



**Town of Thompson**  
**Board of Finance**  
815 Riverside Drive  
North Grosvenordale, CT 06255

**Minutes – Board of Finance Regular Meeting**  
**Thursday, April 18, 2019, 7:00 PM**  
**Thompson Library/Community Center Meeting Room**

1. Call to Order & Roll Call:  
**Chairman Aaron McGarry called the meeting to order at 7:06pm.**  
**Present:** Chair Aaron McGarry, Vice-Chair Larry Groh Jr., Susanne Witkowski, Rhonda Rooney, Jim Bellavance and Rob Mann  
**Absent:** None
2. Approve Minutes:
  - A. 3/21/19 Regular Meeting  
**Rhonda Rooney moved and Susanne Witkowski seconded the motion to accept the 3/21/19 minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously 6-0**
  - B. 3/7/19 Special Mtg. Budget Presentation  
**Rhonda Rooney moved and Jim Bellavance seconded the motion to accept the 3/7/19 minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously 6-0**
  - C. 3/28/19 Special Mtg. Budget Workshop  
**Susanne Witkowski moved and Jim Bellavance seconded the motion to accept the 3/28/19 minutes as presented. Rob Mann - abstained, he was absent. The motion carried unanimously 5-0**
  - D. 4/4/19 Special Mtg. Budget Workshop  
**Susanne Witkowski moved and Larry Groh Jr. seconded the motion to accept the 4/4/19 minutes with the following clarification: item 4., New Salt Shed Building, b). Put aside \$200K in FY20 and \$200K in FY21 to accumulate \$400K to pay for it. The motion carried unanimously 6-0**
  - E. 4/11/19 Special Mtg. Budget Workshop  
**Susanne Witkowski moved and Rhonda Rooney seconded the motion to accept the 4/11/19 minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously 6-0**
3. Correspondence:
  - A. Board of Education 4-8-19 Agenda
  - B. Received after agenda posted: Invite from EDC & BOS to the Branding Plan follow up event on 6/5/19.
4. Citizen's Comments:
  - Shawn Brissette, Whittmore Ave, asked BOF to consider putting Citizens Comments at end of meeting also.
  - John Rice, East Thompson Rd, commented on DPW Directors road proposal and how important it is to have good roads with all the work and effort the Town is putting forth to improve & grow it; also updated accounting of Historical Society
  - Bill Witkowski, Clarence Dr, DPW gave great report; in past years asked about hiring out paving but was told town does great job doing own paving, upset because roads are in bad shape doing it ourselves when we could have hired out.

5. Kenneth Beausoleil: Selectmen's Update  
Sewer mediation is still scheduled for 4/23/19 with the mediator & NECCOG is meeting w/Governor same day to discuss pending issues & bills with town and how impacts the area; school mediation oil spill talks started yesterday and are ongoing; school security moving forward, should have in place by 2nd week in May; working on Ordinance changes for Town Meeting; on 4/29/19 @6:00pm UConn will be doing a presentation on their proposed design of the Airline Trail bridge that will go over Rte193; no update on MERS; discussion on assessing every town road.
6. Melinda Smith: Education Update  
Enrollment 975 in district; THMS hosted Eastern Ct Leadership forum; VFW ceremony for writing awards; preparing for Memorial Day Parade, M.S. Art Dept. working on float & HS Band marching; still over budget in Special Ed Dept; waiting for response from Finance Director by 5/1/19 regarding the Excess Costs.
7. Orla McKiernan-Rafferty: Financial Report  
March 2019 report given; property tax total is \$16.7M; rec'd \$12,769 in grants; Local revenue year total is \$746K; committed expenses for year is \$5.786M.
8. Board of Trustees of the Tourtellotte Fund Update: Nothing to report
9. New Business:
  - A. Salt Shed Roof replacement up to \$10K  
**Larry Groh Jr. moved and Rob Mann seconded motion to appropriate up to \$10,000 out of contingency fund less grants received for the purpose of the Salt Shed Roof replacement.** A roll call vote was taken:

Aaron McGarry - Yes	Larry Groh Jr. - Yes	Rhonda Rooney - Yes
Susanne Witkowski - Yes	Jim Bellavance - Yes	Rob Mann - Yes

**Motion passed 6-0**
  - B. Town Hall Generator replacement up to \$40K  
**Larry Groh Jr. moved and Jim Bellavance seconded motion to appropriate up to \$40,000 out of contingency less grants received for the purpose of town hall generator replacement.** A short discussion ensued on the USDA grant and funds.  
A roll call vote was taken:

Aaron McGarry - Yes	Larry Groh Jr. - Yes	Rhonda Rooney - Yes
Susanne Witkowski - Yes	Jim Bellavance - Yes	Rob Mann - Yes

**Motion passed 6-0**
  - C. Transfer Fund for Capital Projects, See Attached  
**Larry Groh Jr. moved and Susanne Witkowski seconded the motion to move item 9 C. "Transfer Fund for Capital Projects, See Attached" to item 11 A.**  
A roll call vote was taken:

Aaron McGarry - Yes	Larry Groh Jr. - Yes	Rhonda Rooney - Yes
Susanne Witkowski - Yes	Jim Bellavance - Yes	Rob Mann - Yes

**Motion passed 6-0**
  - D. State Statue requirements for Annual Report – using "Wizard of Oz" picture on FY18 Annual Report cover; send copy of statue to all board members and put on 5/16/19 meeting agenda.

- E. Requesting \$550,000 for School Security Project – Bill Birch explained they have rec'd 2 of 4 Homeland Security Grants totaling over \$400K; applied for another grant for security gates at all entrances w/cameras, ballistic window film, license scanner & additional cameras for MS access points; total project cost of \$536,835; DAS approved project if all DAS requirements are done by 6/30/19; cost doesn't include architect and engineers; entire project must be funded up front then receive 68.57% reimbursement. Discussion ensued on requirements and items in project.

**Larry Groh Jr. moved and Rob Mann seconded the motion to leave item 9.E and go to item 9.F.** A roll call vote was taken:

Aaron McGarry - Yes	Larry Groh Jr. - Yes	Rhonda Rooney – Yes
Susanne Witkowski - Yes	Jim Bellavance – Yes	Rob Mann – Yes

**Motion passed 6-0**

- F. Requesting \$19,500.00 for engineering costs for Security Grant

**Susanne Witkowski moved and Aaron McGarry seconded the motion to appropriate up to \$19,500.00 from Fund Balance for engineering costs for Security Grant.** Discussion on safety of our children. A roll call vote was taken:

Aaron McGarry - Yes	Larry Groh Jr. - Yes	Rhonda Rooney – Yes
Susanne Witkowski - Yes	Jim Bellavance – Yes	Rob Mann – Yes

**Motion passed 6-0**

**Larry Groh Jr. moved and Rhonda Rooney seconded the motion to go back to item**

**9.E.** Requesting \$550,000 for School Security Project

**Susanne Witkowski moved and Rhonda Rooney seconded the motion to appropriate up to \$550,000.00 from fund balance for school security grant project.**

A roll call vote was taken:

Aaron McGarry - Yes	Larry Groh Jr. - Yes	Rhonda Rooney – Yes
Susanne Witkowski - Yes	Jim Bellavance – Yes	Rob Mann – Yes

**Motion passed 6-0**

10. Old Business: None

**8:43 Larry Groh Jr. moved and Rhonda Rooney seconded the motion to take a 5 minute recess. Motion passed 6-0**

**8:48 Meeting reconvened.**

11. Budget Workshop:

DPW Director explained why he has \$1.4M already in line item and which roads he feels need attention: Brandy Hill Rd, portion of West Thompson Rd, Gawron Rd, Red Bridge Rd, Liberty Lane, Porter Plain Rd & Sand Dam Rd, list subject to change. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding which roads need what repairs and who will do it.

Susanne Witkowski thinks the roads need repair but there is too much money in this budget and is not within our means.

Discussion on removing \$100K for Road Resurfacing line item and adding another highway maintainer position in the DPW; DPW Director explained how a new position would help his department, possible person retiring.

**Rob Mann moved and Rhonda Rooney seconded the motion to approve the changes below to the proposed FY20 Budget.**

Capital Improvement Program Pg 110				
Project Name	BOS Proposed	Action Voted	New Amount	Reason
HW-20-002 Road Resurfacing	\$400,000	Remove 100,000	\$300,000	
3202 Public Works				
510031 New Highway Maintainer	\$0.00	Add \$86,300	\$86,300	Add new position for Salary and all benefits

**A roll call vote was taken:**

Aaron McGarry - Yes

Larry Groh Jr. - Yes

Susanne Witkowski -

No Rhonda Rooney – Yes

Jim Bellavance – Yes

Rob Mann – Yes

**Motion passed 5-1**

- There is \$291,000 sitting in an account just in case we need to buy buses in the future that could be put into this budget instead of cutting the schools budget.
- School increases are contractual and Special Ed costs which they have no control over. They provided a list of departments that will take the hit if their budget gets cut.

**Rhonda Rooney moved and Rob Mann seconded the motion to increase the BOE budget by \$194,299 over the FY18-19 BOE budget amount.**

Extensive discussion ensued: the \$350,000 in excess Special Ed cost revenue in BOE FY20 budget is only an estimate, if the school doesn't go over the Sp. Ed. budget they will not get the \$350K; This year is a big unknown; if needed the BOE can come back to the BOF for more funds; If the \$350K stays in the BOE Budget, it can never be lowered; Going forward the Excess Special Ed Costs Grant money will go to the school; If BOE Budget is cut the funds will come from the General Ed Budget, Sports and Arts programs will be cut and unfair to all the students who spoke last week; hurting the school will hurt the Branding of the Town; the roads and schools are important to making Thompson better, why not use the "bus" money to help in this unique situation, it could hurt the Branding initiative; school population will drop significantly if budget is cut;

**A roll call vote was taken:**

Aaron McGarry - Yes

Larry Groh Jr. - No

Rhonda Rooney – Yes

Susanne Witkowski - No

Jim Bellavance – No

Rob Mann – Yes

**Vote 3-3 Motion DID NOT pass**

More discussion and suggestions ensued;

**Rob Mann moved and Jim Bellavance seconded the motion to approve the changes below to the proposed FY20 Budget**

Transfer Acct. Future Buses	\$291,000	<b>Remove \$91,000</b>	\$200,000	Help fund FY20 budget
School Budget	\$18,967,572	<b>Remove \$159,000</b>	\$18,808,752	Help fund FY20 budget

More discussion and suggestions ensued; **A roll call vote was taken:**

Aaron McGarry - No

Larry Groh Jr. - Yes

Rhonda Rooney – Yes

Susanne Witkowski - No

Jim Bellavance – Yes

Rob Mann – Yes

**Motion passed 4-2**

**Rob Mann moved and Larry Groh Jr. seconded the motion to approve the changes below to the proposed FY20 Budget**

Transfer Acct. Pension - prior catch-up MERS		Remove \$25,000		To be used towards FY20 budget
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A short discussion ensued. **A roll call vote was taken:**

Aaron McGarry - Yes

Larry Groh Jr. - Yes

Rhonda Rooney - Yes

Susanne Witkowski - No

Jim Bellavance - Yes

Rob Mann - Yes

**Motion passed 5-1**

**Larry Groh Jr. moved and Rob Mann seconded the motion to approve to send \$26,560,414.00 for the combined FY20 Town of Thompson Budget to the Board of Selectmen to send to Town Meeting.**

A roll call vote was taken:

Aaron McGarry - No

Larry Groh Jr. - Yes

Rhonda Rooney - Yes

Susanne Witkowski - No

Jim Bellavance - Yes

Rob Mann - Yes

**Motion passed 4-2**

A. Transfer Fund for Capital Projects, See Attached

**Larry Groh Jr. moved and Jim Bellavance seconded the motion below.**

<b>Road Resurfacing Transfer Acct.</b>	\$1,401,813	<b>Remove \$100,000</b>	\$1,301,813	To be used towards FY20 Budget
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**A roll call vote was taken:**

Aaron McGarry - Yes

Larry Groh Jr. - Yes

Rhonda Rooney - Yes

Susanne Witkowski - No

Jim Bellavance - Yes

Rob Mann - Yes

**Motion passed 5-1**

**Larry Groh Jr. moved and Jim Bellavance seconded the motion below.**

<b>Future Buses Transfer Acct.</b>	\$291,000	<b>Remove \$91,000</b>	\$200,000	To be used towards FY20 Budget
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**A roll call vote was taken:**

Aaron McGarry - No

Larry Groh Jr. - Yes

Rhonda Rooney - Yes

Susanne Witkowski - No

Jim Bellavance - Yes

Rob Mann - Yes

**Motion passed 4-2**

12. Board of Finance Members Comments: None

13. Adjourn.

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

**The motion carried unanimously 6-0**

**Aaron McGarry adjourned the meeting at 10:43 PM.**

Respectfully Submitted,

*Diane Minarik*

Recording Secretary

04-18-19 Minutes BOF Regular Meeting