



TOWN of
THOMPSON
BOARD OF FINANCE

Minutes: Special Meeting
Thursday, September 19, 2018
Thompson Library/Community Center
7:00 PM

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Linda Paradise
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Chairman Aaron McGarry called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

I. Roll call

- Members Present: Aaron McGarry, Susanne Witkowski, Jim Bellavance and Rhonda Rooney
- Members Absent: Rob Mann and Larry Groh Jr.
- Staff Present: Orla McKiernan-Rafferty, Diane Minarik, Recording Secretary
- Also Present: Members of the Public

II. Approve Minutes:

A. July 19, 2018 Regular Meeting

Susanne Witkowski moved and Jim Bellavance seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the 7/21/18 regular meeting as written.

Rhonda Rooney abstained.

The motion carried.

B. August 23, 2018 Special Meeting

Susanne Witkowski moved and Rhonda Rooney seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the 8/23/18 special meeting as written.

The motion carried unanimously.

III. Correspondence

- A. 8/13/18 Email re: Invite to School Open House Tour on 8/27/18
- B. 8/23/18 Email re: Audit Memo
- C. Emails re: MRFES & TMS Open House Invitation
- D. 9/6/18 Email re: BOE Meeting Agendas
- E. 9/11/18 Email w/ Melinda's Update and attachments
- F. Minutes from other Boards/Commissions:
 - a. 8/9/18 BOS-BOF Joint Meeting re: Fire Study

7:10 Larry Groh Jr. entered the meeting

IV. Citizen's Comments:

- A. Steve Herbert, Wilsonville Rd, beginning audit for FY17-18, last year we failed, consider changing Auditors for 2019.

II. Kenneth Beausoleil: Selectmen's Update

Blum Shapiro has started our FY17-18 audit. * Higgins and Sons won the bid and has started replacing the flat roof on the Town Hall, \$58 K was budgeted, their bid was under \$30 K, hopefully \$20 K can be returned. * The Town Highway Garage was hit during the 9/6/18 thunderstorm and knocked out the entry system which is too old

to fix so checking prices to replace. * Transition to new Town Attorney is complete, a meeting for BOF to meet Atty. Slater will be set up in a few weeks. * Starr Rd decision has been extended another 30 days. * CME has completed the oil spill testing at the school and nothing unexpected was found. * Marianapolis sewer borings are moving forward. * DOT condemned the bridge on LeClair Rd during spring inspection at an est. cost of \$80K - \$100K, DPW Director Benoit working w/ Wetlands Agent and J&D Engineering, was able to repair it by installing a 60" culvert at a cost of \$10K. * The search for a new Town Planner is on-going and also looking for a Recreation Director. * Town Meeting is 9/17/18 @ 7pm and Referendum scheduled for 9/25/18 12 pm – 8pm for the replacement of 2 underground oil tanks as required every 20 years per State Regulations.

III. Melinda Smith: Education Update:

Few very hot and sticky days but the film installed cut temps down 20 degrees. * 1005 students enrolled. * Typical start of school bus issues along with transition to a private bus company. * 625 Chromebooks were handed out and many positive comments regarding integration of technology. * Middle School Open House went smoothly. * Bill Birch was present and explained all the work completed this summer, the first time in 10 yrs he was able to complete all budgeted work on his list thanks to the budget passing the first time. * She thanked Bill Birch for all the updates he was able to accomplish this summer while keeping costs down. * The new Director of Finance, Robert Gentes was present and talked about their budget and new safe guards in place for accountability. * There are security issues that need to be addressed with after school activities and feel it is imperative the Town hire staff to monitor evening security.

7:37 Susanne Witkowski left the meeting.

* The Track is in need of a lot of work, quote is \$828 K, hoping to get STEEP Grant to help. Tennis courts also need work. * Attended the Dept. of Education Alliance Meeting today, Thompson and Groton are only two towns not getting funding this year even though they are on the list.

7:44 Susanne Witkowski returned to the meeting.

* Next few years any extra money is going to the Café deficit but would still like to explore a non-lapsing account.

IV. Orla McKiernan-Rafferty: Financial Report

4 days into audit. They will present in November. * Budgeted \$650 K from Surplus but only needs \$150 K for FY 18 and \$175 K for FY 19. She doesn't agree with the statement we failed the audit last year. * Current Property Taxes \$9.2 M, higher than last year; received \$1K in Grants; Local Revenue is \$412 K; Expenses committed for the year is \$2.4 M; used 32.6% of budget so far. * Okay to approve transfer at Oct. meeting.

V. Board of Trustees of the Tourtellotte Fund Update

Withdrew \$150 K for window project which is now complete.

VI. New Business:

- A. Which account to deposit the \$291K from DATTCO for the sale of the buses. Currently in Misc. Income. * Discussion on why and where to transfer the money and possible unexpected school costs.

Aaron McGarry moved and Larry Groh Jr. seconded the motion to allocate \$291K from the sale of school buses from general fund to a transfer account in the Transfer Fund for the purpose of future acquisition of vehicles related to education programs in the Town of Thompson if necessary in the amount of \$291K.

Discussion regarding why not to add the rewinding part in the motion.

**Aaron McGarry - Yes
Susanne Witkowski - No
Jim Bellavance – Yes**

**Larry Groh Jr. - Yes
Rhonda Rooney - Yes**

The motion carried 4-1.

- B. Which account to deposit the monthly \$2K from DATTCO for use of Town Garage. Currently going into a temporary line item, Rental Income, in Local Revenue. * Discussion on BOE budget shortfall of \$82,200 K. * The Board agreed to change the name of the line item to: Rental Income from Highway Garage and leave it Local Revenue.
- C. Vote on Budget Year-End Transfers - Tabled to October meeting.
- D. Tax Collector Update on Tax Sale – Sent out demand notices on 21 properties; only 4 properties went to Tax Sale which were sold for a total of \$74,525 K.

II. Old Business:

- A. BOE - discussion on establishing a savings account with any remaining funds at years end up to 1% of the school budget as allowed under state statute. – BOF budget is tighter this year because no Alliance money from State coming in as planned; need to plan for capital expenses; this would encourage saving money; 29 towns in CT have this account; Town of Lebanon's document was handed out for an example; the Board asked the BOS to ask the new Town Attorney to check out the Lebanon document.

III. Board of Finance Member's Comments:

- A. Rhonda's been on this board for 3 budget seasons; commends everybody for working as a team last year to get the budget passed the 1st time which was beneficial for the town, school and kids; shows unity in the town which brings trust; hopeful it continues next year.
- B. Jim commends BOS for hiring Public Works Director; commends BOE with hiring Superintendent Smith and Director of Finance, Robert Gentes;

IV. Adjourn: **Susanne Witkowski moved and Rhonda Rooney seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.**

Chair Aaron McGarry adjourned the meeting at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Minarik

Diane Minarik
Recording Secretary