



TOWN of THOMPSON
Board of Finance
815 Riverside Drive
North Grosvenordale, CT 06255

RECEIVED
TOWN OF THOMPSON, CT.
2019 DEC 23 A 10:32
Emie Waller
TOWN CLERK

THOMPSON Board of Finance Regular Meeting MINUTES
Thursday, December 19, 2019

Louis P. Faucher Community Center Meeting Room

1. The call to order by Chair Aaron McGarry was at 7:02 PM.
Roll call: Members-Aaron McGarry (Chair), Rob Mann, Robert Werge, Steve Herbert
Absent: Jim Bellavance, Rhonda Rooney. 4 members are present; Chair declared a quorum.
Others- Melinda Smith (Superintendent of Schools), Orla McKiernan-Raferly (Finance Director), Ken Slater (Town Attorney), Amy St Onge (First Selectman)
Members of the public, Recording Secretary Dotti Durst
2. **Motion S. Herbert seconded by R. Mann to approve the November 21, 2019 meeting minutes.** Discussion, Agenda item # 13- the list of Budget Workshops was revised to show that 3/19 and 4/16 are regular meeting dates. **With this revision, the motion carried unanimously.**
3. Correspondence- none
4. Citizens' comments-none
5. Selectman's Update-First Selectman Amy St Onge:
* Town Garage visit- noted a need to freshen up the staff areas; the Safety Committee and the insurance agent - there is no designated area for Maintainers who are working long hours to rest; the DPW Director proposes a modification to address this issue, at about \$12,000. The salt shed area could impact water pollution control; a smaller size with a truck washing bay is being considered. From the snow removal a budget of about \$50,000, \$14,600 has already been used. * The balance of the Bar Grant funds can be utilized to redesign the Blain Road intersection at the Belding site, out of safety concerns (anticipated at \$50,000-70,000); a RFP is being prepared. The sidewalks from the Rivermill in both directions need replacement, which would utilize the balance of the grant funds; combined these projects could qualify Thompson for additional grant funding. R. Mann- students walk along these sidewalks to school; this is a priority.
6. School District update-Superintendent of Schools Melinda Smith:
*Outstanding attendance at recent events generates school pride. *The DPW Director has assisted in determining the need for school closing due to storms, helping keep students safe. * School enrollment is up by 10 since September. The Special Education budget is currently over-expended by \$766,380. With the anticipated reimbursement, this shortfall is reduced to \$542,279. A. McGarry - are there other funding sources? M. Smith- no but spending is being closely watched. * Out-of-district- placement, which is costly, is being reduced. The Bradley program., administered on school property, is an efficient use of Special Education funds and reduces transportation costs; with more non-Thompson students enrolling, this will become even more favorable. * The BOE has restored spring sports and other programs following the BOF last month. * Two hot water heaters have failed. One will be about \$800 to replace and one \$14,612. * Academic competitions will be



TOWN of THOMPSON
Board of Finance
815 Riverside Drive
North Grosvenordale, CT 06255

resumed this year, with a National Geographic bee and a spelling bee. * Beauty and the Beast auditions have generated excitement for the March performance.

7. Financial Report- Finance Director Orla McKiernan-Rafferty: Reports were submitted through November, with a reminder that bills went out late. Revenue- mostly level. Expenses- no department is over/under by much. No trends are visible. Final pieces of the audit are coming together, with the end of the year targeted for completion and a January presentation to the BOF. MERS- the BOS made a Resolution to finalize the situation with the state. Reserves have been collected for two years to address this. After the set aside funds, another \$80,000-100,00 will be needed; she states that using the Fund Balance may be best. A. McGarry-is interest accruing now? Yes, it is retroactive. R. Werge-suggests wiring in available funds as soon as the paperwork is complete,, to save the interest for the intervening period. Yes. S. Herbert-is a Resolution tonight needed? No, it is not on tonight's agenda. The BOS Resolution did agree to comply with the finding and to accept the liability; at that time, no amount was known. A special BOF meeting may be needed.
8. Annual Report of the Tax Collector for the Fiscal year ending June 30, 2019- Rene Morin was unable to attend and requests the matter be moved to the January meeting.
9. Tourtellotte Fund update – Board of Trustees, O. McKiernan-Rafferty: the next meeting is on January 15 at which the BOF representative, R. Werge, will be present. She will provide the Ordinance and other related documents to him in advance.
10. **New Business: Motion S. Herbert seconded by R. Mann to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of the Marianapolis Sewer Project carried unanimously.** In attendance: BOF members Aaron McGarry, Rob Mann, Robert Werge, and Steve Herbert, as well as Town Attorney Ken Slater, First Selectman Amy St Onge and Finance Director Orla McKiernan-Rafferty. The town attorney confirmed that R. Werge's position at the Trinity Foundation does not constitute a conflict of interest. Executive Session began at 7:48 PM and concluded at 8:21 PM. No action was taken. Regular business resumed at 8:22 PM.
11. Old Business
 - a. Fire Advisory Committee update- no report
 - b. Community Fire Department update- no report
12. Board of Finance Member Comments: S. Herbert –asks status of adding a second Citizen's Comments to the monthly agenda. A. McGarry- 5 members were polled; the decision is that agenda will continue as is.
13. **Motion R. Mann seconded by S. Herbert to adjourn carried unanimously.** BOF Chair A. McGarry adjourned at 8:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Dorothy Durst, Recording Secretary *Dorothy Durst*

These minutes have not yet been approved by the Board of Finance. Please refer to next month's meeting minutes for approval of and/or amendments to these minutes.