



**THOMPSON Board of Finance**  
**Regular Meeting - Minutes**  
**Thursday, September 16, 2021**  
**Town Hall and via Zoom from remote locations**

1. The call to order by Chair Aaron McGarry was at 7:03 PM, with all 6 Members present  
Roll call: Aaron McGarry (Chair), Rob Mann, Rhonda Rooney, Robert Werge, Jim Bellavance, Steve Herbert (remotely). Others- First Selectman Amy St Onge, Selectman Susanne Witkowski. Melinda Smith (Superintendent of Schools), Many Board/Commission members, Fire Department leaders/members, and members of the public. WINY. Recording Secretary Dotti Durst
2. Approval of minutes:  
**Motion S. Herbert seconded R. Werge by to approve the 07-15-2021 BOF meeting minutes, with the request that a detail be re-checked, carried 5-0 with R. Mann abstaining.**
3. Correspondence:
  - a). Petition requesting funding for Community Fire Station
  - b). Notification from FOIA: hybrid and/or electronic meetings allowed through April 30, 2022
  - c). after the agenda was posted: Engineers Tighe and Bond report re: nature of the work at Community Fire
4. Citizens' comments: S. Witkowski, Clarence Dr: \*praised the EMS staff for doing an amazing job during a less-than-ideal situation. \* She, for many reasons, does not favor the \$130K funding request by Community Fire, suggesting that it may be time to consider other options. She would support changes to the charter that could result in surrender of an ambulance to the town rather than the cash being distributed to the members if the ambulances were sold.
5. Selectman's Update-First Selectman Amy St Onge: \* in August, the BOS voted for usage for the ARPA funds, setting \$500K aside for contingency. She detailed the other uses. \* Using the current year budget allocation, preliminary work at the DPW site has begun. CT Water is very pleased to see this being addressed. \* The <20' Bridge inspections are complete with Buckley Hill preliminary design ready to begin. \* On Thursday and Friday, EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians) sent in resignations from Community Ambulance, causing the town to rely upon Mutual Aid all weekend. Community Chief John Sharpe is applying for a R1 License, which permits First Responder service. Chief Grauer (Thompson Hill) made a major accommodation to create space for an ambulance, moving valuable equipment out and into storage. It is imperative that the town has ambulance service available; she notes that she believes the town owns the ambulances. Until the matter is resolved, KB Ambulance will provide 24/7 service at \$1,440 per day or \$42K per month. Putnam Ambulance will consider a regional approach. This matter will be on the agenda for the 09-21-2021 BOS meeting. \* The audit has been changed to mid-August, as the Finance Director is out of the country on a family emergency. \* The BOS is considering the purchase of a parcel of land in the center of town. \* The Centerville Bank has been proactive regarding the N. Grosvenordale Pond; three solutions have been posed with a final determination expected soon.

Questions/comments from BOF members:

- J. Bellavance- Quaddick Rd repaving is excellent but heavy truck traffic will soon degrade it  
A. McGarry- to deter, suggested weight limit signage on the road, permitted because of the bridge  
R. Werge- noted that ARPA funds required tough decisions by the BOS, thanking them. How many Community ambulances are there? A. St Onge: 3. One is parked at the Speedway, and 2 nearby. He clarified that the First Selectman was informed that the Community Fire petition was being withdrawn, and only verbally; he requested it in writing and consultation with the town attorney.  
R. Rooney- offered a concise review of the ambulance situation. She confirmed the current budget provides for monthly funding to Community Ambulance, and that it is paid through September (the bulk of their funding comes from compensation from users). They are holding the ambulances.  
R. Mann- commends ARPA funds going to Bull Hill/ the track (required for school accreditation)  
J. Bellavance- the public uses the track, as do the students. The salt shed is important as well.  
S. Herbert- asked for clarification by what date all of the ARPA funds must be assigned

