



TOWN of THOMPSON
Board of Finance - Minutes
Thursday – September 21, 2023
Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall
And via Zoom from remote locations

1. The call to order by Chair A. McGarry was at 7:00 PM.

Roll call: Aaron McGarry, Steve Herbert, Rob Mann, Dave Johnson, Robert Werge, Laurent Guillot. First Selectman Amy St Onge, Melinda Smith (Superintendent of Schools), Bill Steglitz (Finance Director), Michelle Giammarinaro (HR Director), Kaylee Beck (Schools Liaison), Board/Commission members and members of the public. Recording Secretary Dotti Durst

2. Approval of minutes

a. **Motion S. Herbert seconded by R. Werge to approve the July 20, 2023 Regular Meeting minutes carried unanimously.**

3. Correspondence:

08/06 Superintendent BOF rep /Negotiating Committee

08/08 Tax Collector July Report

08/17 Finance Director Budget Books are ready

08/17 Finance Dir Updated Annual Report through June 30

09/11 Tax Collector August Report

09/13 BOE Request to consider unexpended FY 23 funds being placed in Non-Lapsing Acct

** After the agenda was posted, via Contact the BOF, on 09-21 at 4:29 PM: Leivonne Lim asked about the Capital Improvement Plan

4. Citizens' comments:

- Kaylee Beck, Student Liaison to the BOF, noted that additionally, the Student Council is planning more communication and interaction in Town Government

5. Selectman's Update-First Selectman Amy St Onge: * September 30, Community Day will hopefully bring a large turnout. * The DPW is wrapping up road work and will pick up again in the spring when State Road Aid funds come in. * DataCorp analysis of all Thompson roads will result in cloud-based strategic planning for road maintenance, establishing priorities, projecting costs and needed resources. There will be a public presentation: 10-26, 7 PM at the Library Community Room * Grant applications: Engineered designs for 65 Main Street, Track Revitalization through STEEP: a shovel-ready project with voter approval in place (would cover about 1/3 of the project), and a 3rd project all give us hope. BOF Question (S. Herbert) about prioritizing roadwork: Yes, LIDAR will be used to assess the condition of each road and then factor in traffic counts to establish a sequence of work. BOF Question (R. Werge) about status of Conservation and Inland Wetlands staff: a contract with the former Wetlands Agent will enable her to remain on staff to complete the update of the Regulations due to new Floodplains delineation. Dan Malo, Conservation Officer assumed the role of Wetlands Agent. BOF Question (R. Werge) asked if a member of the public in the meeting identified with only a phone number is appropriate. A. St Onge: the person needs to identify if speaking. The HR Director added her name to the phone number, bringing a chuckle to the room.

6. School District Update-Superintendent of Schools Melinda Smith: *Thanks were extended to all Schools staff in all departments for the smooth school year opening. Due to the heat wave, school had to be closed for two afternoons. * Enrollment has not yet stabilized; a student count will be available in October. * The 10-10 @ 10 event (Ribbon cutting for the culinary Career Pathway program, October 10 at 10 AM) will take place. Also: a Grant-funded Mental Health program (\$319K), and Dual-enrollment

Grants (students attend both high school classes and college-level courses) are in process. A \$50K grant was obtained to handle a sudden Middle School walk-in cooler failure ("thanks go to Lisa Durand"). Other applications are pending including for an Agency which brings staff to grades 6-9 for math tutoring, to bring students but to expected levels; 180 students qualify. Bill Birch: the School Security \$400K grant is in process and the HVAC Grant arrived. A Social-Emotional Learning Grant is pending; the required committee is being formed.* Other Career Pathways are shaping up. A partnership with DKH as well as with Matulaitis results in a medical profession Career Pathway. DKH outfitted a classroom as a medical facility. The Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board will cover the fee * School staff contract (3) negotiations will be this year.

BOF Question(D. Johnson), carried forward from last meeting, about the status of the water tower, looking for confirmation that the agreement is still in place. Confirmation will be requested.

BOF Question (R. Werge) about the Career Pathways. Culinary program -190 students signed up for 94 spaces. Seniors are given priority with the goal of immediate jobs, with freshmen continuing with the program throughout high school.

7. Financial Report- Finance Director William Steglitz: Revenues, Grant income and Local Revenue are proceeding as budgeted, except 1). Grant funding for the Schools Security gate arrived (after a year) and 2) Investment income exceeds budget due to high interest rates (\$48K YTD vs \$20K full-year budget). * The audit process for FY 22-23 is underway, bringing the timing back to standard. The goal is a late fall/early winter completion, in advance of the next budget process. * A victory took place! The Tax Collector attended a seminar at which the Treasury Dept provided a list of abandoned properties in Thompson, resulting in additional income of \$3,900.

8. Tourtellotte Fund update – Board of Trustees: William Steglitz reported that the funds are very close to the required minimum, at \$2.4M. No activity is taking place.

9. New Business: BOE request to move unexpended FY 23 funds to Non-Lapsing Account- Anticipating a remaining balance after the audit is completed, the BOE notes possible needs including the elementary school boiler; if funds are available in the Non-Lapsing Account, the process might be expedited. The BOF consensus was to keep the topic on the agenda for each meeting until the audit is completed and the amount available is known.

10. Board of Finance Member Comments:

- S. Herbert: wondered about distributing funds to Fire Departments quarterly, similarly to tax inflows
- R. Werge: teacher contract negotiations are being handled in a solid, professional manner

11. Motion R. Werge seconded by S. Herbert to adjourn at 7:38 PM carried unanimously.

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/j/84461212345> Passcode: +xq@JL5v

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.