



TOWN of THOMPSON
Board of Finance
North Grosvenordale, CT 06255

THOMPSON Board of Finance Special Meeting/Budget Workshop

Monday, April 6, 2020 From remote locations via Zoom

MINUTES

Chair Aaron McGarry called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM

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

First Selectman Amy St Onge and Selectmen Susanne Witkowski and Ken Beausoleil.

Orla McKiernan-Raftery (Finance Director). Alison Boutaugh (Library Director). Richard Benoit (Public Works Director). Tyra Penn-Gesek (Town Planner). John Rice (Chair, Building Committee). Many Board and Commission members, Town Officials and Department heads. Many members of the public. Recording Secretary Dotti Durst

1. Correspondence: Rene Morin, Tax Collector –his memo, specifying what happens to the tax rate once the re-valuation is completed was read aloud in part and summarized in part by the BOF Chair.. The tax collector added that he has heard that some towns plan on flat funding (same as FY 19-20). Chair A. McGarry: ideally more details will come out

2. Citizens' comments – none

3. Budget Workshop Discussion:

3201 Town Garage –one-time repair last year, so budget reduction is proposed

3202 Public Works- R. Benoit: trying to remain as flat as possible, no extras on any line. Would like to establish a rotating equipment replacement schedule. Finance Dir- Street Lighting (line 522290) contract now finalized, will be adjusted. Line 533260 is actually moved to 3204 (Transfer Station). The proposed Roll-off truck is a capital expenses, not used at the Highway Department (see 3204). J. Bellavance asked about the plans for a salt shed, which would save the town through volume purchasing. The Wetlands Agent encourages the shed, to protect groundwater from chemical run-off. A. St Onge reviewed the BOS different allocation of the Public Works budget request, suggesting \$50,000 for pre-engineering for the salt shed and \$50,000 for required bridge work. A. McGarry asked about the increase in Overtime: car accidents on weekends or nights resulting in trees falling or other road obstructions or other reasons for road closures. Safety protocols require 2 responders if chainsaw work is required. Question: Service contracts: Cell service, including Fire Departments. Line 522220 is now zero, with part of \$18,000 moved to other lines for accuracy. Tree Services: gypsy moth infestation necessitates removals. Street signs: must be changed to another color (green); many are missing; many posts need replacement. Gasoline/fuel: Finance Director discusses the contract, favorable pricing based on volume purchased; many departments or town agencies have budgets to re-pay their share of usage.



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3203 Ground Supplies Park – no questions

3205 Cemeteries – no questions

3204 Transfer Station- Hazardous Waste collection is every other year, with funds set aside each year toward it. S. Herbert- it is important to keep this budget cycle process running smoothly. R. Werge offers thanks for this budget line coming in relatively flat.

3206 Snow Removal- R. Rooney asks about salt and sand removal. Yes, the sheds are filled

3301 Building Official- R. Werge: what caused the increase of \$8,000? More building activity, home improvements, added dwelling units, new subdivisions.

3302 Building Board of Appeals – no questions

4101 General Services- United Services Agency; no contribution is required. Access Agency has a Warming Center. Jim Bellavance confirms the No Freeze Shelter is in Danielson.

4102 Veterans Services- reduction, as a town vehicle will now be used for medical trips

4201 Public Health – Fee is based on per capita and the town's population increase

5101 Library Administration- A. Boutaugh reviewed the details. A. McGarry asked about "Content" (digital materials to meet the needs of patrons of all ages). She noted that years ago the line was \$50,000 and has been cut over time. R. Werge asks about wages: since the staff are non-union, wages can be requested without a contingency.

5102 Library/Community Center Building- A. Boutaugh- the building is 26 years old; replacements and upgrades are needed, thus the request for an increase of \$5,000. Several follow-up projects are required now that the HVAC system was upgraded. Last year's budget timing caused some projects to be delayed; some can only be completed when students are out for the summer. J. Bellavance asked status of the roof replacement: The funds are being accrued, with the actual work targeted for fewer than five years out.

5102 Celebrations- no questions

5202 Historical Society – no questions

5301 Recreation Commission- J. Bellavance asked why camp enrollment was down: Transportation costs went up so camp prices did as well (40%) and some families found other day care alternatives. R. Rooney: non-residents are successfully changed more. There are "camps" through TEEG and others.

6000 Planning and Community Dev- no questions



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6101 Planning and Zoning Commission- A. St Onge: the ZEO will be considered a salaried person. R. Werge asked the workload: Gravel mining permits and subsequent inspections, oversight of all building activity (increased) to ensure compliance, zoning violations complaints.

6202 Zoning Board of Appeals – no questions

6203 Inland Wetlands Comm – no questions

6204 Conservation Comm – no questions

6205 Economic Development- T. Penn-Gesek: the BOS cut the Branding Activities request to \$25,000 with the Board to determine their priorities among the listed projects. R. Werge- asks to become familiar with them, in order to put forward an informed budget. All BOF members ask for an updated budget worksheet for Recreation, page 92.

4. Motion J. Bellavance seconded by S. Herbert to adjourn carried unanimously.

Chair A. McGarry adjourned the meeting at 9:12 PM.

See/hear the meeting on Zoom. Click or copy and paste to your Search bar:

https://zoom.us/rec/share/vusqaLL51X9OQIXs-GjNR4QQMZv-X6a8gyQZr_pbyE7V19SZ43

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.