



TOWN of THOMPSON

BOARD OF FINANCE

Minutes: Regular Meeting

Thursday, August 18, 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

II. Approve Minutes

- A. **Ray Faucher, Jr. moved and Suzanne Witkowski seconded the motion to approve the minutes of June 16, 2016 with the following correction:**
 - 1. Page 2, Section IX(A)(3): Amount of taxes to be suspended in motion should read \$106,893.25

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

The motion carried unanimously.
- B. **Suzanne Witkowski moved and Ray Faucher, Jr. seconded the motion to approve the minutes of June 28, 2016 as written.**

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

The motion carried.

III. Correspondence

- A. Letter forwarded from Tina Fox on ECG letterhead.
- B. Email forwarded from Orla McKiernan-Raftery from SHR Energy, Noel Lafayette, regarding "school solar project" winning the Zero Renewable Energy Credits (ZREC) bid.
- C. Resolution regarding the Ellen Larned museum roof.

IV. Citizen's Comments

- A. Paul Baer, Thompson Rd., suggested the BOF request the information given to the Board of Selectmen (BOS) regarding SHR Energy. The information has to do with pending lawsuits in Weston, CT. The Town is spending an inordinate amount of money on attorney fees. The Starr Rd. situation before the Inland Wetlands Commission (IWC) cost in excess of \$15,000. P. Baer filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) complaint and was told the Town would not pay an attorney to have the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) represented. An attorney was hired and the Town has spent \$2,549.75 to date. Larry Groh, Jr. used to defend the Town himself for a FOIA complaint. The \$2,500 could have been spent on fire department turnout gear, or books for the school. There was an attempt to mediate the FOIA violation, and PZC refused because they did not want to admit their wrongdoing. They are serious offenses, Executive Sessions that they are doing wrong. The Ellen Larned building does need a new roof, but it should not be a surprise. Condo associations set reserves up for maintenance. A substantial amount of interest is being wasted on fees and expenses. The "Starr Rd. debacle" is not ending as the Town has been summonsed for the continuation of the appeal.

V. Kenneth Beausoleil: Selectmen's Update

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that the Starr Rd. IWC decision has been appealed and the Town served a summons, but he does not have an estimate on the costs of that situation. The Town has also been served by the labor union, requesting a clarification ruling. The Marianapolis Sewer Project is still stalled. Quaddick Rd. Bridge is closed. Huge boulders were found imbedded into the abutments and the bridge had to be re-engineered. This increased the cost by approximately \$34,000 and postponed the opening of the bridge to September 20th. There are currently three solar projects being developed in Town: Ballard Rd., the hydroplant in Mechanicsville, and behind Town Hall. All three received Zero Renewable Energy Credits. They were asked to speak at a public informational meeting on September 7th at 7:00 PM at the library.
- B. The Board briefly discussed the solar public informational meeting to clarify whether or not the Town is involved in any of the solar projects.

VI. Dr. Michael Jolin: Education Update

- A. Dr. Jolin was not present at the meeting. Neal Breen stated that the middle school principal and pupil services director positions have been filled. There is \$251.23 left in the FY 2016 budget. There are no known remaining expenses. After checking with the auditors, there are no adjustments anticipated. Regarding the oil spill, they are waiting for a final piece of documentation related to the performance bond, and then all of the paperwork will be submitted to the State. Needed repairs were done or are being completed currently at the middle school, including the HVAC filters, middle school gym, locker rooms, and bleachers. The repairs were done with FY 2016 funds.
- B. A. McGarry congratulated N. Breen on being named an Emerging School Business Leader by the Association of School Business Officials International.

VII. Orla McKiernan-Rafferty: Financial Report

- A. O. McKiernan-Rafferty provided a verbal report on Town finances through the end of June and the end of July.
- B. O. McKiernan-Rafferty agreed to clarify for the next meeting the amount spent out of the snow removal line, specifically if that amount was spent on sand. N. Breen agreed to clarify how ECS is calculated.

VIII. Board of Trustees of the Tourtellotte Fund

A. No report was given.

IX. New Business

A. Appropriation and Borrowing Authority for up to \$200,000 for the Replacement of the Roof of the Town-Owned Ellen Larned Museum Building

1. K. Beausoleil reminded the Board that this appropriation was included in the original budget referendum, and was removed for the subsequent referendums. The BOS passed a motion to bring this request to the BOF.
2. The Board discussed the request. J. Bellavance suggested that the amount being requested is too large, and other types of roofs, such as a metal roof, should be considered. R. Faucher, Jr. agreed that alternatives should be looked into.
3. John Rice felt that the building should be preserved in its original state.
4. A. McGarry entertained a motion to approve this request. No motion was made.
5. K. Beausoleil stated that the BOS will work with the Historical Society to come up with alternatives.
6. It was suggested by Board members and audience members that multiple bids be requested for a clay roof, asphalt roof, and metal roof.

B. \$11,000 for Additional Personnel in the Selectmen's Office

1. K. Beausoleil stated that his office is cleaning up years of files. The \$11,000 is to pay the additional personnel through the end of December, when the project is estimated to be complete.
2. The Board discussed the personnel positions in the Selectmen's Office.
3. **Ray Faucher, Jr. moved and Jim Bellavance seconded the motion to allocate \$11,000 for additional personnel not to work past December 31st to work in the Selectmen's Office and clean the mess up, to be taken out of contingency.**
 - a. S. Witkowski asked for clarification that more funds will not be needed after December, to which K. Beausoleil answered that additional funds will not be requested.

Jim Bellavance- Yes

Ray Faucher, Jr.- Yes

Aaron McGarry- Yes

Rhonda Rooney- Yes

Susanne Witkowski- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

X. Old Business

A. Town Garage Oil Spill Update

1. K. Beausoleil stated that the bill for this project was negotiated down from approximately \$118,000 to exactly \$105,000. The company was waiting to be paid since November and did not charge the Town interest.
2. S. Witkowski asked for an answer at the next meeting from the Town Attorney as to whether the money can be recovered from the insurance company.

B. School Oil Spill Update

1. K. Beausoleil stated that the October 2016 statute of limitations is no longer a factor.

C. Blain Road Foot Bridge Update

1. K. Beausoleil stated that he spoke to Congressman Courtney to see if he can get the Army Corps of Engineers to start on the project, but he has not heard back.

- D. R. Rooney stated that she is looking forward to the budget season next year, and she would like to be proactive and look for solutions to make the process go more smoothly, stating that almost 50% of the voting population had an issue with the school budget. She asked if the Economic Development study that was budgeted for would be completed before next budget season. K. Beausoleil answered that the BOS has not discussed the study further. S. Witkowski stated that the BOS, BOE, and BOF had a joint meeting years ago, which she thought was very productive.

XI. Adjourn

- A. **Susanne Witkowski moved and Ray Faucher, Jr. 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 8:31 PM.

Tina Fox
Recording Secretary