



**THOMPSON Board of Finance  
Regular Meeting - MINUTES  
Thursday, July 15, 2021  
via Zoom from remote locations**

1. The call to order by Chair A. McGarry was at 7:01 PM.  
Roll call: Aaron McGarry (Chair), Rhonda Rooney, Robert Werge, Steve Herbert.  
Absent: Jim Bellavance, Rob Mann. Others- First Selectman Amy St Onge, Selectmen Susanne Witkowski and Ken Beausoleil. Orla McKiernan-Raftery (Finance Director) delayed arrival. Melinda Smith (Superintendent of Schools), Tyra Penn-Gesek (Town Planner) via phone. Board/Commission members. Members of the public. Recording Secretary Dotti Durst
2. Approval of minutes:  
**Motion S. Herbert seconded by R. Werge to approve the June 17, 2021 meeting minutes carried unanimously.**
3. Correspondence:
  - CCM: 06-14-2021 summary of Thompson anticipated FY 22 State Grant funds
  - American Rescue Plan documents: Superintendent of Schools M. Smith sent on 05-19
  - Library Board of Directors memo 06-28: request for an increase in pay for custodian
  - Summary of American Rescue Plan by Planner Tyra Penn-Gesek
4. Citizens' comments: BOS June 17 Minutes- Josh Kusek (Community Ambulance Administrator) clarified some text regarding Fire/Ambulance services, following condemnation of the building that houses them.
5. Selectman's Update-First Selectman Amy St Onge: Construction/road work/bridge repair at several locations is underway; some will necessitate road closures, which will be posted on the website. \* The <20' bridge inspections are done, and the Langer Pond survey as well, with the survey and map forthcoming. \* Centerville Bank has been proactive in overseeing the situation at the N. Grosvenordale pond, which they own; although the rain has impeded progress, they have been able to achieve partial completion. \* Summer concerts in Riverside Park resume on July 24 and 25, with family entertainment.
6. School District Update-Superintendent of Schools Melinda Smith: Thanks to R. Werge for participating in the Human Resources process and helping with the manufacturing program. \*Final school numbers will be available in August. \*New school staff are being hired per the budget. \* Grant funds for upgrades include the phone system and roof/window projects. The Security Gate has a delay due to supply shortage. \* The American Rescue Plan Education proposal (separate from the Town plan) specifies 90% to mitigate learning loss and 10% to address HVAC issues, per Covid standards; approval is pending.
7. Financial Report- the arrival of the Finance Director was delayed. The Board moved ahead on the agenda.
8. Tourtellotte Fund update – Board of Trustees: R. Werge: the window replacement project is underway; he encourages the public to drive past to observe the transformation

**\*\*Upon the arrival of the Finance Director:**

**Motion A. McGarry seconded by S. Herbert to return from Item #9b to Item #7 on the Agenda carried unanimously.** O. McKiernan-Raftery presented the 12-month statement. The Auditors have begun some preliminary work so as to smooth out the process. \*About \$62K in Motor Vehicle supplement taxes are delayed. A July sale of a property resulted in income of \$61K. \*Local revenue (fees/permits and others), balanced against declines in Interest, Fuel Reimbursement and Pre-school Tuition leaves the total \$316K higher than the

previous year. \* Due to the school roof project, cash on hand decreased, although cash is higher by \$4.78M compared to last year. A Financial Report in August with end-of-year numbers, will be sent out.

Member questions and comments: R. Werge inquired about the auditor's note last year about disposal of funds and equipment, inquiring whether this is being addressed in preparation for this year's audit, clarifying his question and reasons in detail. He noted there are significant amounts in these various budget lines and governance and controls should be handled. O. McKiernan-Rahtery: yes, each department should manage their budget including in this regard; this will be part of the town's process for year's end.

9. New Business:

a. Discussion: BOF meeting format for remainder of 2021 – in person, remote, or hybrid: Since March, 2020, BOF meetings have been exclusively from remote locations. At this time, the town hall Merrill Seney Room has the technology to conduct hybrid meetings. The consensus was that Members will attend meetings in person to the highest degree possible. If need be, a member can utilize remote participation, with Zoom available for members of the public and all other parties; this offers the greatest flexibility for all.

M. Smith noted the BOE has voted to conduct their meetings in this exact format.

**Motion A. McGarry seconded by S. Herbert to hold the remaining BOF Regular Monthly and Special meetings by way of the hybrid format, from this point forward through the rest of the year, utilizing both in-person at the town hall as well as remote technology (Zoom), carried unanimously.**

b. Discussion with BOS: American Rescue Plan Act funds – guidelines and potential uses: All Selectmen are present as guests of the BOF this discussion. Town Planner T. Penn-Gesek prepared a document itemizing the very specific uses for these federal funds. A. St Onge reviewed some of them; A. McGarry noted this work to be helpful, with priorities to be established by the BOS/BOF after receiving public input. A. St Onge encouraged all parties involved with decision-making to proceed quickly, as any capital projects will be in competition with other towns for contractors and currently limited construction supplies. Detailed discussion ensued, including regarding the Scoresheets, which give weight to some possible projects, and the "Community Engagement" process. There may be other possible projects; but must fit the narrow federal guidelines. A. St Onge proposed prioritizing/narrowing down possible projects to 3 or 4 in preparation for a public forum. The Board discussed if to create a subgroup to continue to explore other possible projects, then decided not to.

\*Josh Kusek: Community Ambulance, governed by Statute, covers 100% of the town and does seem to qualify.

\*Resident Justin Yong offered to participate in the Community Engagement process.

\*A. McGarry requested that the Planner send the ARPA Funds complete document to the BOF.

\*R. Rooney asked the criteria for the final selections (Savings? # of People or % of town served? Other?)

\*S. Herbert asked the Planner to establish a timeline for selecting projects and completion of paperwork.

\*S. Witkowski asked the process for other possible uses to be brought forward.

\*A. McGarry asked for clarification of the decision-making sequence. A. St Onge: after Community Engagement, the BOF and BOS together will identify the projects that should move ahead; BOS will make the confirming vote. The BOS will schedule their meetings accordingly and invite the BOF to their August meeting to review and prioritize the projects.

10. Board of Finance Member Comments: Reminder #1: There will be no August BOF meeting.

Reminder #2: Care must be taken that the BOF Agenda is posted on the website.

11. Adjourn: **Motion R. Rooney seconded S. Herbert by to adjourn at 9:01 PM. carried unanimously.**

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<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/859NvqJONkHKO7j-g18ASndzpEzkNvYjzA0590IE8ABJlwdn1ivlq8SJ3kGcxCu.16T5Lvi85xZ8QFgy> Passcode: d#RJG!1@

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.