

**THOMPSON Board of Finance  
Meeting/Budget Workshop - Minutes  
Thursday, April 14, 2022  
Town Hall-Merrill Seney Room  
and via Zoom from remote locations**

1. The call to order by Chair Aaron McGarry was at 7:01 PM  
Roll call: All 6 BOF members were present. Via Zoom: Rob Mann, Robert Werge.  
In person at the Town Hall: Aaron McGarry, Steve Herbert, Dave Johnson, Laurent Guillot  
First Selectman Amy St Onge, Finance Director Bill Steglitz. Many members of Boards/Commissions/Fire Departments and members of the public. Recording Secretary Dotti Durst
2. Approval of minutes: none
3. Correspondence: all received after the agenda was posted and all related to the proposed Education Budget:
  - Danielle Carlson, 3 Rachel Dr North Grosvenordale
  - Kristine Durocher, (address not given) and another Kristine Durocher email provided the address: 5 Fernwood Ave
  - Heather Santos, 77 Hagstrom Rd, N. Gros.
  - Megan Zablocki, 320 Reardon Rd
4. Citizens' Comments on the Education budget, the Animal Control officer, and the concept of a town administrator: Zeynep Acun, 509 Riverside Dr; Linda Johnson, 9 Paula Lane; Cheryl Horniak, 166 Thompson Hill Rd; Suzanne Witkowski, speaking as a citizen, 123 Clarence Dr; Kathleen Herbert, 122 Wilsonville Rd; A. St Onge speaking as a citizen, 139 Riverside Dr
5. Budget Workshop: The Budget Workshop began at 7:18 PM.  
Printouts were provided to the BOF by the First Selectman: data previously requested by the BOF, updates to the proposed budget after the decisions made on April 12, and modifications needed to the proposed budget due to information that was received after the budget was prepared.

**Motion S. Herbert seconded by D. Johnson to increase Line # 727, Debt/Interest on Bonds (522460) by \$53,245. After discussion, S. Herbert withdrew his Motion and D. Johnson withdrew his Second.**

**Motion S. Herbert seconded by D. Johnson to change Line # 727, Debt/Interest on Bonds (522460) to \$110,399 carried, 6-0. R. Werge- yes D. Johnson-yes L. Guillot- yes S. Herbert- yes R. Mann- yes A. McGarry-yes**

**Motion D. Johnson seconded by S. Herbert to change Line # 728, Debt/Bond Retirement (522465) to \$1,125,000 carried, 6-0.**

**R. Werge- yes D. Johnson-yes L. Guillot- yes S. Herbert- yes R. Mann- yes A. McGarry-yes.**

**Motion D. Johnson seconded by S. Herbert to change Line #729, Debt/Note Retirement (522470) to \$148,568 carried, 6-0. R. Werge- yes D. Johnson- yes L. Guillot- yes S. Herbert- yes R. Mann- yes A. McGarry-yes**

**Motion D. Johnson seconded by S. Herbert to change Line # 693, Health and Life Insurance (511080) to \$563,669 carried, 6-0. R. Werge- yes D. Johnson-yes L. Guillot- yes S. Herbert- yes R. Mann- yes A. McGarry-yes**

**Motion S. Herbert seconded by D. Johnson to change Line # 694, Pension (511090) to \$339,123 carried, 6-0. R. Werge- yes D. Johnson-yes L. Guillot- yes S. Herbert- yes R. Mann- yes A. McGarry-yes.**

**Motion S. Herbert seconded by D. Johnson to change Line #706, Municipal Insurance (522060) to \$94,087 carried, 6-0. R. Werge- yes D. Johnson-yes L. Guillot- yes S. Herbert- yes R. Mann- yes A. McGarry-yes**

**Motion S. Herbert seconded by D. Johnson to change Line #697, Workman's Compensation (511120) to \$210,401 carried, 6-0. R. Werge- yes D. Johnson-yes L. Guillot- yes S. Herbert- no R. Mann- yes A. McGarry-yes**

**Motion D. Johnson seconded by L. Guillot to change Line # 716, Transfers/Capital Improvement Plan (544820), DPW 9-ton (highway use) Truck, from a Purchase to a Line # 729, Note Retirement (522470) five-year Lease-to-Own, with annual Lease payments of \$53,152.** Extended discussion took place comparing the Lease cost to purchase costs; interest on the lease is expected to be around \$32K/just over 4%. **Motion carried, 4-2.**

R. Werge- no D. Johnson-yes L. Guillot- yes S. Herbert- no R. Mann- yes A. McGarry-yes

**\*\* A. St Onge and Bill Steglitz, who entered data as the BOF proceeded, showed the budget on-screen as of the moment: After the changes made to the proposed budget so far during this meeting are factored in, the proposed mil rate drops from before tonight @ 26.01 mils to, at this point in time, 25.77. The current fiscal year rate is 24.95 mils; if the budget were to be voted in as it stands at this moment, that would represent an increase of .82 mils, compared to the BOS proposed 22-23 budget increase of 1.06 mils.**

**Motion D. Johnson seconded by L. Guillot to remove \$55,157 from Line #722, Transfers/Fire Marshal Vehicle (544820) carried, 5-1.**

R. Werge- no D. Johnson-yes L. Guillot- yes S. Herbert- yes R. Mann- yes A. McGarry-yes.

**Motion D. Johnson seconded by S. Herbert to adjust Line #336, DPW Director (510029) from \$77,904 to \$83,000 (a contractual obligation) carried, 6-0.**

R. Werge- yes D. Johnson-yes L. Guillot- yes S. Herbert- yes R. Mann- yes A. McGarry-yes

**Motion D. Johnson seconded by L. Guillot to adjust Line #95, Finance Director's salary (510054) reducing it to \$75,000 from \$84,958 (the salary is now split with the BOE) carried, 4-2.**

R. Werge- no D. Johnson-yes L. Guillot- yes S. Herbert- no R. Mann- yes A. McGarry-yes

**Motion D. Johnson seconded by L. Guillot to reduce Line #172, Election workers/Registrars (510070) from \$23,000 to \$20,000 (-\$3,000).** Discussion: the Referendum to consolidate voting places did not carry; thus, the costs in the current year and the year ahead will not be reduced. **Motion did not carry, 3-3.**

R. Werge- no D. Johnson-yes L. Guillot- yes S. Herbert- no R. Mann- yes A. McGarry-no

**Motion R. Werge seconded by S. Herbert, Line #308, Canine/Animal Control Officer (510028) to reduce the salary from \$44,000 to \$36,000 (-\$8,000).** Discussion: the BOF, after hearing all the Public Comments about Animal Control, agree that the position must be made full-time (32 hours a week) with benefits. **Motion carried, 4-2.**

R. Werge- yes D. Johnson- no L. Guillot- yes S. Herbert- yes R. Mann- no A. McGarry-yes

**Motion R. Werge seconded by S. Herbert, Line #275, Fire Departments/Grants (522500) add \$6,000 to the line, specifically to compensate the Thompson Hill Fire Engine Company for covering the costs of housing the K-B Ambulance staff and equipment at their station during this transition period.** Discussion: the BOS/BOF recognize the electricity and other costs associated with this generous outreach. **Motion carried, 6-0.**

R. Werge- yes D. Johnson- yes L. Guillot- yes S. Herbert- yes R. Mann- yes A. McGarry-yes

**Motion S. Herbert seconded by R. Werge, Line #3, Board of Education (50112) to approve the Education budget as proposed, at \$19,873,192.** Discussion: the BOF had significant public input in support of the proposed BOE budget; note was made that the schools have saved the town money in several ways, and now face inflationary pressure. **Motion did not carry, 2-4.**

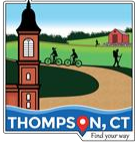
R. Werge- yes D. Johnson- no L. Guillot- no S. Herbert- yes R. Mann- no A. McGarry-no

**Motion A. McGarry seconded by S. Herbert to revise Line #277, Volunteers' Fire Insurance (510029) to \$99,982 from \$101,833 (-\$1,851); a savings developed after the proposed budget was presented. Motion carried, 6-0.**

R. Werge- yes D. Johnson-yes L. Guillot- yes S. Herbert- yes R. Mann- yes A. McGarry-yes

**Motion D. Johnson seconded by L. Guillot to reduce Line #672, Economic Development/Branding (52223) by \$15,000 and to add \$15,000 to Contingency (554880) did not carry, 4-2.**

R. Werge- no D. Johnson-yes L. Guillot- yes S. Herbert- no R. Mann- no A. McGarry- no



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**Motion A. McGarry seconded by R. Mann to reduce Line #672, Economic Development/Branding (522231) by \$7,500 and to add \$7,500 to Contingency, 554880, bringing Contingency to \$37,500, carried, 4-2.**

**R. Werge- no D. Johnson-yes L. Guillot- yes S. Herbert- no R. Mann- yes A. McGarry- yes**

**Motion D. Johnson seconded by L. Guillot to change Line #3, Board of Education (50112) proposed budget of \$19, 873,192 to \$19,623,192 (-\$250,000) did not carry, 4-2.**

**R. Werge- no D. Johnson-yes L. Guillot- yes S. Herbert- no R. Mann- no A. McGarry- no**

**\*\* A. St Onge and Bill Steglitz:** At this point, after the changes to the proposed budget made so far at this meeting are factored in, if the budget were to be voted on as it stands at this moment, this would represent an increase of .74 mils.

**BOF Member Budget Inquires:**

**\*The Buckley Hill Road bridge work (Transfers) was requested to be re-named to clarify that is for engineering costs.**

**\* Library Audio-visual (staff computers):** determine whether grant funds are available/ the schools can provide? Alison Boutaugh, Library Director, was present and will provide information.

**\* R. Werge requested that when Town Departments are working with prospective new-hires who will need greater salary than is budgeted, that the BOF be informed/consulted.**

**\* The BOF will be kept informed during the months ahead if the combined Finance Director (Town and Schools) needs part time support staff.**

**\* S. Herbert requests a review of the Animal Control Officer's responsibilities, not wanting to put that person in danger with a wild animal or any another dangerous situation.**

**\* Director of Development/Town Planner Tyra Penn was present; she clarified that the EDC budget request is structured differently this year, but still covers the improvements at 65 Main, the Train Wreck site and other Branding activities. She reviewed the Economic Development activities to promote the town; she advocates for funds to be readily available for instances when grant applications require matching funds or otherwise require having funds up front.**

**\* R. Werge: values hearing the thinking of the BOF members as a budget topic arises, or during discussion after a motion is made; sometimes another BOF member's point of view influences a decision on a vote.**

**6. Board of Finance Member Comments: none**

**7. Adjourn:**

**Motion S. Herbert seconded by D. Johnson to adjourn carried unanimously. The Chair adjourned at 9:53 PM.**

**The ZOOM recording of the meeting, audio and video, in its entirety:**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/8o000VNo7MdCIU2PrS9Z1FmRslPazPLegTr7LBKWISX-Gt7BL2WXttOWMBolQJ9J.pKUKuxhSvbQBU8p> Passcode: Nm%v2H2P**

**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.*