



TOWN of THOMPSON
815 Riverside Drive
North Grosvenordale, CT 06255

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Linda Paradise
TOWN CLERK, Ass't

THOMPSON Board of Finance Special Meeting/Budget Workshop

Thompson Public Library: Louis P. Faucher Community Center

Thursday, March 12, 2020

MINUTES

The call to order by Chair Aaron McGarry was at 7:04 PM.

1.Roll call: Members-Aaron McGarry (Chair), Jim Bellavance, Rob Mann, Rhonda Rooney, Robert Werge, Steve Herbert. The full Board is present.

Others- Selectmen Susanne Witkowski and Ken Beausoleil, Board and Commission members, Town Officials and Department heads, Members of the public, Recording Secretary Dotti Durst

Chair A. McGarry thanked the public for coming out, given the Coronavirus situation. In the interest of contributing to the health of all present, he will try to adjourn at around 9 PM; medical experts are stressing that sleep-deprived and stressed individuals are more vulnerable. For the Regular Meeting next week, he will ask the Superintendent of Schools and the First Selectmen to be as brief as possible, facilitating a 7:30 PM opening of the Budget Workshop.

For the Budget Workshops, the Revenue Report will be presented first, followed by the proposed Operating Budget, the Capital Plan and the Board of Education proposed budget.

Chair A. McGarry introduced a proposal by R. Werge, recommending that the BOF utilize a data- driven analysis of the budget proposals, identifying the points of greatest proposed increase or decrease, compare movement to previous years, and utilize several other data points. After this bottom-up review, the final budget to be put forward to the voters, in anticipation of correctly gauging what will be accepted. The consensus of the BOF is to move ahead with the approach which was outlined, representing a change from previous years.

2. Correspondence- none

3.Citizens' comments – three minutes per person maximum: none

4. TEEG Generator Repair: Selectman S. Witkowski deferred to Building Committee Chair J. Rice: the generator in this town-owned building is 10 years old, having been obtained from State Surplus. Only one contractor responded to the call; the cost will be under \$3,000 to repair the block heater and thermostat. The unit is used for emergency power when a shelter for citizens is needed, and the walk-in freezer/refrigerator units must be working at all times.

Motion S. Herbert seconded by J. Bellavance to authorize the repair of the TEEG Building generator, in an amount not to exceed \$3,000, funds to be taken from Contingency within the General Fund, carried unanimously.

5.Budget Workshop Reviews- Orla McKiernan-Raftery (Finance Director):

A. Revenue: After revaluation, the Grand List is positive 15.90% for the current year.

- inflation caused much of the increase in the Grand List: 16 new houses and some new vehicles



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All aspects of Revenue were reviewed

B. Proposed Operating Budget: S. Herbert- does the proposed budget include equipment for live-streaming of meetings? Yes, the current fy has funds for one set, and the 20-21 budget calls for a second set, for full coverage at the locations where meetings are held.

1102-BOS: S. Herbert- the salary for 2nd and 3rd Selectmen was previously cut from \$5,000 and should return to that amount. R. Mann- the Dog Officer may return to the Town. Will that impact the NECCOG line item? Not on this page.

1201-First Selectman: a. McGarry- confirmed the 2nd assistant to the Selectmen received a wage increase in the current fiscal year and no change to that is proposed. The proposed increase to the Executive Assistant/Personnel Manager is to bring that line item to reasonable comparison with other salaried staff.

1202- Data processing: upgrades for the entire town including DPW for various software as well as the town website and the Live-streaming video equipment; some are seasonal expenses

1301- Finance and Treasurer: proposes a wage increase, based on 5 years of employment in Thompson, in keeping with wages in surrounding towns. Staff wages cannot be calculated, but an estimate for when Union negotiations are concluded is found in Contingency . S. Herbert: does that prediction include all staff? Yes, both Union increases and then non-union impacts.

1302-Tax Collector: department requested a decrease (legal fees are moved)

1303- Assessor: hope to hire a full-time person as well as the part-time person for training and provision of coverage while certification is obtained, and handling back up.

1305- Board of Assessment Appeals; no questions

1401- Elections/Registrations: proposed reduction, anticipating fewer voting events. Expect 5 rather than 9 as last year; fewer staff and associated mandatory training. Expect more hand-counting, reducing machine costs. S. Herbert: studied data - over several years, there have been 3 budget referendums per year; this number is used in this calculation

1501- Town Clerk: some current office supply items will not recur; reduction proposed

1701-Town Counsel: reduction; some legal matters concluded. PZC clarification needed

1702- Probate Court: per capita charges apply

1801-Town Buildings: includes contracts for elevators in 2 buildings. Propose 3 hours increase for Maintainer (15 to 18). Cleaning Services remains, as "deep cleaning" is periodically required.



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2210-Fire Marshal: added the Deputy, includes travel for training/protective clothing, supplies. S. Herbert- a new fee schedule (income) will somewhat off-set. K. Beausoleil- a large amount of back-logged work; the town faces a liability until inspections are all timely

2202- Fire and Rescue Departments: the Departments provided a detailed proposal. Schedule a Fire Departments presentation next meeting at 7:30 PM.

2301- Emergency Management--note: there is no salary for this position (one person has worked in this capacity for 15 plus years). He writes grant applications for the town in this department. A stipend for the position would be appropriate. A. McGarry- is a tax abatement, similar to Fire Fighters/EMS possible? To be determined. R. Mann – status of the Hummer (zero budget). The vehicle is cared for by the DPW now.

2302-Security: new position this year, may come in under-budget; covers evening events, and those open to the public. K. Beausoleil- recommends flat-funding, as staff changes may necessitate additional uniforms and equipment

2401-Canine Control: proposal is to bring services back to town with a permanent canine control officer, utilize the current facility and keep taxpayer money in town. Currently: NECCOG contract, plus 6 hours-per-week person (paperwork). A. McGarry- since there is much to discuss about this line item, it will be the starting point for the next meeting

6.Motion S. Herbert seconded by R. Rooney to adjourn carried unanimously.
BOF Chair A. McGarry adjourned at 8:59 PM.

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.