the reimbursement would come in before June 30th.

VII. Orla McKiernan-Raftery: Financial Report

- A. O. McKiernan-Raftery provided a verbal update to the Board.

VIII. Board of Trustees of the Tourtellotte Fund

- A. Joe Lindley explained that the Trustees approved \$70,000 for this year's expenses.

IX. New Business

- A. Approval of Tourtellotte Trust Expenses

1. **Aaron McGarry moved and Susanne Witkowski seconded the motion to approve the recommendation of the Board of Trustees of the Tourtellotte fund to expend \$70,000 in Fiscal Year 2017.**

Jim Bellavance- Yes

Ray Faucher, Jr.- Yes

Aaron McGarry- Yes

Rhonda Rooney- Yes Susanne Witkowski- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

X. Old Business

A. Oil Spill at Town Garage

1. K. Beausoleil stated that there is nothing new to report, and the invoices came in at just under \$118,000.
2. S. Herbert stated that the vendor has sent a letter indicating his interest in getting paid, and the vendor should at least receive a response.

B. Oil Spill at School

1. Bill Birch stated that the vendors involved with the cleanup of the oil spill at the school have also expressed interest in getting paid and would like a response as to where they stand. He requested the BOS or BOF sent an official response to all of the vendors.
2. O. McKiernan-Rafferty stated that the invoices totally approximately \$118,000.
3. Dr. Jolin and K. Beausoleil agreed to send letters to the appropriate vendors.

XI. Budget Workshop

- A. R. Rooney introduced herself to the audience and spoke about her background/gave an explanation of what some of her decisions are based on.
- B. The Board discussed the possibility of a loan to cover various expenses, such as the oil spill remediation costs, maintenance at the school, a new roof for the Historical Society, and legal fees related to the oil spill at the school. The Board requested the Historical Society further look into a USDA grant for the new roof. **There was a consensus amongst the Board to include \$500,000 in Capital Improvements, \$500,000 into Revenue, and \$6,250 into Debt Service.**
- C. **There was a consensus amongst the Board to decrease the Board of Education budget by another \$127,000, and add \$63,500 to Contingency to be used for Special Education costs, if needed.**
- D. O. McKiernan-Rafferty stated that she would need to add another \$35,000 into Debt Service for closing costs on the loan, bringing the total current mil rate increase to 1.43.
- E. First Selectman: The Board discussed the Executive Assistant position in the Selectmen's Office. S. Witkowski suggested removing the \$2 an hour increase to that position because there is a new hire in that position. R. Faucher, Jr. suggested that the raise could occur in stages, with the \$2 increase being whole after three years. **There was a consensus amongst the Board to remove \$3,000 from the Executive Assistant's salary to \$45,181.**
- F. Tax Assessor: There was a consensus amongst the Board to change the job title of the newly added position to Assessor in Training, and to increase the Training line item from \$700 to \$800.
- G. Town Clerk: S. Witkowski suggested removing the salary increase for the Town Clerk because there is a new person in that position who will have to go through training. Renee Waldron stated that the BOF already decreased the salary line in a previous year in anticipation of a new person coming in. There was a consensus amongst the Board to decrease the Town Clerk salary from \$58,078 to \$57,439.
- H. General Services: The Board discussed the United Services line. A. McGarry provided information regarding the United Services CEO salary in 2013, and S. Witkowski stated that United Services is paid for their services, for the most part, through insurance reimbursement. S. Witkowski also suggested decreasing the Fuel Assistance line by \$1,000 to \$5,000, with the understanding that TEEG can ask the BOF for another appropriation if the \$5,000 runs out. **There was a consensus amongst the Board to decrease the United Services line by \$1,715 to \$1,500, to decrease the Fuel Assistance line from \$6,000 to \$5,000, to and increase the TEEG line from \$40,000 to \$42,715.**

XII. Adjourn

A. **Ray Faucher, Jr. moved and Susanne Witkowski seconded the motion to adjourn.**

Jim Bellavance- Yes

Ray Faucher, Jr.- Yes

Aaron McGarry- Yes

Rhonda Rooney- Yes

Susanne Witkowski- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

B. A. McGarry adjourned the meeting at 9:27 PM.

Tina Fox

Recording Secretary