



**TOWN of THOMPSON**  
**Board of Finance - Minutes**  
**Budget Presentation/Public Hearing**  
**Thursday- March 2, 2023**  
**Tourtellotte Memorial High School**

1. The call to order by Chair Aaron McGarry was at 7:02 PM with all Board members present.  
In person: Aaron McGarry, Steve Herbert, Laurent Guillot, Dave Johnson, Rob Werge, Rob Mann.
2. Budget presentation/Public Hearing: Thompson Public Schools
  - A. Kathleen Herbert, Chair-Board of Education: Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, detailed specific budgetary needs of the school system and reiterated some of the duties of a Board of Education per CT General Statutes Section 10-220. She identified the proposed fiscal year 2023-2024 education budget as data-driven and aligned with the community's development of the Portrait of a Graduate. The proposed Education budget was distributed to attendees and is available to the public on-line.
  - B. Melinda Smith, Superintendent of Schools: Continued with the PowerPoint slides, reviewing the Portrait of a Graduate initiative recently adopted, noting the impacts of the financial situation in the Schools; cited unfunded State and Federal mandates, including some extras in particular, as ours is identified as an Opportunity District. Several budget drivers were identified and detailed; grant funds have assisted but are no longer available. Reference to the proposed budget line-item numbers were included.
3. Budget presentation/Public hearing:

Amy St Onge, First Selectman: utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, the First Selectman called for re-building the town's infrastructure and re-vitalizing the town, stopping the neglect, and strengthening town pride. \* Reviewed expected Revenue and Expenses, the Capital Improvement plan needs, and Debt Service: the total to be raised by taxes will be \$8.125 million. \*The proposed mill rate, with the General Government and Education budget proposals combined: 29.19 mills, a 4.17 increase, for a total budget of \$22,461,558.

  - i. General Budget: goals by the DPW of upgrading roads, intersections, and removal of a significant number of dead trees; fuel costs are expected to increase by 43%. Transfer station costs are increasing (tipping fees to haul trash to Landfills): recyclables values are down. A resident state trooper is proposed, beneficial throughout town and to the schools. Salary increases are significant (the CT SEEC has mandated increases for election workers): NDDH has increased fees by 50%. Several other items were identified. The increase requested is \$1,451,000.
  - ii. Capital Improvement Plan: many aspects of town-owned buildings, paved areas and structures need upgrades, including mandated Storm Water Run-off work (Federal MS-4 regulations) and planning for the 5-year Re-evaluation.

The combined budget request: \$22.5 Million/ 29.2 mills: a \$657 average increase per household.

## 4. Questions and Comments from the Audience:

- Kaylee Beck, Fabyan Road, prefers not a trooper for school security but rather an on-site Behavior Coordinator; noted that individual teachers classroom supplies are not addressed.
- Danielle Carlson, Rachel Drive, asks that the BOF send the budget as presented to the voters; noted that the \$21,000 education cost per pupil is for the full budget proposal, including Special Education costs
- Sally White, E Thompson Road, confirmed that copies of the First Selectman's presentation are available in the town hall and on the website. \* asked for clarification about School staff proposals: Library "Circulation" and "Math Intervention" person and "Pupil Services Director" (previously titled Director of Special Education).
- Jessica Bolte, Riverside Drive, requests as-presented budget funding, a move toward returning pride in the town, encouraging students to return after further education.

## 5. Adjourn:

**Motion R. Mann seconded by R. Werge to adjourn carried unanimously.**

Chair A. McGarry adjourned the meeting at 8:04 pm

**\*\*Chair A. McGarry reviewed the BOF Budget Workshop meeting schedule:**  
every Thursday at 7 PM for the remainder of March and through April 14,  
Town Hall Merrill Seney Room; citizens may attend in person or virtually.

Thompson Education has posted a YouTube video of the meeting on their website.

This link should take you there: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-UHH735mvM>

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.*