

**THOMPSON Board of Finance  
Regular Meeting - MINUTES  
Thursday, December 16, 2021  
Town Hall- Merrill Seney Conference Room  
and via Zoom from remote locations**

1. The call to order by Chair A. McGarry was at 7:01 PM.  
Roll call: Aaron McGarry, Robert Werge, Steve Herbert, Rob Mann, Dave Johnson.  
Absent: Laurent Guillot. Others- First Selectman Amy St Onge, Orla McKiernan-Rafferty (Finance Director). Melinda Smith (Superintendent of Schools), Board/Commission members. Members of the public. Recording Secretary Dotti Durst
2. Approval of minutes:
  - a. **Motion R. Werge seconded by D. Johnson to approve the November 18, 2021 Regular Monthly meeting minutes carried unanimously, with a correction in #7, School District Update: *The Business Office is transitioning to ADP ADP.***
  - b. **Motion S. Herbert seconded by R. Mann to approve the December 02, 2021 Special Meeting minutes carried unanimously.**
3. Correspondence:
  - a. Tax collector's report, through November, 2021
  - b. Finance Director's memo: Proposed Refinancing of Schools Bond  
\*after the agenda was posted: emailed Final report on Refinancing of School Bonds and Schools Roofs project from Finance Director
4. Citizens' comments:
  - S. Herbert pointed out that the meeting room name should be added to each agenda, to clarify for the public.
  - D. Johnson requested the final report from the Finance Director re: school bonding
5. Selectman's Update-First Selectman Amy St Onge: A). OEMS authorized that a town-wide R-1 service response pattern be established by the 4 stations with that stratus; they obliged readily. B). The BOS voted last night to pursue combination with the Putnam EMS Ambulance Service; the first steps will take 45 days, with full integration taking about 6 months. Meanwhile, this will add a third ambulance to their service; an attempt will be made to contractually utilize their services while the final paperwork and organizational details are worked out (thus replacing the current relationship with K-B Ambulance). C). Director of Development Tyra Penn has submitted several grants, totaling around \$4 million. \*The Airline Trail (\$4800K) for improving the parking area for the new Train Wreck Park (an historic site). \*A \$2 million Brownfield grant application for 929 Riverside Drive mill site remediation. \*And a CT Community Challenge Grant which allows leverage of ARPA funds up to \$1 million, to address several projects such as 65 Main, sidewalk renovations and work at the WPCA. \*In addition, TEEG will work collaboratively to address housing assistance needs. D). The highway garage has successfully sent unneeded equipment to auction, resulting in a gain of about \$23K, with the required fees not yet deducted. The DPW will utilize the funds, as previous agreed upon, to acquire new containers for the Transfer Station.

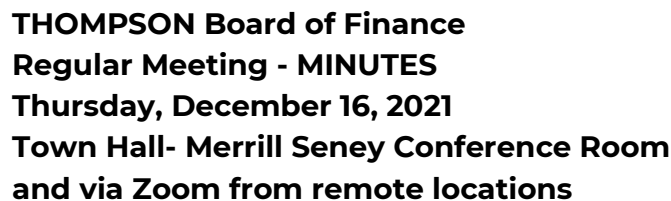
BOF member comments:

- R. Werge: having served as a participant in the EMS discussions, suggested that the BOF have an awareness of the possible impact on next year's budget. The consultant presented numbers such that prevents unexpected downside surprises.
- S. Herbert commented that Regionalization will probably be in our future.
- A. McGarry asked the Finance Director if the current budget has any costs for EMS/ambulance service other than the \$75K line item. He anticipates the budget impact might be in the \$90-100K range, if the \$75 was all that was budgeted for Ambulance/EMS services. The Finance Director will examine other areas such as insurance or salary/benefit aspects of the current budget.
- D. Johnson requested an update from the Assessor regarding the Grand List, so as to gauge impacts on tax income.

6. School District Update-Superintendent of Schools Melinda Smith: enrollment is 930, down by 6 students compared to last month. A Tourtellotte Memorial High School staff member is involved in a 3-year TEACH-ROCK project, intended to integrate music into the curriculum. A national benefit was held, and pleasant surprise: a staff person appeared in the video! Positive Covid tests for 60 students will result in limited spectators for winter sports. Two students went to the Gladys Green Senior Housing and created a holiday surprise for the residents. A school competition is underway for a \$20,000 award to implement a high school improvement project; students will vote. Two concepts proposed are to expand Aquaponics and Career/Job preparedness. And fun was had by all who participated in the Kindergarten gingerbread experience, conducted by Superintendent M. Smith! Following the recommendation of the Building Committee, the BOE voted to move forward with a Letter of Intent with the Greenbank Solar Project to install a ground-level solar system, which is anticipated to save the taxpayers significantly over the 20-year contract period, with no outlay from the town. AND: the BOE wishes you all a "Happy Holidays."

BOF member comments:

- A. McGarry asked the location of the proposed solar field. M. Smith will forward a PowerPoint with all the details including a sketch showing the proposed location.
  - D. Johnson questioned the status of upgrading the track. The test borings were completed, and a plan is developed. One area seems to have a drainage issue.
7. Financial Report- Finance Director Orla McKiernan-Raftery: Reviewing the 5-month report, through November: Property taxes total \$10.706M, with \$778K more collected than at this time last year. Interest and Liens collections are also higher than the prior year by \$57K. Local revenue is higher by \$52K but she reminded the BOF that \$30K was from the sale of 1395 Riverside Dr. It was noted that under Expenditures that about \$800K was used for the schools roof project. Debt retirement numbers will be available at the next meeting.
    - Two emails were sent today to bring the BOF up to date on 2 topics: the refinanced Schools Bond and the Schools Roof Project.
    - There was detailed discussion of the status of the sewer system for Marianapolis.
 A. McGarry confirmed that the School is still paying significant amounts for a system that was never installed. He inquired about approaching the USDA or DEEP with a proposal that Thompson route the sewer system to the campus and that the agencies forgive or



- Assets owned by Thompson have been reviewed by departments and a spreadsheet compiled, including items which are anticipated to be disposed of.
- Discussion of how funds realized from the disposal of equipment are to be handled: the BOF consensus was that unless previously approved for a specific use, any funds so realized will come before the BOF for review and for consideration of any possible specific use.

10. Adjourn:  
**Motion S. Herbert seconded by R. Mann to adjourn carried unanimously.** Chair A. McGarry adjourned the meeting at 8:07 PM, wishing all a Merry Christmas.

To access ZOOM to see and hear this meeting, click on this link or copy/paste it to your Search bar:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/hJ59Lnr\\_UTe8U\\_XzkLUZklFocs9ePSLGkd2wSGborQbMhIXAMVJUd5T\\_pUzZGX6N.EedKBYlmsf3tcMlg](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/hJ59Lnr_UTe8U_XzkLUZklFocs9ePSLGkd2wSGborQbMhIXAMVJUd5T_pUzZGX6N.EedKBYlmsf3tcMlg)  
 Passcode: T.J=c!6\*

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.*