



**TOWN of**  
**THOMPSON**  
**BOARD OF FINANCE**

**Minutes – Special Meeting**

**Budget Workshop**

**Thursday, March 22, 2018, 7:00 PM**

**Thompson Library/Community Center**

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Chairman Aaron McGarry called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM.

I. Roll call

- Members Present: Aaron McGarry, Larry Groh Jr., Jim Bellavance, Rhonda Rooney, Susanne Witkowski and Rob Mann.
- Members Absent: None
- Staff Present: Orla McKiernan-Rafferty, Diane Minarik, Recording Secretary
- Also Present: Members of the Public

II. Correspondence: None

III. Citizen's Comments:

- Rene Morin, 130 Pompeo Rd, is embarrassed by the way it went last year and believes the tax payers would approve a ½ Mil increase this year.
- Mike Krogul, Walker Dr, hopes the Board looks closely at all the budgets including the BoE and ask specific questions.

IV. Budget Workshop:

- The Board was reminded there are only 2 1/2 workshops and 1 regular meeting left to do their job so they all agreed to take a different approach this year.
- These questions will be forward to the Board of Education for answers at the next meeting.
  - The Board of Finance would like a short, to the point, description and explanation of the large dollar items that make up the \$470,092.00 BoE budget increase.
  - Is the money from the sale of the buses included in the BoE budget?
- Discussions on **Capital Improvement** 5 Year Program items, pg. 109:
  - ✓ Dump Truck (9-ton) (PW6) & Pick Up (PW5) – allocation removed last year, checking on prices.
  - ✓ Basketball Courts Remodel (R2) – questioning work done by DPW at cost, report requested for next meeting – removed from budget.
  - ✓ Tourtellotte Trust Fund (S1) – only asked for \$15 K not \$20 K this year.
  - ✓ Community Center Repairs (L1) & Roof (L2) - allocations removed last year, major repairs continuing to HVAC in the next couple years, K. Beausoleil will forward T&B's HVAC Study Report to the Board, underground oil tank will also need to be replaced in the future - reduced amount from \$50 K to \$35 K this year but will keep the future years at \$50K, hoping to do roof in 5-7 years – no change to roof budget.

- ✓ Rolling Stock Fund (PW9) (avail \$69K) - is for replacing anything on wheels not in budget like backhoe (est. \$160K). Rich Benoit, new DPW Director, evaluated all the DPW equipment and vehicles, most are in bad shape and need repairs to make them reliable, there are issues with the 1979 paver that needs addressing over the next couple years if the town wants to continue their paving program, which he believes is a good idea because it's done at cost which saves millions of dollars. When asked he feels he can fix the backhoe if he can find the parts so the most important item needed now, besides the trucks already discussed, is a new paving box (est. \$150K), K. Beausoleil stated there are good used items and equipment that become available throughout the year at great prices and with a rolling stock fund available to them they could purchase what they need at discounted prices saving the town money, they are thankful Rich evaluated all the equipment and informed them of his results and since he wasn't part of the budget process in the beginning the Board could change budget line items and/or amounts as they see fit – no change to budget.
- ✓ Container X 2 (PW10) – cardboard and glass recycling containers at transfer station, the trucks hauling the containers have been stopped by Police and told to stay off the roads or will be fined, 2 containers were purchased last year – no change to budget.
- ✓ Town Hall Roof Repairs/Replacement (TH2) (avail \$29K) – leaking for very long time, lost ceiling and insulation in back room to black mold, last year received email from commercial roofer with cost estimate of \$58K, – no change to budget.
- ✓ Computer Equipment (TH3) – over next 2 years upgrade Town Hall computers to Windows 10 and replace PC if unable to upgrade software, Board feels software should be under expenditures – moved \$1,820.00 to new line item "Software Upgrade" under Data Processing Supplies in Expenditures, page 18.
- ✓ The Board briefly discussed Revaluation and Road Resurfacing line items – no change to budget.
- The Board asked O. McKiernan-Rafferty to check on 5yr lease-to-own and buy outright prices for a 9-Ton dump truck, pick-up truck, paving box, and backhoe.
- Discussion on **Revenue** – State and Federal Grants numbers are based on the Governor's proposal, the State has put 50% of the Renters Rebate \$14 K onto the Town and removed Elderly Homeowners Grants for FY18 (\$85 K) and FY19. - The sale of the buses, the schools MBR and the DATCO contract. Orla explained the MBR (minimum budget requirements) is set on the approved budget and can't be adjusted during the year. - No action taken.
- Discussion on **Expenditures**:
  - ✓ Community Ambulance request for \$125 K – previous years the ambulance budget has had an approx. net gain of \$40 K, with the ETVFD's 3 year contract with Thompson Speedway, the ambulance budget will have an approx. net loss of \$35 K per year, they have a 3rd ambulance purchased solely for the speedway they could get rid of, the Town is looking into the suggestions from the Fire Service Assessment Study by VFIS, the Board agrees on the importance of keeping the viable ambulance service in Town and its funding, and they are interested in discussing refunding the 5 fire dept. in Town – no change to budget.
  - ✓ Data Processing Budget - increase in Maintenance Agreements, hope to have hard numbers for the 4/5/18 meeting if not definitely by the 4/11/18.

**Larry Groh Jr. moved and Susanne Witkowski seconded the motion to approve these changes to the working budget.**

<b>Capital Improvement Program – 5 Year</b>				<b>Page 109</b>
<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Requested Amount</b>	<b>Action Voted</b>	<b>New Amount</b>	<b>Reason</b>
R2 - Basketball Courts Remodel	\$ 53,500	Remove \$53,500	\$0	DPW to do work
S1 - Tourtellotte Trust Fund	\$20,000	Reduce by \$5,000	\$15,000	Only asked for \$15K
L1 - Community Center Repairs	\$50,000	Reduce by \$15,000	\$35,000	Don't need for couple years
TH3 - Computer Equipment	\$6,320	Reduce by \$1,820	\$4,500	Software upgrade amount moved to expenditures
<b>Revenue – 3040 Local</b>				<b>Page 8</b>
470371 - Tourtellotte Fund	\$20,000	Reduce by \$5,000	\$15,000	Only asked for \$15K
<b>Expenditures – 1202 Data Processing</b>				<b>Page 18</b>
New – Software Upgrade	\$0	Add \$1,820	\$1,820	Software upgrade amount moved from Cap. Imp.

The Mil Rate increase after these changes is 1.84 – was 1.96

**The motion carried unanimously.**

V. Board of Finance Member's Comments: None

VI. Adjourn:

**Susanne Witkowski moved and Rob Mann seconded the motion to adjourn.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Chairman Aaron McGarry adjourned the meeting at 10:08 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Diane Minarik*

Diane Minarik  
Recording Secretary