



THOMPSON Board of Finance
Special Meeting/ Budget Workshop - Minutes
Tuesday, April 6, 2021
via Zoom from remote locations

1. The call to order by Chair Aaron McGarry was at 7:06 with all BOF members present, noting that the BOS are at their scheduled meeting

Roll call: Members-Aaron McGarry (Chair), Jim Bellavance, Rob Mann, Rhonda Rooney, Robert Werge, Steve Herbert. Orla McKiernan-Rafferty (Finance Director), Lesley Munshower (Recreation Director), Rich Benoit (Director/DPW), Tyra Penn-Gesek (Town Planner), John Rice (Building Committee, PnZ). At 7:15 PM following the BOS meeting: First Selectman Amy St Onge, Selectmen Susanne Witkowski and Ken Beausoleil. Board & Commission members, Town Officials. Department heads. Members of the public. Recording Secretary Dotti Durst

2. Correspondence: Thompson Plan of Conservation and Development, recently revised by the Planning and Zoning Commission
**After the agenda was posted: on 04-06 a Governor's office email was sent to the BOF by the Finance Director

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

4. Budget Workshop: The Workshop began with page 71-71 (Library Administration) and concluded the first review of the budget proposal, with Transfers/Capital Improvements for Library Repairs and Roof as well as Schools Flooring and Locker Room (page 101) yet to be reviewed. The Schools Budget Proposal (page 108) is also not yet reviewed. O. McKiernan-Rafferty noted that she and the First Selectman, as requested, asked all departments to update year-to-date budget expenditures, as of the conclusion of the third FY quarter; the data will be provided to the BOF. She has added the income from Departments/Commissions to the budget proposal pages as requested. L. Munshower addressed Recreation questions/discussion points. J. Rice, A. St Onge and T. Penn-Gesek similarly addressed Panning and Community Development/Economic Development/Planning and Zoning matters. O. McKiernan-Rafferty clarified details of the Fringe Benefits proposal, confirming that there is a projected reduction in Municipal and Health/Life Insurances, the town having switched to the State plan for municipalities. A. St Onge discussed the proposal for Community Ambulance (page 101) and, same page, the Finance Director updated the Revaluation budgetary set-asides over the upcoming 4 years. A St Onge reviewed the need for infrastructure work at Bull Hill Soccer Fields as well as at the Schools track. J. Rice: the Building Committee has begun to examine the Schools track. This line item will be slightly reworded for clarity.

Page 101 (Transfers) R. Benoit reviewed the DPW vehicle situation, as seen at the BOF tour. Details of financing through a lease-to-own vs. outright purchase were reviewed. A. St Onge and R. Benoit reworked Road Resurfacing expenses suggesting a reduction.

Motion A. McGarry seconded by J. Bellavance to reduce the line item for Road Resurfacing to \$450,000 carried unanimously, 6-0 R. Werge – yes R. Mann – yes A. McGarry – yes R. Rooney – yes S. Herbert-yes J. Bellavance-yes
R. Benoit has received RFP bids and proposes reducing both the Buckley Hill Road and Inspections budget lines.

Motion A. McGarry seconded by R. Rooney to reduce the line item for Buckley Hill Road Design Work from \$25,000 to \$15,000 carried unanimously, 6-0. R. Werge – yes R. Mann – yes A. McGarry – yes R. Rooney – yes S. Herbert-yes J. Bellavance-yes

Motion A. McGarry seconded by J. Bellavance to reduce the line item for <20' Bridge Inspections from \$25,000 to \$15,000 carried unanimously, 6-0 R. Werge –yes R. Mann –yes A. McGarry –yes R. Rooney –yes S. Herbert-yes J. Bellavance-yes
After clarification the "Self-Contained Salt Storage" line will be re-named, indicating Monitoring, Maintenance and Water Testing.
Chair A. McGarry: the proposed budget results in a 1.5 mil increase; he asks for scenarios demonstrating a lower mil rate increase.

The BOF has requested further information from the Finance Director:

- report on the outcome of the 04/13 Fringe Benefits/Insurances meeting
- verify that interest rates are the lowest possible for the Lease-To-Own equipment
- verify the Fund Balance would remain in compliance if the BOF selects to outright purchase of one or both required DPW vehicles
- provide various scenarios of the proposed budget which would result in mil rate increases below the proposed 1.5 mils, as well as demonstrate the resulting percentage change in the proposed budget over the current year.

5. Motion J. Bellavance seconded by R. Rooney to adjourn at 9:30 PM carried unanimously.

The next Budget Workshops are Thursday, April 8 and Tuesday, April 13, 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/84461212703>
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84461212703> Access 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.