



TOWN of
THOMPSON
BOARD OF FINANCE

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2018 MAY 31 P 3:14

Emie Waldron
TOWN CLERK

Minutes: Regular Meeting
Thursday, May 17, 2018
Thompson Library/Community Center
7:00 PM

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Chairman Aaron McGarry called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM.

I. Roll call

- Members Present: Aaron McGarry, Larry Groh Jr., Jim Bellavance, Rhonda Rooney, and Susanne Witkowski
- Members Absent: Rob Mann
- Staff Present: Diane Minarik, Recording Secretary
- Also Present: Members of the Public

II. Approve Minutes:

A. April 19, 2018 Regular Meeting

Larry Groh Jr. moved and Rhonda Rooney seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2018 meeting with amendments.

III. Correspondence

- A. Board of Education Finance Meeting Agenda 5/1/18
- B. BOF's monthly Budget Report
- C. Invitation to "A Living Wax Museum" on 5/23/18 at 6pm

IV. Citizen's Comments:

- o Rene Morin, 130 Pompeo Rd, if budget doesn't pass he would like to see an additional agenda item added for Budget Workshop. The Thompson Selectmen are extremely under paid and would like the Board of Finance to take the initiative to give them an increase. Feels we under pay and under value the importance of that 3 person Board of Selectmen.
- o Bill Witkowski, 12 Clarence Dr, agrees with R. Morin but thinks it's time to start a discussion about a Town Manager, it's very difficult to keep consistency on a 2 year cycle.
- o Rhonda Rooney, 13 Main St, agrees with R. Morin and B. Witkowski, there is a lot of positive momentum going on right now but if/when a new administration comes in it could all come to a slamming stop.

V. Kenneth Beausoleil: Selectmen's Update:

- o Our 30 year old Boom Truck didn't pass state inspection this year, checking prices on repair or replace it, will be using FY18 Rolling Stock Fund. BOF should rethink the Rolling Stock Fund for this type of situation in the future.
- o 40+ year old Town Hall generator is dead, est. cost of \$40,000 for new one w/50-60kwh, will be kept outside and runs on propane. They will apply for the USDA Grant that is 55% reimbursable up to \$50,000 K, potentially could only pay \$18,000 K for it.
- o Blum Shapiro has been in and they are working on the parameters for the next audit in 5-6 weeks to streamline the process.

- Referendum on Monday 5/21/18 – everybody get out and VOTE, M. Smith and Beausoleil were on WINY Radio today promoting the budget.
- Wednesday 5/23/18 at 6:00pm in the Library/Community Center will be the next Mill Redevelopment Informational meeting. Today the DECD Commissioner and Susan Chang walked through the Mill again.
- 630 Riverside Dr. (Beldings) is going on the market this week to be sold.
- We were 1 of 8 Towns selected to present our application in detail for the \$1 M BAR (Brownsfield Area-wide Redevelopment) Grant. The Developer also is paying a 2% match. This grant is also to help revitalize the area around the mill like sidewalks and Connector Roads, (Wilsonville Rd connects Rt. 12 & Rt. 395 & 193)
- Monday 5/21/18 @ 7:00pm in the Library/Community Center is PZC Sub-Committee Joint Meeting with John Filchak from NECCOG regarding the Zoning Regulation Rewrite.
- Website upgrade interviews are on-going.
- Tuesday's BOS Agenda has line items to set Mill Rate or Budget Workshop.
- Tuesday 5/22/18 HVAC tower change-out will start at the Library.
- Town Planner resigned, job posting going out on Friday.
- Towns Annual Report: A discussion ensued regarding who is responsible for creating the report. Chair McGarry feels the Towns Annual Report should be handled by an administrative position not their recording secretary. R. Morin agreed and tried for years to move the responsibility to the Finance Dept. The report is due before June 30 per State Statue. Chair McGarry has concerns about getting in trouble with the state if the report is done incorrectly. K. Beausoleil said his office will do the report this year and when asked if this will be a change in procedure going forward he said "we will work on a new procedure". A policy change made by the Board of Selectmen is the only way to change the procedure for creating the Annual Report.

VI. Melinda Smith: Education Update with handouts:

- Art Work from the MS & HS is on display in the Library.
- Currently 1003 students enrolled, 8 left and 3 new; is working on a transient population report.
- Received Alliance Grant and a donation of Library furniture from UConn.
- Confidentiality and Drug Awareness Training for facility and staff.
- 8 students and 1 teacher going on a 4 day sailing trip w/Mystic Seaport.
- Middle School is going on a trip to Washington DC in May 2019.
- 3 students won VFW Patriots Pen Essay Award and our first placed student is moving on to state competition.
- HS National Honor Society inducted 7 students and they held the Integrity Plus Awards ceremony.
- TPS has been accepted into the RULER program and received a \$5,000 K grant from Pratt & Whitney to spruce up the TMHS courtyard.
- TMHS Alumni Assoc. sponsored a campaign in support for the school and town budgets.
- She thanked the members of the Board of Finance for their work on the budgets.

VII. Orla McKiernan-Rafferty: Financial Report – None, on vacation.

VIII. Board of Trustees of the Tourtellotte Fund Update: Joe Lindley

- o Report out in July.
- o A few more windows left to install to complete Phase 1.
- o 40+ windows removed, recycled and the money put back into the Trust.
- o Started working on FY19 projects.

IX. New Business: None

X. Old Business: None

XI. Board of Finance Member's Comments:

- o Discussion on how to start looking into a possible Town Manager – the process starts with the BOS or a petition by requesting the BOS or for a Town Meeting.
- o Discussion on how to raise the \$50,000 Referendum, \$20,000 Town Meeting & 2% budget increase Referendum thresholds created in the 1990.

XII. Adjourn:

Susanne Witkowski moved and Larry Groh Jr. seconded the motion to adjourn.

The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Aaron McGarry adjourned the meeting at 8:24 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Minarik

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Recording Secretary