

THOMPSON Board of Finance
Special Meeting/ Budget Workshop-Minutes
Tuesday, April 13, 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. Orla McKiernan-Raftery (Finance Director), Rich Benoit (Director/DPW), First Selectman Amy St Onge, Selectmen Susanne Witkowski and Ken Beausoleil. Melinda Smith (Superintendent of Schools), Board & Commission members, Town Officials. Department heads. Members of the public. Recording Secretary Dotti Durst

2. Correspondence: emails from the Finance Director

- Attorney Slater email to Chair A. McGarry/ NDDH fees inquiry

3. Citizens' Comments- Three minutes per person maximum: Jess Bolte, 1081 Riverside Dr asked BOF members to attend the other Board/Commission meetings in order to better understand the budget proposals

4. Budget Workshop:

- * Insurance rates will be lower than projected at about a 10% increase rather than 14%
- * The tax collector expects partial income from Nutmeg Industries in FY 2022, the balance over 5 years
- * The Finance Director prepared 5 scenarios, as requested by the BOF, demonstrating the impact on the Fund Balance/Debt should DPW vehicles under discussion be re-financed/purchased/leased-to-own
- * M. Smith: the Schools' lockers sharp, corroded edges could be a safety issue, as could lifted floor tiles
- A. McGarry: accreditation will be reviewed in 2+ years; these need to be handled, keeping students safe
- * The Fire Fighter tax abatement is currently at \$1,500 per person; the proposal reflects this amount
- * Revaluation set-asides prepare for the five-year expense; there is currently no 5-year payment contract
- * Chair A. McGarry confirmed: NDDH fees amount to a tax and is not negotiable (per Town Attorney)
- * S. Witkowski reviewed BOS thinking about funding for Community Ambulance under Capital Improvement. Moving the 75K back into the Operating Budget will increase the budget
- * Dog Fund assets which accumulated from town dog tag fees can be utilized by the BOF for dog care
- * A. St Onge: the fees at the Transit District (NECCOG) may be flexible without a decrease in service
- * At the close of this BOF meeting, the projected budget shows an increase of 0.83 mils or 3.4%

The BOF has requested further information/discussion:

- impacts of the reduced Insurances rates on other staff including volunteers/fire fighters
- impact of reduction of costs of Hydrants; projected costs are down by \$5,000 (2202, 522221)
- (1201) Schools/Town split of new HR position: details of both Salary and Benefits (5100xx)
- possible penalties/fines if current debt for DPW vehicles is re-financed or the term shortened
- provide net savings if DPW vehicle re-financing/shortened terms are negotiated

Motion A. McGarry seconded by R. Rooney to reduce DPW Signs (3202, line 533070) by \$7500 carried unanimously, 6-0 A. McGarry-yes R. Rooney-yes R. Werge-yes
R. Mann- yes J. Bellavance-yes S. Herbert- yes

Motion R. Werge seconded by A. McGarry to remove the 9-ton truck from the Capital Improvement Plan (8101, page 110) carried 5-1 A. McGarry-yes R. Rooney-yes
R. Werge-yes R. Mann- yes J. Bellavance-yes S. Herbert - no

Motion R. Werge seconded by A. McGarry to purchase the DPW 9 ton truck (8101, page 110) and finance it at \$43,787 per year carried 5-1 A. McGarry-yes R. Rooney-yes
R. Werge-yes R. Mann- yes J. Bellavance-yes S. Herbert - no

Motion A. McGarry seconded R. Mann to authorize the Finance Director to consolidate the current 5 DMV vehicle leases as itemized, (Debt 8150, 522470), subject to final financing details, carried unanimously, 6-0 A. McGarry-yes R. Rooney-yes R. Werge-yes
R. Mann- yes J. Bellavance-yes S. Herbert- yes

Motion S. Herbert seconded by A. McGarry to reduce \$25,000 from the Library/Community Center Roof Fund in the Capital Improvement Plan (8101) carried unanimously, 6-0. A. McGarry-yes R. Rooney-yes R. Werge-yes R. Mann- yes
J. Bellavance-yes S. Herbert- yes

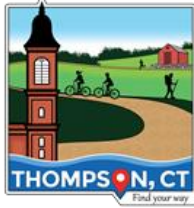
Motion R. Mann seconded by A. McGarry to reduce Bull Hill/Schools Track to \$10,000 in the Capital Improvement Plan (8101) carried 4-2. A. McGarry-no R. Rooney-yes
R. Mann- yes R. Werge-yes J. Bellavance-no S. Herbert- yes. After discussion:

Motion R. Mann seconded by A. McGarry to reduce Bull Hill/Schools Track to \$15,000 in the Capital Improvement Plan (8101) carried 4-2. A. McGarry-no R. Rooney-yes
R. Werge-yes R. Mann- yes J. Bellavance-no S. Herbert- yes

Motion A. McGarry seconded by J. Bellavance to combine the Capital Improvement Plan (8101) Schools locker rooms/floor replacement into one line item in the amount of \$40,000 carried 5-1. A. McGarry-yes R. Rooney-yes R. Werge-yes R. Mann- yes
S. Herbert -no J. Bellavance-yes

Motion A. McGarry seconded by S. Herbert to move \$75,000, Community Ambulance, from the Capital Improvement Plan (8101) to the Operating budget (2202), to be dispensed beginning July 1, 2021 in 12 equal increments over the 12-month fiscal year.
After discussion, the text was modified.

Motion A. McGarry seconded by S. Herbert to move \$75,000, Community Ambulance, from the Capital Improvement Plan (8101) to the Operating budget (2202), to be dispensed beginning July 1, 2021 in 12 equal increments over the 12-month fiscal year, providing that Community Ambulance continues to operate in the current manner; should that change, the remaining payments will cease. Motion carried unanimously. 6-0
A. McGarry-yes R. Rooney-yes R. Werge-yes R. Mann- yes J. Bellavance-yes S. Herbert- yes



**THOMPSON Board of Finance
Special Meeting/ Budget Workshop-Minutes
Tuesday, April 13, 2021
via Zoom from remote locations**

Motion A. McGarry seconded by S. Herbert to reduce Animal Control (2401) by \$8,160.

After discussion, the motion was withdrawn by A. McGarry as was the second by S. Herbert.

Motion A. McGarry seconded by S. Herbert to transfer \$8,160 from the Dog Fund to the General Fund carried unanimously. 6-0

A. McGarry-yes R. Rooney-yes R. Werge-yes R. Mann- yes J. Bellavance-yes S. Herbert- yes

Motion A. McGarry seconded by J. Bellavance to reduce General Services/NE Transit District (4101, 522521) by \$5,000 to \$3,208 carried unanimously. 6-0

A. McGarry-yes R. Rooney-yes R. Werge-yes R. Mann- yes J. Bellavance-yes S. Herbert- yes

Motion A. McGarry seconded by J. Bellavance to reduce (2202, 522550) Fire Department Refund/exemption from \$60,000 to \$45,000 carried unanimously. 6-0

A. McGarry-yes R. Rooney-yes R. Werge-yes R. Mann- yes J. Bellavance-yes S. Herbert- yes

Motion A. McGarry seconded by J. Bellavance to reduce (2202, 522550) Fire Department Refund/exemption from \$60,000 to \$45,000 carried unanimously. 6-0

A. McGarry-yes R. Rooney-yes R. Werge-yes R. Mann- yes J. Bellavance-yes S. Herbert- yes

5. Adjourn:

Motion R. Werge seconded by R. Rooney to adjourn at 9:30 PM carried unanimously.

The next Budget Workshop is 7 PM, Thursday, April 15 as part of the Regular Monthly Meeting

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

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Lfguguq6TDyOnKbcjXC7NFzCZcMveLh2NKOAZ9jd7UBHPmJngn9J3uX3O7dHdc.UzYEiUoc0-a_aFST Passcode: @Dr0hrMD

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.