



TOWN of THOMPSON
Board of Finance
SPECIAL MEETING-
Minutes revised 04-18-2023
MOTIONS ONLY
Monday- April 17, 2023
Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall

1. The call to order was at 7:01 PM by Vice Chair Rob Werge (Chair Aaron McGarry being enroute).
Roll call: Aaron McGarry (by means of his phone, via Zoom, arrived at 8:08 PM, having been in constant communication throughout), Steve Herbert, Rob Mann, Laurent Guillot, Dave Johnson, Robert Werge. First Selectman Amy St Onge, Bill Steglitz (Finance Director), Michelle Giammarinaro (HR Director), Melinda Smith (Superintendent of Schools), Kathleen Herbert (BOE Chair), School Principals: Laurence Prentiss, Kim Granato, Dr. Nate Mato. Kaylee Beck (Schools Liaison), Board/Commission members.
Members of the public. Recording Secretary Dotti Durst

2. Approval of Minutes:

Motion S. Herbert seconded by L. Guillot to approve the 04-13-2023 Regular Monthly Meeting minutes carried unanimously.

3. Correspondence:

Tricia Turbert via Contact the BOF, 04-17-2023/ 3:40 PM. Subject "Budget Meeting"

4. Citizens' comments – three minutes per person maximum:

- Ten citizens spoke as did First Selectman Amy St Onge, who reviewed various situations which prevent Thompson from growth and positive change and which are addressed in the proposed budget.

5. Budget Workshop: note was made that discussion of the BOE proposed budget was held off until school vacation week has ended and staff could attend the BOF meeting.

**BOF discussions took place on several proposed budget line items, on the Contingency Fund and the proposed Board of Education budget. The meeting audio and video are recorded in their entirety (link attached at the end of this document).

Actions taken by the BOF, after extended discussions:

Ways to fund the Resident State Trooper if approved by the voters, examining building the funding in.
A. St Onge reviewed a memo from Town Attorney Ken Slater about the Referendum language (7:30pm)

Motion D. Johnson seconded by S. Herbert to move \$200k from Undesignated Surplus into the Surplus Funds account of the budget and ask the BOS to pose, in their Budget Resolution, the question to the town at the Town Meeting and the Referendum of whether the town wishes to bring in a Resident State Trooper. The vote failed: 2 yes, 4 no. L. Guillot-yes R. Mann- no D. Johnson-yes R. Werge- no S. Herbert- no A. McGarry- no

Motion S. Herbert to amend the previous motion not move the \$200k from Surplus and instead treat it as an expense failed for lack of a second

Motion S. Herbert seconded by L. Guillot to add \$200k to the Contingency Fund to be available if the voters approve a Resident State Trooper. The vote failed: 3 yes, 3 no. L. Guillot-yes R. Mann- no D. Johnson- no A. McGarry- no S. Herbert- yes R. Werge- yes

Motion D. Johnson seconded by S. Herbert to reinstate \$200k, Line 243, Resident State Trooper and to ask the BOS to pose, in their Budget Resolution, the question to the town at the Town Meeting and the Referendum of whether the town wishes to bring in a Resident State Trooper carried: 4 yes, 2 no. L. Guillot-yes R. Mann- no D. Johnson- yes A. McGarry- no S. Herbert- yes R. Werge- yes

Discussion of the proposed education budget, after comments by the Superintendent of Schools:

Motion S. Herbert seconded by L. Guillot to approve the Education budget as presented less the adjustments (- \$53k) already discussed. The vote failed: 2 yes, 4 no. L. Guillot-yes R. Mann- no D. Johnson- no R. Werge- no S. Herbert- yes A. McGarry- no

After extended discussion, the previous motion was repeated:

Motion S. Herbert seconded by L. Guillot to approve the Education budget as presented less the adjustments (- \$53k) already discussed. The vote failed: 2 yes, 4 no. L. Guillot-yes R. Mann- no D. Johnson- no R. Werge- no S. Herbert- yes A. McGarry- no

Motion A. McGarry seconded by D. Johnson to reduce the Education budget to \$20,761,852, a 5% increase over the current year or an increase of approximately \$990k from the current year (a decrease of approximately \$900k). The vote failed: 3 yes, 3 no. L. Guillot-no R. Mann- yes D. Johnson- yes R. Werge- no S. Herbert- no A. McGarry- yes

Motion R. Werge seconded by A. McGarry to reduce the Education budget by \$307k to \$21,354,483 (given that reductions of \$53k are already identified), an increase of 8% over the current year or \$1.581m vs the 9.5% / \$1.88m increase requested. The vote failed: 3 yes, 3 no. L. Guillot-no R. Mann- yes D. Johnson- no S. Herbert- no R. Werge- yes A. McGarry- yes

After further discussion., the previous motion was repeated:

Motion A. McGarry seconded by R. Werge to reduce the Education budget by \$307k to \$21,354,483 (given that reductions of \$53k are already identified), an increase of 8% (\$1.581m over the current year) while a 9.5% increase was requested. The vote failed: 3 yes, 3 no. L. Guillot-no R. Mann- yes D. Johnson- no S. Herbert- no R. Werge- yes A. McGarry- yes

Motion S. Herbert to adjourn failed for lack of a second.

Motion A. McGarry seconded by R. Mann to reduce the Education budget by \$504,168 to \$21,157,315, an increase of 7% over the current year, resulting in a \$1.4m increase over the current year. The vote failed: 2 yes, 4 no. L. Guillot-no R. Mann- yes D. Johnson- no S. Herbert- no R. Werge- no A. McGarry- yes

Motion A. McGarry seconded by R. Werge to reduce the Education budget by \$405,302 to \$21,256,181, an increase of 7.5% over the current year. The vote failed: 3 yes, 3 no. L. Guillot-no R. Mann- yes D. Johnson- no S. Herbert- no R. Werge- yes A. McGarry- yes

Motion R. Werge seconded by A. McGarry to reduce the Education budget by \$307k to \$21,354,483, an increase of 8% over the current year. The vote carried: 4 yes, 2 no. L. Guillot-no R. Mann- yes D. Johnson- no S. Herbert-yes R. Werge- yes A. McGarry- yes

TOWN of THOMPSON
Board of Finance - Minutes
Monday - April 17, 2023
Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall
And via Zoom from remote locations

Discussion of "level-funding" the 5 fire departments:

Motion A. McGarry seconded by R. Werge to equalize funding at \$79k for each of the five fire departments, an 11% increase over the current year (requested increase: 14%), with 4 of the five receiving very close to their requested amount. The vote failed: 3 yes, 3 no. L. Guillot-no

R. Mann- no D. Johnson- yes S. Herbert- no R. Werge- yes A. McGarry- yes

Motion D. Johnson to cancel the Special BOF meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 18 at 6 PM failed for lack of a second.

Motion S. Herbert seconded by R. Werge to move forward the budget as it stands to the BOS for presentation at the Town Meeting and Referendum: Expenses of \$30,752,118 with a Tax Warrant of \$21,418,190, and a mil rate of 27.83 (an increase of 2.81 mils over the current year).

The vote failed: 3 yes, 3 no. L. Guillot-yes R. Mann- no D. Johnson- no S. Herbert- yes

R. Werge- yes A. McGarry- no

6. Adjourn:

Motion D. Johnson seconded by R. Werge to adjourn carried unanimously.

Chair A. McGarry adjourned the meeting at 10:12 PM.

To access ZOOM to see and hear this meeting, click on this link or copy/paste it to your Search bar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/A5OhlwHtT9-k1FM0HGhNbZCDDx1j6GD_KFShLN8A1zqih9DIKsFTcZev24iMc0B.hSKDFt8sDKd3s0ph

Passcode: +B@8W394

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.