



TOWN of THOMPSON
Board of Finance - Minutes
Thursday – October 19, 2023
Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall
And via Zoom from remote locations

1. The call to order by Chair Aaron McGarry was at 7:01 PM with 4 Board members present (constituting a quorum): Steve Herbert, Dave Johnson, Rob Werge, Aaron McGarry. Absent: Rob Mann, Laurent Guillot Others: First Selectman Amy St Onge, William Steglitz (Finance Director), Melinda Smith (Superintendent of Schools), Recording Secretary Dotti Durst
2. Approval of minutes: **Motion R. Werge seconded by S. Herbert to accept the minutes of the September 21, 2023 BOF Meeting carried unanimously.**
3. Correspondence:
 - 10/05 Tax Collector - September Report
 - 10/10 Town Planner - Invitation: 65 Main Street Redevelopment Workshop (#2)
4. Citizens' comments: Shawn Brissette, Lowell Davis Road, thanked BOF Member and Chair Aaron McGarry for his professional service.
5. Selectman's Update-First Selectman: Amy St Onge thanked Aaron McGarry, Chair of the BOF, for his service. * Grants update: The \$500K Schools Track Grant is all set. * The Main Street Renovation Grant was not awarded but the second round of applications for it is coming up. It is important for the Revitalization of Main Street and the Oscar Swanson Park upgrade, both of which impact Thompson's livability and economic development. Full reconstruction of Main Street including sidewalks is planned, for a total cost of \$3.88 Million. *BetaCorp will present the plans for preventative maintenance for town roads: Thursday, 7 PM, Library Community Room. * The 9-ton DPW truck arrived (\$250K) and another vehicle is expected in April; the town is looking at financing rates. * The BOS and Fire Departments are researching the creation of a single Fire Protection District providing accountability to the taxpayers. Draft By Laws will be presented within the next month, and also Zoomed or Live-Streamed.
6. School District Update-Superintendent of Schools Melinda Smith: Thanked Aaron McGarry for, over these 7 years, being always professional and always helpful. *Thanks go to Steve and Kathleen Herbert for attending the Culinary Arts Ribbon-Cutting event; several state agencies were present as were representatives of Day Kimball Hospital which is sponsoring another Career Pathway opportunity for Thompson students. * Teacher contract negotiations are in the final steps. Thanks were offered to BOF member R. Werge who participated. * Enrollment is 867 total, up by 2 from last month; there are 22 out-of-district Special Education placements. * The Governor announced that 46 school districts received the CT Department of Education High Dosage Tutoring Grant (\$282K) designed to remove gaps in learning caused by the pandemic, and to bring all students up to grade level. It applies to grades 6-9, with 189 students qualifying for the intense, in-house aid, both in the fall and spring semesters. * New- a Collaborative Grant opportunity to address harassment and school climate: \$33K means \$11K per school, * An unbudgeted full-time teacher for English Language Learners was added, per state law; enrollment shows 16 students who speak 6 different languages. Grant funding is being sought. These students bring a new diversity to the school environment.

BOF comment: S. Herbert offered Thanks for Career Day. He happened to be in the CNA area, where the attitude was very positive. * He asked the addition cost of the ELL teacher: \$41K

7. Financial Report- Finance Director William Steglitz: Offered thanks to Aaron McGarry as well as to Rob Werge for their professionalism and the positive approach they brought to the BOF. * The Revenues are \$11.6M collected or 56% of budgeted and other collections are in-line with expectations, except that the positive interest rates on assets are above expected. The Municipal Revenue Sharing Grant has come in as well and the PILOT funds. *The is an open expense line: an encumbrance for Town Council, which is being researched.

BOF comment: R. Werge asked if last year's budget questions are being reviewed. Yes, including the one regarding Fixed Assets.

8. Tourtellotte Fund update – Board of Trustees: no report

9. New Business:

Proposed BOF 2024 meeting calendar: the Budget Workshop Meetings timeline was discussed; it was agreed to schedule for all Tuesdays in March and April, as well as all Thursdays for the Budget Workshops process, understanding that any not needed can be cancelled.

Motion S. Herbert seconded by D. Johnson to accept the 2024 BOS Meeting Schedule as amended, with Regular Meetings each Thursday in the months of March and April and additionally each Tuesday in April, carried unanimously, 4-0.

10. Board of Finance Member Comments:

-D. Johnson thanked Aaron McGarry and enjoyed working with him...twice.

-R. Werge thanked Aaron McGarry, noting that it is easy when things are easy, but Aaron was professional in those other moments too.

-S. Herbert noted Aaron McGarry always listens to other points of view and is a professional

-Aaron McGarry commented that it was a pleasure working with all of you BOF members and town leaders; he learned a lot from the shared public process. He has always advocated for the opportunity for a member of the public to participate directly in local government; that makes the process strong. When he became Chair, Larry Guillot gave him a book, which was so meaningful he has retained it all this time, with gratitude.

11. Adjourn: **Motion R. Werge/D. Johnson to adjourn at 7:33 PM carried unanimously.**

Use this link to see/hear the full BOF meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/tFhKXWyEjR5qU8XJH1t0FPXbY7ultPHXxMIHRvOhQRF6AYGMMJf4IDRiBS7yQec.FhNVWoslk0nW2wbQ> Passcode: 9mwB@v*j

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