



THOMPSON Board of Finance
Regular Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, June 16, 2022
Town Hall-Merrill Seney Room
and via Zoom from remote locations

1. The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Rob Werge at 7:02 PM with five BOF members present: Robert Werge (Vice Chair) Steve Herbert, Rob Mann, Dave Johnson, Laurent Guillot. Aaron McGarry, Chair, was away. First Selectman Amy St Onge, Bill Steglitz (Finance Director), Melinda Smith (Superintendent of Schools), Many members of Boards and Commissions and of the public. Dotti Durst (Recording Secretary)
2. Approval of minutes:
Motion L. Guillot seconded by S. Herbert to approve the May 19, 2022 BOF Regular Meeting minutes carried unanimously, with 2 notes: Agenda #5 there was not a fire, just an inspection and Agenda # 7 "Property tax income is up; 100.1% of the prior year budget"
3. Correspondence:
 - a. May 26, 2022 through the website: Geoffrey Bolte asked about 2022-2023 Budget access
 - b. Invitation Eighth Grade Moving Up event
 - c. Tax collector: Sale of Property for Taxes (May 26, 2022) Report
 - d. Tax Collector: 11 Month tax collections report
4. Citizens' comments: none
5. Selectman's Update-First Selectman Amy St Onge: *The long-awaited sidewalk project is underway. State approvals are in place. Additionally, the CT DOT will begin their project of resurfacing Rt 200 to E. Thompson Road. The Town DPW and the State crews have worked collaboratively to sequence their work appropriately. About 18 months will be needed for completion. * A major initiative of the Recreation Department is the Concerts in the Park series, running all summer, and all set to begin June 25. *Hazardous Household Waste collection is organized and will be at the DPW facility on Buckley Hill Road (not at the Transfer Station). S. Herbert asked the status of applications for Director/DPW. The search is in progress, and additionally, Maintainers are needed. The HR Director was asked to increase the possible salary for the Director, up to \$15,000 more, based on the experience of the individual, in order to attract ideal candidates.
6. School District Update-Superintendent of Schools Melinda Smith: * The school year concluded with 919 students. *Special events included the Graduation Ceremony, Moving Up (to high school) and Scholarship awards, which brought over \$52,000 to graduating seniors for their further education. Thanks to BOF, BOS and of course BOE members for participating/attending. *Typically, about 26 leave Thompson after Middle School for other opportunities, but this year, only 5 are going to the Vocational Agriculture program, and 5 to Ellis Technical School. Part of the change is due to students being able to obtain college credits during their high school years here, and the addition of some appealing areas of study. * Security matters are topmost; there are 78 exterior doors in the system, which are being re-examined and addressed on a priority basis; security plans are being reviewed. * The replacement boilers are ordered. Possible reimbursement opportunities are being investigated. * BOE Chair Kathleen Herbert conducted the Service Recognition and Alumni Awards, recognizing the contributions of 5 Thompson individuals and School District staff.
BOF member questions:
 - * a request was made to review possible funding for Boiler replacement.
 - * is the Special Education out-of-district count known for next school year? The current year had 24 out-of-district students; as of June 1, the confirmed count is 22.
 - * budget reductions impacts? The BOE is addressing the reduction due to the referendum.

7. Financial Report- Finance Director Bill Steglitz: *Tax collections continue to be ahead of budget and PY due to higher taxes due in FY22 and an improved collections rate. * Local Revenues are ahead of last year due to higher conveyance taxes and property/equipment sales. * Total expenses (excluding debt refinancing) are \$7.7M, or approximately \$447K below the full-year budget * Cash has decreased by \$1.6M from last month and \$1.6M (coincidentally) compared to last May.
* Revenue increased when \$7.2M was received due to loan refinancing. * The Town Council line is anticipated to exceed budget due to Planning and Zoning needs, debt refinancing and employee-related matters. * A budget increase for veterinary expenses as well as the Animal Control Officer will be off-set by the reduction of the fee to NECCOG. * The financing of Canine operations were reviewed, including the sources of funds that go into the "Dog Fund" (donations, kennel fees, adoption fees, and fundraising). There are very specific uses these funds may be directed toward; a major need is veterinary services, as well as other direct animal care and kennel repair. For example, a new water tank for the facility was installed this year from the Dog Fund. Use of the funds for staff or utilities is not permitted. This off-budget Fund, is overseen by the Finance Department.
* A new contract is in place for auditors King, King and Associates, increased by \$1,000.
* Proposed budget transfers will come to the BOF in July.
8. Tourtellotte Fund update – Board of Trustees: no report presented
9. New Business:
Tax Collector Rene Morin noted that the sale of tax-delinquent properties netted \$133K to the town. *The 2020-2021 Annual Report has been distributed. *He presented the Tax Suspense List. The term "Suspense List" refers to taxes not yet collected, and therefore removed from Accounts Receivable. However, the department is aggressive in following up on delinquent payments, with over \$86K collected so far this year from the previous years' tax rolls. As June moves to a close, more payments will come in; looking at the big picture, very little actually goes uncollected. Mr. Morin requested permission of the BOF to suspend \$182,390.82.
Motion S. Herbert seconded by R. Mann to authorize the Tax Collector to Suspend taxes in the amount of \$182,390.82 carried unanimously, 5-0.
10. Old Business: none
11. Board of Finance Member Comments: none
12. Adjourn:
Motion S. Herbert seconded by D. Johnson to adjourn carried unanimously.
Vice Chair R. Werge adjourned the meeting at 7:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Dorothy Durst, Recording Secretary *Dorothy Durst*

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

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/lqfEvwpuhID-](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/lqfEvwpuhID-IMbQBe_8fJRqPJF2fEJ7HcxXoDskkah48Ee58x0kk7r_fCg8C2.LoBST3nx93HwrxJU)

[IMbQBe_8fJRqPJF2fEJ7HcxXoDskkah48Ee58x0kk7r_fCg8C2.LoBST3nx93HwrxJU](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/lqfEvwpuhID-IMbQBe_8fJRqPJF2fEJ7HcxXoDskkah48Ee58x0kk7r_fCg8C2.LoBST3nx93HwrxJU) Passcode: KRZ4G#i?

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.