



**TOWN OF THOMPSON**  
**Board of Finance**  
**REGULAR MEETING- minutes**  
**Thursday, March 18, 2021**  
**Via ZOOM Online Meeting Portal**

1. The call to order by Chair Aaron McGarry was at 7:01 PM; all members are present  
Roll call: Members-Aaron McGarry (Chair), Rob Mann, Rhonda Rooney, Robert Werge, Steve Herbert, Jim Bellavance. The Chair noted that all members are present.  
Others- Orla McKiernan-Rafertry (Finance Director), First Selectman Amy St Onge, Melinda Smith (Superintendent of Schools), Board and Commission members, Schools and Town Officials and Department heads, Members of the public, Recording Secretary Dotti Durst
2. Approve minutes:
  - a. **Motion S. Herbert seconded R. Rooney by to approve the February 18, 2021 Regular meeting minutes carried unanimously (6-0), with a modification.**  
Item # 7: ...~~R. Werge and the Finance Director~~ will research...  
Board Comments: R. Werge ~~will research then electronically distribute detailed Transfer Station data from last year.~~ He asked ~~the Finance Director to gather information...~~ with the intent that the BOF can then determine if the fee schedule is appropriate.
  - b. **Motion S. Herbert seconded J. Bellavance by to approve the March 3, 2021 Walk-Through/ DPW minutes carried unanimously (6-0).** Note: in the absence of a quorum, this was not an official meeting.
  - c. **Motion R. Werge seconded by S. Herbert to approve the March 4, 2021 Budget Presentations meeting minutes carried unanimously (6-0).**
  - d. **Motion R. Rooney seconded by J. Bellavance to approve the March 11, 2021 Budget Workshop minutes carried unanimously (6-0).**
3. Correspondence:
  - \* March 2, 2021 letter: Superintendent of Schools/BOE Budget proposal
  - \* Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Audit Report
  - \* BOE proposed Budget, FY 20-21
  - \* Combined Budget proposal from BOS
  - \* March 24, 2021 memo: a Proposed Budget Public Comment/Question email address has been established ([budget@thompsonct.org](mailto:budget@thompsonct.org))
  - \* March 12, 2021 Town Clerk memo: budget request -funds to scan Vital records/Minutes \* Email A. St Onge forwarded from R. Benoit: description of DPW office support position
  - \*\* After the Agenda was posted: Emailed memo 03/18 from Selectman Ken Beausoleil outlining his views on several line items in the proposed budget.

4. 2019-2020 Audit Report Presentation/ King, King & Associates:  
Christopher King reviewed the 2019-2020 Audit utilizing PowerPoint, highlighting key points. He noted that the audit was filed on time. The General Fund Balance was at 7.1% but, including the Capital Reserve Fund Balance, the town is in compliance at 12.7%. The pension fund is almost 100% funded, not frequently seen in Connecticut. Marshal Dean: The State and Federal separate audit reports include any significant issues that were identified; the Finance Director and Schools Business Manager have worked together to review these and modify some processes.
5. Citizens' comments: none
6. Selectman's Update-First Selectman Amy St Onge:  
\*Results from the DPW Salt Study: over the past 6-7 years, there is no evidence of an increase in salt content within the CTWater service area; Attorney Ken Slater has reviewed the findings. Wayne Bugden will collect further data and continue to work with the town. \* At a tour of the anaerobic digester (waste to energy) facility at Fort Hill Farm, the of beginning operations was observed. \* Fire Marshal Jamie Seney and she toured the Mason House, being restored to become a B&B. \* Thank you! On March 2, after school personnel had received the Covid vaccine, Superintendent M. Smith invited town hall staff to come to the school to receive the remaining vaccine shots. \* Several Springtime events and activities are planned, including a Maker's Fair and an Easter Bunny parade to individual homes; see the town website.  
Question J. Bellavance- if an off-site Salt Storage facility will need to be considered, are locations identified? A. St Onge- the possibility was raised by Wayne Budgen early on, in case a problem should be found, but there is none; best practices have been followed. Question S. Herbert- the report mentioned considering alternative/modifications  
Question R. Mann-asked about other chemicals than salt. R. Benoit: as a River Town, not all alternatives are permitted here, but the subject will be examined.
7. School District Update-Superintendent of Schools Melinda Smith: \*The school population total is down by 1 at 946, with 3 new registrations. \*The Aquaponics Farm is up and running. \* The Faculty sponsored a St Patrick's Day meal for the town's seniors. \* The Putnam Rotary Club donated \$845 for a surprise Thank You for teachers for their handling of the recent challenges. \* Interviews for a Middle School principal will begin. \*Pre-school and kindergarten registration outreach begins through the media: WINY, generously offered to match the number of purchased promotional spots. \* The Recreation Director is working on a grant program webinar for a joint Schools/Rec after-school program.
8. Financial Report- Finance Director Orla McKiernan-Rafferty: \* the audit was filed on time; she sends thanks to King, King and Associates, auditors. The budget allowed for \$25K but the final amount was a little higher. The next cycle will begin in May/June for the preliminary steps. Previous discussion was to seek a 3-year contract; the consensus of the BOF is to move forward to post an RFP for 3-year audit services. \* Property taxes are in a total \$16.2M as of 02029-2021. Motor vehicle supplement collections are down compared to last year by \$96K. No Grant funds were received this month. Local revenue appears to be increased by \$254K over last year but the Tourtellotte Trust appropriation is \$225K.

9. Tourtellotte Fund Update – Board of Trustees: Chair Kathleen Herbert reviewed the process for obtaining Phases 2/3 new windows for the 1909 building, which also needs re-pointing after 120 years. ADA compliance for the second-floor auditorium is a goal. The 65 Main Street Community Garden will continue while rehabilitation of the structure is approached: the building is a part of the Main Street revitalization efforts.
10. New Business: EDC Income Account- The EDC organizes events which generate income: the current budget structure has no line item to record this income, or from which to distribute it to fund these programs. A method is requested, in the “Special Revenue Funds” where, for example, the Trails Committee income is recorded. R. Mann confirmed with the Finance Director that this would serve as a sub-budget to the EDC.  
**Motion A. McGarry seconded by R. Rooney to establish an income/expense line item for EDC use for revenue-generating projects, to be located within the Grants/Special Revenue Fund carried unanimously-6-0. A. McGarry – yes R. Mann- yes R. Rooney- yes R. Werge - yes S. Herbert yes J. Bellavance - yes**
11. Budget Workshop: Began at 1 hour, 30 minutes, on p 30, Town Counsel, and concluded at Page 40, Fire Departments. BOF members asked several questions, with clarification from the Finance Director or the First Selectman. Page 38, Fire Marshal- R. Werge requested from the Finance Director a look-back at this Department’s revenue in light of the impacts of Covid, including their inability to enter some sites.
12. Board of Finance Member Comments: none
13. **Motion R. Rooney seconded by R. Werge to adjourn carried unanimously.**  
Chair A. McGarry adjourned the meeting at 9:10 PM

*To hear the meeting on Zoom, click on the link, or copy/paste to your Search bar.*

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/wWcluDXXxEv-A7lc9uBn0vT\\_ZHG\\_4lMo9Iu5T01aKwDFbWEYQwgWGLotCoCSYWjM.FsvqPZwLAaoL0ldn](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/wWcluDXXxEv-A7lc9uBn0vT_ZHG_4lMo9Iu5T01aKwDFbWEYQwgWGLotCoCSYWjM.FsvqPZwLAaoL0ldn) Passcode: p0X?x%j0

*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.*

