



**THOMPSON Board of Finance**  
**Special Meeting/ Budget Workshop-Minutes**  
**Thursday, April 8, 2021**  
**via Zoom from remote locations**

1. The call to order by Chair Aaron McGarry was at 7:03 with all BOF members present  
Roll call: Members-Aaron McGarry (Chair), Jim Bellavance, Rob Mann, Rhonda Rooney, Robert Werge, Steve Herbert.  
Others- First Selectman Amy St Onge, Selectmen Susanne Witkowski and Ken Beausoleil. Alison Boutaugh (Library Director), Orla McKiernan-Rafty (Finance Director), Board & Commission members, Town Officials. Department heads. Members of the public. Recording Secretary Dotti Durst

2. Correspondence:

- By U S Mail: Rene Morin data of impacts of Firefighter's abatements (previously emailed)
- Today: Chair McGarry's 04-06-2021 email to NDDH asking to negotiate fees and the initial response

3. Citizens' Comments- Three minutes per person maximum: none

4. Budget Workshop: Page 101 Library Capital requests- A. Boutaugh confirmed the difference between the Repairs line item in the budget proposal and the Capital requests for Repairs, page 118. The Finance Director has further updated the y-t-d expenditures and income by department, with data provided by the Town Clerk. The Tax Collector has noted a potential shortfall in current year income of just under \$109,000, citing two unusual situations.

The Finance Director: 1). Prepared the requested Contingency historical data-will email; 2). Reviewed today's conference call concerning a Town and Schools Stimulus package, projected to span a 2-year period; M. Smith noted BOE awareness of a possible "Funding Cliff" at which point income for staff/programs has ceased but the activity must be continued. 3). On 04-13, the updated Insurances costs will be known. 4). As requested: each ¼ mil increase in the budget is about \$170k, or \$722K for a 1 mil increase. The current budget proposal shows a 1.47% increase.

Discussion points: compare lease-to-own situations with DPW equipment needs vs. outright purchase, given that Fund Balance, after reimbursements, may be adequate, while still remaining in compliance. Debt reductions: Oil spill debt is almost paid. New: Roof project is \$2.5M at .5254% with 72% reimbursement. M. Smith: 1 ½ new staff members account for the entire 0.81% proposed BOE increase. Two major Schools savings: the Bradley Program for in-house Special Ed and the change of Healthcare providers.

The BOF has requested further information: The Finance Director will 1). Provide comparison data of lease vs purchase options for DPW equipment. Step 1 was completed: inquiry about combining all leases in order to achieve a lower interest rate. 2). Research paying off the DPW Debt lines (522470, p 103) using Fund Balance vs Lease-to-own costs. 3). Ask the Assessor if increased Building Fees will result in a higher Grand List, weighing the impacts of foreclosures. 4). Confirm with the Tax Collector in what fiscal year anticipated taxes of about \$50K for a certain property will be posted.

5. Adjourn: **Motion R. Rooney seconded by R. Werge to adjourn at 9:00 PM carried unanimously.**  
**The next Budget Workshops are Tuesday, April 13 and Thursday, April 15, both at 7 PM.**

To see this meeting, click on this link or copy/paste it to your search bar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8446122470>  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/nlgV7FEjhhaWTV0HUg6ygMKRBfhW9VhWD9BspNOZ9I4-RNQMhLC5nSnYU\\_bs5LLUBvGZVuOqKYRwyuZ](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/nlgV7FEjhhaWTV0HUg6ygMKRBfhW9VhWD9BspNOZ9I4-RNQMhLC5nSnYU_bs5LLUBvGZVuOqKYRwyuZ) Passcode: w98q\*!M&

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.*