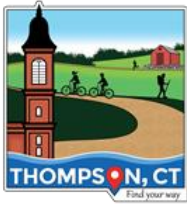


**THOMPSON Board of Finance
Regular Meeting - Minutes
Thursday- November 17, 2022
Town Hall-Merrill Seney Room
and via Zoom from remote locations**

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair Aaron McGarry at 7 PM with 5 members present.
Roll call: Aaron McGarry, Rob Mann, Dave Johnson, Laurent Guillot. Steve Herbert (via Zoom).
Robert Werge was absent. First Selectman Amy St Onge, Finance Director Bill Steglitz, Superintendent of Schools Melinda Smith. Members of Boards and Commissions and of the public. Dotti Durst (Recording Secretary)
2. Approval of minutes:
Motion D. Johnson seconded by L. Guillot to approve the October 20, 2022 BOF Regular Monthly Meeting minutes carried unanimously.
3. Correspondence:
 - a. Four month and Year-To-Date report - Tax Collector Rene Morin
 - b. After the Agenda was posted: Tax Office Reports (dated 11-17-2022) – FY ending June 30, 2022
4. Citizens' comments: none from the public
*Chair Aaron McGarry introduced Tourtellotte High School student Kaylee Beck, a Junior and member of Future Business Leaders of America, who will participate in the BOF meetings as part of The Portrait of a Graduate initiative.
5. Selectman's Update-First Selectman Amy St Onge: The Rt 12 sidewalk project is wrapping up, with a few touches being set aside until spring. * The Main Street reconstruction project grant application for sidewalks will go in. * The local bridges project grant applicant (2 on Buckley Hill Road) has a 50% reimbursement to the town. Complete replacement would be a \$3M project. The Wilsonville Bridge condition has been downgraded by the State and Spicer Road also needs attention. U S Senator Murphy sent a liaison to view the sites to discuss crumbling infrastructure. They also met with staff at TEEG. * The school security conversation in the community was bolstered by the November 9 meeting at which robust discussions took place. Members of the community, organizations, Troop D, Boards, the Superintendent of Schools, and many others participated. On November 30 the follow-up forum will establish the desired level of security at the schools, whether staff will be armed or not. The options available and factors for each will be weighed; a proposal will subsequently be developed to go to the public for a vote. *With the promotion of a Director from within the DPW, a Maintainer position is vacant. * At the BOS meeting on 11-15, the proposed Budget Transfer was authorized for presentation to the BOF.
6. School District Update-Superintendent of Schools Melinda Smith was present via Zoom. *Offered a thank you to Kalyee Beck for stepping forward to participate at the BOF meeting, noting that Kaylee is a high-achieving student and is actively involved in school affairs. * Thank you was also extended to BOF member Steve Herbert and others who participated in the Middle School Veteran's Day event. * A High School benefit raffle of 4 Celtics box seats (valued at \$1,000), provided by the Brian Santos family, took place, successfully raising funds for Student Engagement. Thanks go to Brian! *Middle School sports participation is up, rebounding from the pandemic era. * The Honor Roll at the High School is also growing. *Enrollment is 901 (down by 3 over last month)– 68 students are home-schooled (up by 1 from last month). Tuition-paying enrollments: QMC (4), Killingly Vo-Ag (18) and ACT (2). Notedly, there is an

increase in homeless families, currently a double-digit count. * Impacts on the budget can result from increases in transportation costs, and an increase in ESL students (reflecting the diverse population), and Special Education student costs. * There 26 Special Education out-of-district students (1 transitioned back to the high school and is on track to graduate). * A grant application for the hvac upgrade, offering 70% reimbursement, is going in. The grant application deadline is December 1. The BOS will schedule a referendum in January. * FY 2022 will result in a \$211K shortage, primarily due to Special Education costs, even though \$350K from ARPA funds covered significant additional staffing costs.
 * The best news: everything is going well in Thompson Public Schools!

7. Financial Report (October) - Finance Director William Steglitz: property tax collection is looking positive, as is local revenue * Grant income included the first payment of the Education Equalization Grant (\$1.9M) and an unexpected State Revenue Sharing payment (\$122K). Several expense lines are front-loaded; all payments go out early in the fiscal cycle to Town Counsel, Fire Departments, and payment for the TMHS locker room up-grades. * The fund balance is \$5.5M, up \$3.5M from June 30, 2022. * The Budget Transfers were approved by the BOS as presented. *The annual Audit is underway, continuing the week of 11- 29. Questions from the BOF members were related to the Cemetery Account and to the Attorney expense line; both were clarified.
8. Tourtellotte Fund update – Board of Trustees: Bill Steglitz noted that the windows project is complete, and that the new investment management firm is in place.
9. New Business:
 - a. Request approval of payment from the Board of Education Non-Lapsing Account in a dollar amount not to exceed \$143,000 for the replacement of the two high school boilers: Bill Steglitz noted that when the project was initially approved, the anticipated amount was \$160K+ so this is a favorable situation. The work is going smoothly and is being done just in time for late autumn weather. He noted there is currently \$188K in the account.
Motion A. McGarry seconded by R. Mann to appropriate up to \$143,000 from the BOE Non-Lapsing Account for the replacement of the 2 high school boilers carried unanimously, 5-0.
Laurent Guillot- yes Dave Johnson- yes Rob Mann – yes Steve Herbert- yes Aaron McGarry- yes
 - b. Presentation by Finance Director- end of FY budget transfers: the total shortfall is about \$250K, (\$211K in the School budget and \$37 1/2 K in the town). Extraordinary steps were taken by the departments to reduce the shortfall by cancelling planned orders and taking other costs-savings measures. The reason for the town shortfall is the unexpected ambulance services need, which was far over the budgeted amount. A. McGarry confirmed that the document provided by the Finance Director, which is extremely detailed, itemizes in the “total of line items” the savings which decrease the shortfall. The BOF clarified that the shortfall was due to unexpected Ambulance Services expenses, not actually Fire Department expenses, but that the shortfall will remain showing on the Fire Department budget line, there being no separate line.
Motion D. Johnson seconded by L. Guillot to accept the Budget Transfers as presented. After Discussion, the motion was modified by D. Johnson and the second was modified by L. Guillot.
Motion D. Johnson seconded by L. Guillot to accept the Budget Transfers as presented, for total budget line items of \$597,673 in increases and total budget line items of \$597,673 in decreases, carried unanimously, 5-0. **Laurent Guillot- yes Dave Johnson- yes Rob Mann – yes Steve Herbert- yes Aaron McGarry- yes**



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10. Board of Finance Member Comments:

- S. Herbert thanked the schools for the Veteran's ceremony, which he found to be very moving
- D. Johnson thanked Finance Director Bill Steglitz for the excellent work he has done since he came to Thompson. As a result, he anticipates that the BOF will be well-prepared for the spring budget process.
- A. McGarry thanked A. St Onge for stretching the boundaries of the work she takes on for the town.
- A. McGarry thanked Kaylee Beck for being interested in town government and the BOF.

11. Adjourn:

Motion L. Guillot seconded by R. Mann to adjourn carried unanimously.

Chair A. McGarry adjourned the meeting at 7:49 PM.

The ZOOM recording of the meeting, audio and video, in its entirety:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Pif33Fy0vXSXPx3QV4Y_D_BtltmVmvSZZ2i88xxJg4bb8p7-Ym_ZESeMI834Hc.7K_z5cwCmx-p3QK Passcode: v9*7A2q0

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.