



Town of Thompson
Board of Finance
815 Riverside Drive
North Grosvenordale, CT 06255

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Minutes – Special Meeting / Budget Workshop
Thursday, March 28, 2019, 7:00 PM
Thompson Library/Community Center Meeting Room

1. Call to Order & Roll Call:

Chairman Aaron McGarry called the meeting to order at 7:06pm.

Present: Chair Aaron McGarry, Vice-Chair Larry Groh Jr., Susanne Witkowski, Rhonda Rooney

Absent: Jim Bellavance and Rob Mann

2. Correspondence:

A. Library services and FY20 budget presentation

Received at meeting: Letter from Halloran & Sage regarding Excess Cost Grant Funding – Chairman McGarry read into the record.

3. Citizen's Comments:

A. Bill Witkowski, Clarence Dr. respectfully disagrees with Attorney Slater's conclusion.

4. Special Education Excess Costs:

- Superintendent introduced Christopher Jones the new Special Education Director of Pupil Services – 2 new students just moved into Thompson who will need to be placed out of district, impossible to budget for fluctuation throughout the school year, the Special Education Excess Cost Grant funds are needed to cover the overage costs for the Special Ed students.
- An extensive discussion ensued regarding the funds received from the Special Education Excess Costs Grant; how the school budgets for Special Ed; where the funds should go and how;
- The BOE sent a letter to the Finance Director/Treasurer, which was received on 3/6/19, requesting the Grant reimbursement to be transferred into the BOE budget. The letter was read into the record by Chair McGarry, the BOE needs documentation of expenses before she is able to transfer the funds to the BOE.
- Jessica Raduege, 6 Heritage Circle, if funds don't go to the BOE budget where do they go?
- Mike Krogul, Walker Dr, asked if BOE budget is out by \$800K since we're currently over \$400K in Special Ed budget and in FY17-18 budget we were going to save \$400K bringing Special Ed students back in-house.

5. Budget Workshop

8:12 Larry Groh Jr. moved and Susanne Witkowski seconded the motion to take a 5-minute break. The motion carried unanimously 4-0

8:17 Meeting reconvened.

- Finance Director gave an overview of the FY2020 Budget; BOS total proposed budget of \$27,271,810 which is a Mill Rate of 29.78 an increase of 2.03 Mills.
- A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the Special Education Excess Costs Grant funds, where it appears in each budget, what happens to those budgets when transferred in or out of each budget; how to do it properly and permanently.
- Kathleen Herbert, Wilsonville Rd, wants town to think about all the Grant money it has received in the past 5-10 year that has not gone back to the school to cover their Special Ed budget overages.

6. Board of Finance Member's Comments:

- Good exercise tonight and hopes there isn't a repeat next week.
- Only 2 ½ budget workshops left.

7. Adjourn.

**Susanne Witkowski moved and Larry Groh Jr. seconded the motion to adjourn.
The motion carried unanimously 4-0**

Chairman Aaron McGarry adjourned the meeting at 9:03PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Minarik

Recording Secretary
03-28-19 Minutes BOF Special Meeting