



**THOMPSON Board of Finance
Regular Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, May 20, 2021
via Zoom from remote locations**

1. The call to order by Chair Aaron McGarry was at 7:03 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 member Recording Secretary Dotti Durst
2. Approve minutes:
**Motion R. Rooney seconded R. Mann by to approve the April 15, 2021 Regular meeting minutes
carried unanimously.**
3. Correspondence: none aside from internal emails
*Superintendent Melinda Smith- American Rescue Plan details
*Finance Director – Audit bids data
4. Citizens' comments: none
5. Selectman's Update-First Selectman Amy St Onge: The Langer Pond boundary work is underway,
with completion during the summer when water levels are lower. *N. Grosvenordale Pond-
Centerville Bank did not realize they have ownership; they have now filed an Emergency Action
Plan as required. * Vermont Bread has closed, notifying the town the night of the closing, impacting
94 jobs at Superior Bakery, as well as having a tax consequence. A firm is interested and is pursuing
State incentives. *WMC was awarded the <20' Bridge Inspections contract and will begin soon.
* The DPW has begun the \$725K road re-build.
6. School District update-Superintendent of Schools Melinda Smith: Schools enrollment is 946, with a
net gain of 4; of the 946, 113 students are using Distant Learning only. The BOE has voted that all
learning will be on-site. * Awards ceremonies/graduations for several grade levels have been
organized, all outdoors. * Summer learning is being expanded with an inter-session model designed
to assist students to perform at grade level. Imagine combining Rock n Roll and History for fun but
academic-focused learning! There will be some credit programs offered as well. * The American
Rescue Plan provisions are being addressed; the BOF was provided with a program overview.
7. Financial Report- Finance Director Orla McKiernan-Raftery: Tax collections are catching up after
the Covid-related delay, and Local Revenue (permits/ fees) is higher by about \$50K. The \$3,767,352
ECS Education grant arrived. The surplus schedule is on-target at 7.9% of the current year's
budget. S. Herbert-news about refinancing existing DPW vehicle loans? At this time, best to stand
pat. Future vehicles: she will look for the most favorable rate/terms.
8. Tourtellotte Fund update – Board of Trustees: prep for the windows project is underway: install-
ation is scheduled when school is out of session. 65 Main St is being discussed. R. Werge- the
necessity for meeting prevailing wage requirements increased the projected costs by about \$70K.
9. New Business:
 - a. Auditing Services: The Finance Director fully reviewed the 3 bids, answering BOF questions.
Motion S. Herbert to recommend to the BOS that HFM/Hoyt be selected for the 3- year

auditing contract. Discussion ensued; the Finance Director clarified that the auditing services for each of the 3 entities (Town, Schools and Water Pollution Authority) are individually budgeted. Both the School and Town Finance Director compared/contrasted the 3 bids as presented.

S. Herbert: Motion withdrawn now that more detail is known. Further discussion: A. McGarry noted that King, King & Associates' audit services last year were effective. They have developed a positive reputation among towns they serve. R. Werge noted that opportunity costs that accompany beginning with a new firm would negate any savings. R. Mann noted that King, King requested categories of data for the audit not previously considered; they were thorough. S. Herbert observed that the Town audit bid is very reasonable, coming in at less than last year in the first year of service. R. Rooney added that Thompson was well-served by King, King last year, filing on time.

Motion S. Herbert seconded by R. Mann to recommend King, King & Associates to the BOS for audit services for the next 3 years carried unanimously, 5-0.

b. Possible action Codification Services: A. St Onge reviewed the needed update of the Town Ordinances, citing areas of weakness, including not being accessible by the public and possibly not enforceable. The contractor will create a searchable database. The Town Clerk has a Document Preservation grant to cover \$5,300 of the \$9,995 (A 2-year process). The BOS is asking the BOF for the additional \$4,695. A. McGarry confirmed that the Contingency Fund is adequate to handle this.

Motion A. McGarry seconded by R. Werge to appropriate \$4,695 from Contingency to have General Code perform Codification Services carried unanimously, 5-0.

A. McGarry-yes R. Werge-yes R. Mann-yes S. Herbert-yes R. Rooney-yes

c. Proposal from BOS to re-allocate staffing funds from Conservation to Inland Wetlands in order to meet compliance timelines for MS4: A. St Onge- the Municipal Stormwater Permit application is about a year late. There will be \$6,322 remaining in the Conservation budget this year and those staff hours could be used to bring the documentation up to date.

Motion A. McGarry seconded by R. Rooney to re-allocate \$6,322 from the Conservation budget to the Inland Wetlands budget to meet the compliance deadline for the MS4 carried unanimously, 5-0. A. McGarry-yes R. Werge-yes R. Mann-yes S. Herbert-yes R. Rooney-yes

10. Board of Finance Comments: S. Herbert asked about election day survey. A St Onge will forward.

11. Adjourn:

Motion R. Rooney seconded by S. Herbert 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/waFfyDQeczY2C4IEIDVgITLrOBWW8MrgDxxjpAY0xkrLZGQ340mArt-N32CzJp8i.Iy1ihO-I1BIGpPb>
Passcode: *W%?2KW9

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.