



TOWN of THOMPSON

BOARD OF FINANCE

**Minutes: Regular Meeting
Thursday, November 16, 2017
Thompson Library/Community Center
7:00 PM**

RECEIVED
TOWN OF THOMPSON, CT.
2017 NOV 29 P 2:57
Loree Walcott
TOWN CLERK p. 1 of 4

Vice Chairman Larry Groh Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

I. Roll call

- A. Members Present: Jim Bellavance, Larry Groh, Jr., Ray Faucher, Jr., Rhonda Rooney, and Susanne Witkowski.
- B. Members Absent: Aaron McGarry
- C. Staff Present:
Diane Minarik, Recording Secretary
Orla McKiernan-Rafferty, Finance Director
- D. Also Present: Members of the Public

Motion made to add agenda item 7A.

Ray Faucher, Jr moved and Rhonda Rooney seconded the motion to add to the agenda 7A. Action on 30-day Spending Authorization for the Town and School per Connecticut General Statute section 7-405. The motion carried unanimously.

II. Approve Minutes

- A. September 28, 2017
**Rhonda Rooney moved and Ray Faucher, Jr. seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2017 meeting as written.
The motion carried unanimously.**
- B. October 19, 2017
**Ray Faucher, Jr. moved and Susanne Witkowski seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2017 meeting as written with a correction on page 2, section V. A., K. Beausoleil stated the word "three" needs to be replaced by the word "there".
The motion carried unanimously.**
- C. October 26, 2017
**Susanne Witkowski moved and Rhonda Rooney seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2017 meeting as written.
The motion carried unanimously.**

III. Correspondence

- Email from Mary Ann Chinatti sent 12/6/17 regarding an Economic Development Workshop on 12/6/17 at Thompson Library Meeting Room 6:30-8:30pm.
- Email from Orla McKiernan-Rafferty sent 11/1/17 regarding how to obtain copies of proposed budget from the 10/26/17 meeting.
- Email from Orla McKiernan-Rafferty sent 11/6/17 regarding the Town's Moody's rate status which removes negative outlook on Thompson.
- Town elections on 11/17/17, the Board of Finance has a new member Robert Mann whose term starts on 11/21/17 per Town Statue 10-028 or CT General Statue 9-187A.

IV. Citizen's Comments

- Larry Groh Jr. thanked Ray Faucher, Jr. for his 12 years of service on the Board of Finance.
- Ray Faucher, Jr. said it was an honor and privilege to serve the tax payers in Thompson, it hasn't always been easy but 98% of it has been enjoyable.

V. Kenneth Beausoleil: Selectmen's Update

- K. Beausoleil mentioned the rescheduled Economic Development Workshop and they need 20 people from Thompson in order to hold meeting and encourages members of the BOF to attend. He needs a member from the BOF to attend the interview session for a new recording secretary that will be scheduled sometime between 11/27/17-12/1/17. S. Witkowski will attend if available. The Helen Learned Historical Building was transferred to the Historical Society as of tomorrow. There is a Town meeting on Monday 11/20/17 @ 7pm to move the Budget to Referendum that is scheduled for 11/30/17 Noon-8pm. They are moving along with the school clean-up and there will be costs associated with it, the Building Committee met last night, at some point there will be a meeting with the Attorneys and all parties involved to determine which direction it will go and will defer to John Rice, Chair of Building Committee.
- J. Rice confirmed this is in regards to the oil spill from a few years ago and stated the state is not totally satisfied with the clean-up efforts the town has done so far and thinks there is still oil in the cavity where the tank was. We are hoping the lawyers can lower the amount of testing required because the current testing estimate is \$100,000.00 - \$200,000.00 as of last night. The air quality testing done in the school is within the state limits. There is approximately \$12,000.00 left from the original amount budgeted for this spill and there is a tentative pre-trial hearing scheduled for 12/7/17.
- L. Groh Jr. asked for clarification on the remaining \$12,000.00. J. Rice stated the \$12,000.00 what's left for entire clean up not just legal fees and they only have 1 water filter left which costs about \$1,200.00 each so at some point they will need more money.
- K. Beausoleil said they are looking at what the towns long term exposure could be with the engineers and will have all information needed for pre-trial hearing.
- R. Rooney asked for a quick recap on oil spill events to date and asked if there is a lawsuit. K. Beausoleil said the town is in litigation to determine who is responsible for the spill and cost of clean-up, they are getting all information needed for the pre-trial hearing, which could result in many different ways, so they can make the proper decisions for the town.
- J. Bellavance asked if they will be coming to the BOF for more money since there is only \$12,500.00 left in this account.
- J. Rice said they voted last night to ask the BOS for additional \$45,000.00.
- S. Witkowski asked if the additional \$45,000.00 would be for legal fees. J. Rice said no it would be for the clean-up costs like testing and filters.
- R. Faucher, Jr. stated there could be a settlement offer on 12/7/17 so it is uncertain if more money will be needed.
- Bill Witkowski stated even if there is a settlement the town will still need more money for legal fees.
- L. Groh Jr. stated in addition to the \$45,000.00 potentially more money will be needed if a settlement is offered or not and asked when will they know how much more money will be needed. J. Rice said they will know by 12/7/17 for the pre-trial hearing.

- L. Groh Jr. believes they will need to go to a referendum regardless of amount.
- K. Beausoleil stated they are prepping for winter and let's get the budget passed so bills can get paid and things can be done before starting the process of next years budget.
- J. Bellavance asked how the fire study was progressing. K. Beausoleil said it is ongoing, in process of collecting additional data requested and hopes to have it finished by the beginning of the new year.
- S. Witkowski asked for an update on the Marianapolis sewer project. K. Beausoleil said it is in litigation and unknown of its status and looking at alternatives and USDA is also curious because of their time frames on funds set aside for this project. The construction has stopped at this time, DEEP is good with the town and USDA wants money spent properly.

VI. Bill Witkowski: Education Update

B. Witkowski, Chairman BOE stated enrollment is up to 1,014 students. They are anxious to get the budget passed. Emergency evacuation tests have been performed and it went very well, they found out where their strengths and weakness are and will be working to improve them and he would like to thank all emergency personnel who were involved. The bus mechanic resigned so they are outsourcing the work but want to thank Ken Beausoleil and his crew for helping out. He would like to thank Mr. Faucher, Jr. for all his work and education to the BOE.

VII. Orla McKiernan-Raftery: Financial Report

O. McKiernan-Raftery apologized for the PDF photo copies of the budget due to an IT problems and gave a verbal report on the Town finances through the end of October. She stated that the Town has received some ECS funding but still waiting on the rest of it and nothing from the State yet but they hope to be caught up in 45 days and it's only been 16 days. Local revenue for this year is \$323 K which is \$70K lower than prior year. They have been frugal with spending. Committed expenses for the year is \$2.293M. Cash decreased by \$440K for the month. Compared to last year, cash is lower by \$1.317M. She should be finishing up with the Auditor on Monday but she will be away for the December Meeting so there won't be a report. The Auditors will file the report when she gives the ok and will email the report to the Board in the first week of December. R. Faucher, Jr. asked and Orla confirmed the local revenue that is \$70K lower than last year is because of the oil tank reimbursement.

- A. **Ray Faucher, Jr. moved and Susanne Witkowski seconded, if made necessary due to the results of the November 30, 2017 budget referendum, motion made pursuant to Connecticut General Statute's section 7-405, the spending authorization through the month of December in the current fiscal year shall not exceed actual expenditures for the same period the previous fiscal year.**

Jim Bellavance- Yes

Ray Faucher, Jr.- Yes

Larry Groh, Jr.- Yes

Rhonda Rooney- Yes

Susanne Witkowski- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Board of Trustees of the Tourtellotte Fund Update

Joe stated as of tonight there is \$3,036,181.00 in the fund which includes the \$300K for the windows and \$100K for repairs that have been approved but not spent yet. The windows have been a frustrating project ongoing for a year and can't wait to get them in and done correctly. They will be closing out the budget in January and the Public Hearing will be in February.

IX. New Business:

A. Election of Officers:

1. Chairman

Susanne Witkowski moved and Ray Faucher, Jr. seconded the motion to nominate Aaron McGarry as Chairman for the Board of Finance.

With no more nominations made for Chairman -

Ray Faucher, Jr. moved and Susanne Witkowski seconded the motion to close the nominations for Chairman. The motion carried unanimously.

The motion carried unanimously for Aaron McGarry to be Chairman.

2. Vice-Chairman

Jim Bellavance moved and Rhonda Rooney seconded the motion to nominate Larry Groh, Jr. as Vice-Chairman for the Board of Finance.

With no more nominations made for Vice-Chairman

Ray Faucher, Jr. moved and Susanne Witkowski seconded the motion to close the nominations for Vice-Chairman. The motion carried unanimously.

The motion carried unanimously for Larry Groh, Jr. as Vice-Chairman.

X. Old Business: - None

XI. Board of Finance Members Comment:

R. Rooney thanked all who ran, congratulations to those elected and welcome to the team.

Rene Morin missed the Citizens Comments section but wanted to update the Board on the plan to get tax bills out. With no objections R. Morin stated if the budget passes on 11/30/17 and the mill rate is set they will start working on Monday 12/3/17 to get the all the tax bills out by 12/15/17 starting with the motor vehicle tax bills. All bills will be due 1/1/18 with interest delinquent due date of 2/2/18 like normal but they want to start accepting payments immediately in mid-December. They have had numerous inquiries for tax bills so people can pay before leaving town and/or to be able to claim on taxes for the year.

R. Rooney asked about those payments from Escrow. R. Morin said they have already heard from the 3 major companies looking for the tax bills. He stated if referendum doesn't pass and we go for a 5th referendum the tax bills will absolutely not get out until after January 1st which will not be acceptable. R. Rooney asked if budget doesn't pass and the Selectman set the Mill Rate will that be the final rate and Rene said yes. There was a discussion on the other ways to set a mill rate and to get a budget passed. The BOF approves sending out tax bills early.

XII. Adjourn

Susanne Witkowski moved and Ray Faucher, Jr. seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chairman Larry Groh Jr. adjourned the meeting at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted



Diane Minarik
Recording Secretary