



THOMPSON Board of Finance
Regular Meeting - MINUTES
Thursday- February 16, 2023
Town Hall-Merrill Seney Room
and via Zoom from remote locations

1. The call to order by Chair Aaron McGarry was at 7:02 PM with all Board members present.
Roll call- Via Zoom: Rob Werge. In person: Aaron McGarry, Steve Herbert, Laurent Guillot, Dave Johnson, Rob Mann. Finance Director William Steglitz, First Selectman Amy St Onge, Superintendent of Schools Melinda Smith, Human Resources Director Michelle Giammarinaro, BOE Chair Kathleen Herbert, BOF Liaison from the Schools Kaylee Beck, Board/Commission members. Members of the public. Recording Secretary Dotti Durst.
2. Approval of minutes:
 - a. **Motion S. Herbert seconded by L. Guillot to approve the December 15, 2022 Regular Monthly Meeting minutes carried unanimously, 6-0.**
 - b. **Motion S. Herbert seconded by R. Mann to approve the December 21, 2022 Special Meeting minutes with a modification carried unanimously, 6-0 with the note that on P. 2, Items 3b and 3c: ~~Motion A. McGarry seconded by D. Johnson~~ both should read : Motion S. Herbert seconded by L. Guillot...**
 - c. Note was made that the January BOF meeting had been cancelled
3. Correspondence:
 - a. Tax Collector's Report, first 6 months of the current fiscal year as well as the 7 months report
 - b. Jessica Bolte through the BOF CONTACT site: 1/10/2023
 - c. Tricia Turbet through the BOF CONTACT site: 1/17/2023
 - d. Kristine Durocher through the BOF CONTACT site: 1/18/2023
 - e. Danielle Carlson via the BOF CONTACT site: 1/25/23.

*After the Agenda was posted: Danielle Carlson via the BOF CONTACT site: 02/15/2023. A. McGarry noted that a copy of the proposed bill has been obtained and will be shared later under BOF Member Comments.
4. Citizens' comments:
 - Kathleen Herbert, 122 Wilsonville Road, BOE Chair: *Building Committee should report regularly to the BOF about the 3 major projects *Supports the hybrid meeting format * Asks the BOF to be open to the budget proposal
 - Brian Santos, 77 Hagstrom Road, as a member of the Building Committee: members of the BOF were not present at the Building Committee meetings at which the three topics which were scheduled for referenda were discussed in detail. He made a statement about the 3 projects and noted other town needs
 - Heather Santos, 77 Hagstrom Road not speaking as a BOE member but as a citizen, encouraged the BOF members to be present at the fifth and final BOE budget workshop; the value of the hybrid BOF meeting format was noted. Commendation to the BOF was offered for them sending all three projects to the town for a vote and the hope that the proposed education budget will be handled similarly, with a vote by the townspeople.
 - Don Brown, 240 County Home Road, noted the short time available for bids to be submitted for the Track project.
 - Matt Polsky, 92 Sunset Hill, not speaking as a BOE member but as a citizen, praised Kaylee Beck as advocate for Thompson students; he asks that the BOF let the voters decide about Education spending
 - Kaylee Beck, 685 Fabyan Road, as Schools BOF Liaison, noted that each classroom teacher has specific needs in order to be effective, and that any cuts to the proposed budget has a direct classroom impact
 - Tom Angelo, 640 Fabyan Road, speaking not as a BOE member but as a citizen, referred to The Portrait of a Graduate and Kaylee Beck's excellent representation of that ideal. The Zoom is available.
 - Brian Santos, 77 Hagstrom Road, reviewed the timing of the Track project bid process, citing it to be adequate
5. Selectman's Update-First Selectman Amy St Onge: *The DPW--Low usage of salt and sand due to favorable weather has had a positive impact on the budget ytd; the DPW is handling tree work and interior garage work. A new mechanic has been selected, Mitchell Barstow, who seems to be ideal to the need. Planning is underway for spring/summer 2023 roads work as well as park maintenance and repairs. * The BOS Budget Workshops will be concluding; all have been recorded on Zoom, thereby providing public access. The 2023-2024 budget presentation should be ready for March 2 at the High School Auditorium.

6. School District Update-Superintendent of Schools Melinda Smith: * The Schools population is transient. On February 1, students totaled 886; Out-Of-District Special Education student placements were 24 (down by 3). Recently though 4 additional students were added. *The current Special Education 2023 budget is over-spent, but the total budget is within fy expectations. * Students have created several community-oriented events under the PRIDE program; one is collecting full cereal boxes (goal: 1,200 units). On the final day, a “domino” set-up will be enjoyed by all, then the boxes will go to TEEG. The Portrait of a Graduate was re-distributed to the BOF members.
7. Financial Report- Finance Director William Steglitz: * Revenues are on target at 92% of budget, (\$18.1 M). The second installment of the Education Equalization Grant arrived (\$1,883,676). Local revenue is up due to increased interest rates (\$79K); a National Opioid Settlement Grant of \$31,737 arrived. * Expenses have remained constant similarly to the previous months.
8. Tourtellotte Fund update – Board of Trustees: Bill Steglitz- the fund is close to the minimum balance. Tom Angelo: the Board created a new Spend policy and reviewed the investment plans. A lease from the town to the Historical Society will facilitate a grant application, which will enable ADA-upgrades to the TMHS historic auditorium.
9. New Business:
 - a. BOS request for up to \$14,880.00 for renewal of the Stewardship permit for the former landfill: A. St Onge reviewed the documents related to the 10 years mandatory monitoring of all capped landfills, necessary to maintain public safety. Various situations caused a decrease in the anticipated cost of renewing the Permit; Covid paperwork processing delays was among them, with notifications not received by Thompson.
Motion D. Johnson seconded by S. Herbert to appropriate \$14,880 for renewal of the Stewardship permit for the closed landfill site, funds to be taken from the Contingency Fund, carried unanimously, 6-0.
Laurent Guillot- yes Dave Johnson- yes Rob Mann – yes
Steve Herbert- yes Rob Werge- yes Aaron McGarry- yes
 - b. Consider the BOF 2023-24 budget request: this agenda item was inadvertently skipped. Subsequent to item 9c:
Motion D. Johnson second by S. Herbert to return to the skipped agenda item “b” carried unanimously.
 Discussion: the current year BOF budget seems adequate for the legal notices, compilation and printing of the Annual Report and for customary BOF business. Staff compensation will be integrated after the BOS budget workshops have been completed. The BOF consensus was that no changes seem needed. No action was taken.
 - c. Consider a request for School Security Assessment, not to exceed \$38,900: The timing of the need for the Assessment documentation of the School Security project, related to the opportunity to meet a Grant application deadline, was reviewed. Discussion took place about whether these funds would be incremental to the voter-approved \$500K or would be integral to that amount. Although it was stated that the amount would be part of the Town’s authorization, ambiguity remained for some BOF members.
Motion S. Herbert seconded by L. Guillot to allocate up to \$38,900 for the School Security project Assessment, these proceeds to come from Surplus, carried, 4-2. Laurent Guillot- yes Dave Johnson- no
Rob Mann – yes Steve Herbert- yes Rob Werge- no Aaron McGarry- yes
 - d. Consider a request for School Track Contracts/Bidding documents, not to exceed \$6,790: The Finance Director noted that the bonds for the total project, as approved by the voters, are not yet in place. There is not yet a known grant. The documents needed to move forward with the bidding process are required; the spring renovation time period is near at hand. Finance Director Bill Steglitz was asked directly if these funds being requested through this agenda item will be extraneous to the amount approved by the voters, or an integral part of that funding amount of \$1.5 million. His response: If the funds as authorized by the voters were in place, neither this agenda item (the preliminary documents for the Track project), nor the previous agenda item (funds for the Assessment documents for School Security) would be on this agenda tonight at all. There would be no need. The funds, however, are not yet received by the town, and both of these matters are timely. BOF members thanked him for a clear, concise



Motion L. Guillot seconded by S. Herbert to approve funds not to exceed \$6,790 for the Schools Track renovation contract and bidding documents, the source of the funds to be Surplus, carried 5-1.

Page 3 of 3