



**TOWN of THOMPSON**  
**Board of Finance - Minutes**  
**Thursday, April 13, 2022**  
**Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall**  
**And via Zoom from remote locations**

1. The call to order by Vice Chair Robert Werge was at 7:03 PM. Chair Aaron McGarry suggested that the Vice Chair conduct the meeting as being more amenable to the business of the BOF tonight given his remote location. Roll call: Steve Herbert, Rob Mann, Dave Johnson, Laurent Guillot, Robert Werge. Via Zoom: Aaron McGarry First Selectman Amy St Onge, Melinda Smith (Superintendent of Schools), Bill Steglitz (Finance Director), Joseph Tkacik, Jr (Public Works Director), Kaylee Beck (Schools Liaison), Michelle Giammarinaro (HR Director) Board/Commission members and members of the public. Recording Secretary Dotti Durst

2. Approval of Minutes:

**Motion S. Herbert seconded by R. Mann to approve the 04-06-2023 Regular Meeting minutes carried unanimously, with the modification that Library Director Alison Boutaugh was not in attendance.**

3. Correspondence: none

4. Citizens' comments – three minutes per person maximum:

**\*\* Vice Chair R. Werge reminded all present that Citizens' Comments are held to one comment per person of a duration of 3 minutes, in order for the Board of Finance to be able to hear from all members of the public who wish to speak; he reminded the public of the *Contact the BOF* opportunity to make a comment to the BOF on the town website; comments posted there are emailed to the BOF members.**

- Brian Loffredo, Lowell Davis Road, supports the budget with the minor adjustments in place; scenic roads are mandated to be kept up per the Ordinance.

- Peter Beck, Fabyan Road, why consider only a State Trooper, not a sheriff or constable

- Bill Warner, Lowell Davis Road, via Zoom, detailed his further research of the Thompson Schools Special Education Population and Schools funding; a copy was distributed to BOF members

- Sally White, E Thompson Road, the budget impacts families & small businesses on top of the inflation

5. Budget Workshop: Time stamp 7:12 PM

Questions were asked of the Director of Public Works, Joe Tkacik:

The Capital (Paving) 3 categories were reviewed, 2 to be outsourced and one handled by town staff. The current-year budget will not be all spent; it is likely that about \$437k will remain in the paving budget.

**Motion D. Johnson to decrease Capital (Paving) by \$239k failed for lack of a second.**

\*S. Herbert confirmed: town hall parking lot repaving price is low - contractors will already be in town.

**Motion D. Johnson seconded by A. McGarry to reduce Capital (Paving) by \$200k from \$578,057 to \$378,057 carried 4-2.** L. Guillot -yes. Steve Herbert- no Rob Mann- yes Dave Johnson – yes

. Aaron McGarry- yes Robert Werge- no

Capital, Debt and Contingency were reviewed:

\*The re-naming of the Municipal Roof Fund clarifies the fund to be available for any town-owned building. The current Library roof situation is already addressed with a STEAP matching grant.

\* Projects for School Security and Track upgrade were reviewed including the financing structure and interest costs, with the possible impacts in various fiscal years.

\* The Contingency Fund is considered to be too low; the proposal shows a feasible increase.

Chair R. Werge suggested going back through the proposed budget for the BOF members who have a comment or question about a line; the BOF agreed. The Finance Director used the wall-mounted monitor to show the proposed budget as of that minute.

- Line 458, TEEG funding: the original request as for \$50K; A. St Onge identified \$5k from the Opioid Grant assets as a partial source of funding to reach the \$50k. The BOF asked for confirmation that TEEG is comfortable with that arrangement. A phone call with Director Anne Miller so confirmed, as long as discretion by TEEG is permitted. \* R. Mann, regarding United Services receiving most of the Opioid Grant funds, advocates funding both agencies for direct mental health services.

Time stamp 7:56pm

-Line 42, Advertising: additional staff-wanted ads for long-open positions, and publications costs rose  
 -Line 50, Data Processing Supplies: some costs have been reassigned to this line; printer supplies are up  
 -Line 89, Finance assistant: the BOF asked this Schools/Town split position line to be renamed.

**Motion S. Herbert seconded by R. Mann to reduce Line 89 by \$5k from \$30K to \$25k carried unanimously, 6-0.** L. Guillot -yes Steve Herbert- yes Rob Mann- yes Dave Johnson - yes  
 Aaron McGarry- yes Robert Werge- yes

-Line 228, RW confirmed that DPW is burning wood with fuel costs so high (and it was a warm winter)  
 -Line 518, Library fuel: proposes reduction from \$23k to \$18,850 ( DPW down from \$15k to \$11k)

Time stamp 8:22pm

-Line 254, Fire Marshal Travel: he drives his own vehicle/costs increased (less increase than IRS)  
 -Line 272, A,B,C,D fire stations grants: \* D. Johnson referenced a letter from the First Selectman regarding the Departments' funding, he advocates for level-funding for all five, even though each prepared a separate proposal. \*R. Mann: per statute aging response vehicles must be replaced at age 20. A unified oversight and planning board would be an advantage to Fire Department planning.

**Motion A. McGarry seconded by S. Herbert to reduce Line 272,A,B,C,D from \$81,360 each to level-fund each at \$78k failed, 3-3.** L. Guillot -no Steve Herbert- no Rob Mann- yes  
 Dave Johnson - no Aaron McGarry- yes Robert Werge- yes

**Motion S. Herbert seconded by A. McGarry to reduce Line 272, A,B,C,D by \$1,360 each to \$80k each failed, 3-3.** L. Guillot -yes Rob Mann- no Dave Johnson - no Steve Herbert- yes  
 Aaron McGarry- yes Robert Werge- no

**Motion A. McGarry by to reduce Line 272, A,B,C,D to level-fund each department at \$79k failed for lack of a second.**

-Line 317, Canine repairs: discussion confirmed that some funds from the separate Dog Fund, supported by donations and other incomes, could be used to handle some repairs.

**Motion R. Werge seconded by A. McGarry to reduce Canine Repairs Line 317 from \$5,550 by \$1,500. After discussion, motion withdrawn by R. Werge and the second withdrawn by A. McGarry.**

**Motion R. Werge seconded by A. McGarry to reduce Canine repairs Line 317 from \$5,500 to \$2k, down by \$3,500 carried unanimously, 6-0.** L. Guillot -yes Rob Mann- yes Dave Johnson -yes  
 Steve Herbert- yes Aaron McGarry- yes Robert Werge- yes



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-Line 313, Canine contracted services: Animal Control has software but it is inadequate. The BOF requests detailed reports of activities, by type and time utilize; another source is available.

**Motion D. Johnson seconded by R. Mann to reduce Line 313, canine contracted services (software) by \$2,746 carried unanimously, 6-0.** L. Guillot -yes Rob Mann- yes

Dave Johnson -yes Steve Herbert- yes Aaron McGarry- yes Robert Werge- yes

-Line 306, Animal Control Officer: Question: the amount of time per call and type. Pay was increased from part-time to full-time last year, but given the 24/7 necessities of the job, an increase is proposed. A. St Onge noted that the State requires a report of some specific activities, but they are done by hand.

**Motion D. Johnson seconded by A. McGarry to reduce Line 306, Animal Control Officer, from \$45k to \$39,140, an increase over the current year of 3% carried, 4-2.** L. Guillot -yes

Rob Mann- yes Dave Johnson -yes Steve Herbert- no Aaron McGarry- yes Robert Werge- no

-Line 478, NDDH: The town's liaison reported by phone- the increase has been reduced to \$1 per capita.

**Motion D. Johnson seconded by S. Herbert to reduce Line 478 by \$25,372 to \$78,421 carried unanimously, 6-0.** L. Guillot -yes Rob Mann- yes Dave Johnson -yes Steve Herbert- yes

Aaron McGarry- yes Robert Werge- yes

Time stamp: 9:00pm

-Line 341, DPW Operator: '23 staffing shortages resulted in far less paving. The Maintainer and Equipment operators line items were detailed; the BOF asked that the lines be re-named for clarity.

-Line 347, Outside Contractors/guardrails: \$13k, is to be moved to the Capital Budget.

-Line 348, Tree Service: town crew does not have long enough reach/safety concerns

-Line 371, Truck Repair: has to be outsourced as the DPW has no Mechanic.

\* R. Werge: The Department proposes a \$200k or 20% overall increase, but everything is needed.

\*A. McGarry/D. Johnson confirmed that within any department's budget, funds can be utilized to meet unexpected needs, given that the funds must remain within the budget department.

**Motion A. McGarry seconded by R. Werge to change Line 348, Tree Services, to \$20k, a reduction of \$5k, carried, 4-2.** L. Guillot -no Rob Mann- yes Dave Johnson -yes Steve Herbert- no

Aaron McGarry- yes Robert Werge- yes

-Line 350, Streetlights: operation costs for the 13 newly-installed fixtures

-Line 368, DPW- *Equipment* Repair Parts: After discussion:

**Motion A. McGarry seconded by R. Werge to reduce Line 368, Equipment Repair Parts, by \$5k (from \$50k to \$45k), bringing the proposed increase down from \$8k to an increase of \$3k, carried, 5-1.** L. Guillot -no Rob Mann- yes Dave Johnson -yes Steve Herbert- yes Aaron McGarry- yes

Robert Werge- yes

-Line 371, *Truck* Repair Parts: After discussion- Against a proposed DPW total increase of \$160k, if this motion carried we will have put in place a total of a \$15k total Department reduction

**Motion A. McGarry seconded by R. Mann to reduce Line 371, Truck Repair Parts, by \$5k from \$60k to \$55k carried, 4-2.** L. Guillot - no Rob Mann - yes Dave Johnson - yes Steve Herbert - no

Aaron McGarry - yes Robert Werge - yes

\*S. Herbert: Throughout this budget, salaries are increased by 3% but the town contract calls for 2.25%

BOF Discussion: the Budget referendum has been scheduled, and backing up in time, the Legal Notices must be published. In order to achieve the goal of having the BOF-approved budget to the BOS in time for them to accept it and move forward, Special Meetings on Monday, April 17 and possibly Tuesday, April 18 were, by consensus, authorized by the BOF. Agendas will be posted.

**6. Motion S. Herbert seconded by D. Johnson to adjourn carried unanimously.**

Vice Chair R. Werge adjourned the meeting at 9:35 PM.

To **access ZOOM to** see and hear this meeting, click on this link or copy/paste it to your Search bar:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/MdqHMBf4wnIVbb9TITyIYESPgDYgoZ8v\\_xKh91uba-VYVmbWRKRwo\\_cAkeTKulZA.EK8k-7\\_rSLgAwba9](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/MdqHMBf4wnIVbb9TITyIYESPgDYgoZ8v_xKh91uba-VYVmbWRKRwo_cAkeTKulZA.EK8k-7_rSLgAwba9) Passcode: xRB@7nes

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.*