



TOWN of THOMPSON

BOARD OF FINANCE

**Minutes: Special Budget Meeting
Thursday, May 5, 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.

II. Correspondence

- A. Letter from Selectmen's Office sent to vendors who are seeking payment for work related to the oil spill clean-up at the Town Garage
- B. Email from the Tax Collector.
- C. Resolutions that are listed on the agenda.

III. Citizen's Comments

- A. Paul Baer, 1227 Thompson Rd., stated that the BOF and BOS are not doing as much as they could to put forth a budget in line with what the Town needs, and the Town should have an ordinance that if a Board puts forth a budget that is unlikely to pass, the members of the Board should pay for the cost of the Town meeting/referendum. He stated that there are expenses that could still be cut, like the library payphone, and that if two members of the Board think the payphone is important, they should pay for it out of their own pocket. He stated that the referendum is a waste of time because it is not likely going to pass, and each referendum costs about \$7,000. Too much money is being spent on attorneys, and the fire departments are underfunded. The fire departments need to consider consolidation and need to be funded at an appropriate level. The State is looking at a billion dollar deficit, and the State is going to continue cutting funds, so the Town should be planning for that instead of borrowing money.
- B. Steve Herbert, Wilsonville Rd., suggested that next year the BOF plan to identify which departments are going to be discussed at each meeting beforehand, so that members of the audience can come on only those dates when their departments are being discussed.
- C. John Rice, East Thompson Rd., stated that the BOF did an outstanding job with the budget, and the purpose of the referendum is to let the people of the Town speak.

IV. Clarification of FY 2017 Budget

- A. O. McKiernan-Rafferty asked for clarification that the motion voted on at the previous meeting was to send the total proposed budget at \$25,867,866 and a mill rate increase of 26.4 to Town Meeting. L. Groh, Jr. stated that he intended to include that dollar amount in his motion when he made it, and he verified with the Recording Secretary that it was included.

V. Appropriation and Borrowing Authority

A. \$373,000 Increase for Oil Spill Remediation and Recovery Projects

1. O. McKiernan-Rafferty read the resolution aloud.
2. **Larry Groh, Jr. moved and Ray Faucher, Jr. seconded the motion to approve the resolution as read.**
 - a. R. Faucher, Jr. asked O. McKiernan-Rafferty to explain how the \$373,000 would be divided. O. McKiernan-Rafferty answered that \$118,000 was for the oil spill at the Town Garage, \$118,000 for the oil spill at the school, and \$137,000 for proposed recovery costs related to the oil spill at the school.
 - b. R. Rooney asked if some of the funds are recovered, could they be applied to this loan without penalty, to which O. McKiernan-Rafferty answered affirmatively.
 - c. R. Faucher, Jr. asked if the legal fees are recoverable if there is a settlement in favor of the Town. Bill Witkowski answered that the legal fees encumbered thus far would be recoverable, but not the future legal fees specific to the recovery process.

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. \$127,000 School Building Improvement

1. O. McKiernan-Rafferty read the resolution aloud.
2. **Ray Faucher, Jr. moved and Jim Bellavance seconded the motion to approve the resolution as read.**

Jim Bellavance- Yes

Ray Faucher, Jr.- Yes

Larry Groh, Jr.- Yes

Aaron McGarry- Yes

Rhonda Rooney- Yes

Susanne Witkowski- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

C. \$150,000 Town Owned Building Roof Replacement

1. O. McKiernan-Rafferty read the resolution aloud.
2. **Larry Groh, Jr. moved and Jim Bellavance seconded the motion to approve the resolution as read.**

Jim Bellavance- Yes

Ray Faucher, Jr.- Yes

Larry Groh, Jr.- Yes

Aaron McGarry- Yes

Rhonda Rooney- Yes

Susanne Witkowski- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

D. \$200,000 Sweeper Acquisition (Lease Purchase Agreement)

1. O. McKiernan-Rafferty read the resolution aloud.
2. **Ray Faucher, Jr. moved and Jim Bellavance seconded the motion to approve the resolution as read.**

Jim Bellavance- Yes

Ray Faucher, Jr.- Yes

Larry Groh, Jr.- Yes

Aaron McGarry- Yes

Rhonda Rooney- Yes

Susanne Witkowski- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

VI. Budget Discussion and Possible Action

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that he suggested adding the Budget Discussion to the agenda on the chance that the State passed their budget, but the State did not pass their budget.
- B. Larry Groh, Jr. moved to adjourn. The motion was not seconded.
- C. R. Rooney asked about debt service amounts for coming years, to which O. McKiernan-Rafferty answered that it would come in at just under \$130,000.
- D. R. Faucher, Jr. stated that there is a 5% chance the BOE budget will pass, and 10% chance the general government budget will pass, and therefore asked members to begin looking now at how to pass the budget, and not wait until the referendum fails.

VII. Adjourn

- A. **Larry Groh, Jr. moved and Ray Faucher, Jr. 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 7:24 PM.

Tina Fox

Recording Secretary