



**TOWN of THOMPSON**  
**Board of Finance Meeting - Minutes**  
**Thursday – January 18, 2024**  
**Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall**  
**And via Zoom from remote locations**

1. The call to order by Chair Rob Werge was at 7:01 PM with 5 Board members present: Steve Herbert, Laurent Guillot, Brian Lynch, Nicola Chrzanowski, Rob Werge. Absent: Dave Johnson  
First Selectman Amy St Onge, William Steglitz (Finance Director), Selectman K. Beausoleil, Melinda Smith (Superintendent of Schools), Kathleen Herbert (Chair, BOE). Recording Secretary Dotti Durst

3. Approval of minutes:

. a. Motion S. Herbert seconded B. Lynch by to accept the minutes of the December 28, 2023 BOF Meeting carried unanimously, with modifications:

Agenda item X. b. ... ~~the BOS and BOF would meet jointly during the BOS Budget Workshops~~  
...meet jointly during the first four BOS Budget Workshops, renamed Special Joint BOS/BOF Budget Workshops...

Agenda item X. b. page 3 ... ~~confirmed that these four Special BOS Meetings~~  
....confirmed that these four Special Joint BOS/BOF Budget meetings ...

4. Correspondence:

. - Monthly Tax Collector's Report/December 2023, Scott Antonson

5. Citizens' comments:

- Kathlen Herbert, Thompson BOE Chair, thanked those BOF members who attended the first BOE budget workshop, inviting them to the next meeting on Monday at 6 PM with Zoom access  
- Jessica Bolte, Riverside Drive, asks the BOF to consider a second "Citizens' Comments" section near the end of each agenda

6. Selectman's Update-First Selectman Amy St Onge: \* Good news! The Schools entrances project has begun, with a spring start date. The School Track project came in just under \$1.5M, with the \$500K STEAP Grant to offset the cost. \* Comments in the community about the Salt Shed project: to clarify—ARPA funds are set aside and await at the bank. The EMS aspect of the project came in significantly higher than anticipated, so bid requests will go out soon enabling the project to be completed before next winter. Protecting the water supply takes priority; replacing the salt shed needs to be first \*\* The Buckley Bridges \$3.2M project—a CT grant was not received but a Federal (reimbursement) Grant application will be submitted (which requires only a 20% town funds match); research is underway to determine if there is a requirement for the funds to already be set aside before the award can be made. \* Union negotiations are slow to get going, but a memo states a willingness. \*\* In December, the BOS approved a fee for re-inspections of Solar Panel installations. The BOF may want discussion of where the fee income should be directed to; currently, to the General Fund but perhaps should go into a Special fund, up to a stated amount. R. Werge asked for data historical data  
Questions for the First Selectman: \*S. Herbert – asked the status of the elevator repair. More bids are awaited from service providers, which must be licensed in Connecticut

\*R. Werge – asked about the EMS Building. The Town is looking at other options.

EMS performance? A positive report about service and mutual aid has come in; both are excellent.

7. School District Update-Superintendent of Schools Melinda Smith, after 44 years in Education, knows excellence. So she said "Thank you to Joe and DPW; *he is the best.*" \*\* 862 students are enrolled, the count since August, even with the comings and goings throughout the time period, reflecting the

transient population. \*The Career Pathways programs were reviewed, and the corporate sponsors/partners, including recently New Boston Beef, were recognized. Fire Fighters I and II as well as EMS Certifications will be strong as is the Medical Pathways, including leading to CNA Certification. Welding station locations are being reviewed (donated by EB).\*\* In academics, 2 students have received high accolades and commendation and National Merit Honors including a Special UCONN all-encompassing Scholarship in Nursing 7:25 \*The HVAC grant application is in.

Questions for the Superintendent: \* N. Chrzanowski asked about the locations of the welding equipment; EB will assist with selection of the equipment and with identifying appropriate locations

\* S. Herbert asked the status of the BOE budget: B. Steglitz noted the spending/income look good right now, in fact, better than last year at this time.

8. Financial Report- Finance Director William Steglitz: Property tax collection is at 70% of budget: Motor Vehicle Supplement does not come in until the first quarter. He praised staff at both locations for their diligence in finding access to \$207K in FEMA/Covid relief funds the town has qualified for. The 2024-2025 budget process is underway, with information-gathering Workshops scheduled for February.

Questions for the Finance Director: \*R. Werge asked the status of budget items including the NDDH/Public Health Nursing situation- an update will be forthcoming

\* B. Lynch asked if the town is staying with NDDH. A. St Onge – no other options are available; an improvement plan is underway at NDDH so we will be watchful/attentive

9. Tourtellotte Fund update – The Board of Trustees Annual Meeting will be in early February. R. Werge noted that he has served as the liaison to the Trustees for 3/4 years, and having learned a lot will relinquish the position to another BOF member.

#### 10. New Business:

a. BOS request for approval of the sale of the Emergency Management 1986 Hummer military grade vehicle and the sale of the 2006 Ambulance and discussion about the use of these funds: there was a review of the current vehicle obtained at no cost to the town from Surplus, which does not meet the needs of Emergency Management; the goal is to move to a more modern piece of equipment with communications systems, to tow the auxiliary devices that might be needed at a site, as well as transport a person when needed. If the current equipment is sold, the request is that the resulting funds be directed to the updated vehicle. After discussion:

**Motion B. Lynch to grant the authority to sell the 1986 Humvee and the 2006 Ambulance with the proceeds to go to a designated account for the purchase of an appropriate vehicle...** After discussion, and in the absence of a second to the motion, **B. Lynch withdrew the motion.** Further discussion took place, particularly about sequencing and timing of the steps. D. Johnson, who was away from the meeting, communicated his opinion about the sequencing through the Finance Director.

**Motion S. Herbert seconded by B. Lynch (for the purpose of opening discussion) to grant the authority to sell the 1986 Humvee and the 2006 Ambulance.**

Discussion confirmed the proceeds would go to the General Fund.

**Motion to amend the motion by R. Werge seconded by N. Chrzanowski to grant the authority to Emergency Management to sell the 1986 Humvee and the 2006 Ambulance with the proceeds to go to a designated account for the purchase of an appropriate Emergency Response Vehicle carried unanimously. S. Herbert/yes L. Guillot/yes B. Lynch/yes N. Chrzanowski/yes R. Werge/yes**



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Restate and vote on the main motion:

**Motion by R. Werge seconded by N. Chrzanowski to grant the authority to Emergency Management to sell the 1986 Humvee and the 2006 Ambulance with the proceeds of the sale to go to a designated account, and to allow Emergency Management to use the funds for the acquisition of an appropriate Emergency Response Vehicle with any excess funds going into the General Fund carried unanimously.**

**S. Herbert- yes L. Guillot- yes B. Lynch-yes N. Chrzanowski- yes R. Werge-yes**

b. Discussion: Scheduled February 4 *Special* BOF/BOS joint meetings and Regular Thursday, February 15 BOF meeting- with the 4 Special Meetings, the Regular February 15 meeting may not be needed. Consensus of the BOF: as the Special meetings/budget workshops take place, the Board will be mindful of it, and cancel if it is found to be extraneous.

C. New Business: **Motion S. Herbert seconded by B. Lynch to add a New Business Agenda item—consideration of a second Agenda *Citizens' Comments*, near the end and previous to Board member comments, carried unanimously.**

Discussion: \*R. Werge —for Budget Workshops, this would not be manageable as the time allowed for the meetings must be controlled in order for the work of the BOF to be handled. The community can always write to the BOF and the memo will be read by all the Members.

\*N. Chrzanowski- the Chair can control the time allowed in the second round of comments, and state that only new comments will be received

\*B. Lynch – all control is by the Chair, but the public can speak if two opportunities are provided

\*S. Herbert- things come up during a meeting that can only be commented upon after it has occurred

**Motion S. Herbert seconded by B. Lynch to add a second Agenda item, *Citizens' Comments*, near the end of the agenda generally previous to Board member comments, carried 4-1.**

**S. Herbert- yes B. Lynch-yes L. Guillot- yes N. Chrzanowski- yes R. Werge-no**

12. Board of Finance Member Comments:

- S. Herbert reminded the BOF that the BOE budget workshop will be Monday at 6 PM

- N. Chrzanowski: do other town entities have Budget Workshops? Library Board of Trustees? No.

13. Adjourn:

**Motion S. Herbert seconded by N. Chrzanowski to adjourn at 8:08 PM carried unanimously.**

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

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/qydwtd6T8Mz4X56vZF80kGPE9lQrmqfqCqP\\_fwqYhI16XcBM6uYiRiJOjYxs1M5c.6Sqz0XOJpeHLfTx](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/qydwtd6T8Mz4X56vZF80kGPE9lQrmqfqCqP_fwqYhI16XcBM6uYiRiJOjYxs1M5c.6Sqz0XOJpeHLfTx) Passcode: 5n?8Bv\*J

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 minute*