



**THOMPSON Board of Finance  
Regular Meeting - Minutes  
Thursday, June 17, 2021  
via Zoom from remote locations**

1. The call to order by Chair Aaron McGarry was at 7:01 Pm with 5 Members present.  
Roll call: Aaron McGarry (Chair), Rob Mann, Rhonda Rooney, Robert Werge, Steve Herbert.  
Jim Bellavance is away. Others- First Selectman Amy St Onge, Selectman Susanne Witkowski.  
Orla McKiernan-Raftery (Finance Director). Melinda Smith (Superintendent of Schools), Bob Gentes (Schools Business Manager), Board/Commission members. Recording Secretary Dotti Durst
2. Approve minutes:  
**Motion S. Herbert seconded by R. Rooney to approve the May 20, 2021 Regular meeting minutes carried unanimously.**  
**Motion S. Herbert seconded by R. Mann to add approval of the May 17, 2021 Special meeting minutes to the Agenda carried unanimously.**  
**Motion R. Werge seconded by S. Herbert to approve the May 17, 2021 Special meeting minutes carried unanimously.**
3. Correspondence: Fire Advisory Committee meeting agenda
4. Citizens' comments: none
5. Selectman's Update-First Selectman Amy St Onge: \*Quaddick Road repaving is underway, with hopes it is the first of many. \*The partnership between the Schools IT Department and the Town is going very well. The Insurance Agent predicts about a 6% increase due to the prevalence of cyber-crime. The system in the schools was determined to be excellent, with the system in the Town considered vulnerable. The IT Department had already begun the conversion to their system when the Agent made this comment. The CARES Act funds can be used for much of the upgrade to the web system, phone system, hybrid-enabling technology to allow simultaneous in-person meetings with virtual participation, and cyber-security. (CARES Act funds have already been utilized for Library and ductwork cleaning in preparation for resumption of public use of the spaces). With the unification of services, the savings to the town will be significant. \* The American Rescue Plan grant funds (\$2.1 mil) have very specific uses; the Town Planner, Finance Director and First Selectman have been doing research. They call upon the BOF to schedule a Joint Meeting to review the Grant parameters and possible uses, which can move Thompson ahead. Members of the BOF asked several specific, follow-up questions. In addition, R. Werge asked the status of the new HR Shared staff person. The job description was created collaboratively and has been posted
6. School District Update-Superintendent of Schools Melinda Smith: the school year ended with 942 students enrolled; this total does not include officially "Home-schooled" students. Thanks were offered to A. St Onge for IT collaboration. Details of graduations were provided. The American Rescue Plan requirements are under review. The Roof project has begun. The positions of the principals were discussed. The schools only lost 27 in-person days due to Covid-19, for which she credited the outstanding staff in every department as well as families who were supportive. The BOF members offered praise for an outstanding response to a challenging situation.

7. Financial Report through May- Finance Director Orla McKiernan-Rafty: Property taxes of \$17,373 mil have come in, with most categories higher than last year. Local revenue is higher (fees and permits). The auditors expect to begin preliminary work in July as this fiscal year closes.
8. Tourtellotte Fund update – M. Smith: the Windows project is already underway; atrium windows have been taken out for restoration and new windows have arrived for summer installation.
9. New Business:
  - Tax Suspension Report by Tax Collector Rene Morin: the document notes that \$167,852.90 was recovered this fiscal year from last year's Suspense List (the tax bills went out late last year).
  - Motion A. McGarry seconded by R. Werge to accept the June 7, 2021 Tax Suspense Report issued by R. Morin, requesting that up to \$134,104.90 be suspended, carried unanimously, 5-0**
  - A. McGarry-yes R. Werge-yes R. Mann-yes S. Herbert-yes R. Rooney-yes.**
10. Board of Finance Member Comments: A. McGarry polled the meeting attendees to determine if the business pending before the BOF will permit skipping a summer Regular meeting, as has been done in the past. A. St Onge advocated that the July BOF Regular meeting is a suitable time for a BOS/BOF joint discussion of possible ways to utilize the American Rescue Plan funds, with which the BOF concurred. The July meeting will allow assessment of how the fiscal year concluded. The BOF consensus: meet in July and cancel the August meeting. Various other topics were reviewed, including regarding the Fire Department consolidation plan, in hopes that the proposed new structure will be streamlined and not made more complex. A. McGarry believes the plan will go to a town meeting for a decision. Thanks were expressed that the budget passed with one referendum.
11. Adjourn:
  - Motion R. Werge seconded by R. Rooney to adjourn at 8:10 PM. carried unanimously.**

**To see this meeting, click on this link or copy/paste it to your search bar**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Csng2FtycGoeR6BwHAn01MOPr2tSnDQoLC6h\\_LvGQU5FvAvd-IUH9adlcNC\\_QWHO.MFZVS7eMGzjGf97I](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Csng2FtycGoeR6BwHAn01MOPr2tSnDQoLC6h_LvGQU5FvAvd-IUH9adlcNC_QWHO.MFZVS7eMGzjGf97I) Passcode: 3HGd\$7r7H

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.*