



THOMPSON Board of Finance
Special Meeting/Budget Workshop - Minutes
Tuesday, April 19, 2022
Town Hall-Merrill Seney Room
and via Zoom from remote locations

1. The call to order by Chair A. McGarry was at 7:00 PM with all members present.
Roll call: Aaron McGarry, Rob Mann, Robert Werge, Steve Herbert, Dave Johnson, Laurent Guillot
First Selectman Amy St Onge, Finance Director Bill Steglitz. Many members of Boards/Commissions and members of the public. Recording Secretary Dotti Durst
2. Approval of minutes:
- **Motion D. Johnson seconded by L. Guillot to approve the April 12, 2022 Special Meeting/Budget Workshop minutes as presented carried unanimously.**
- **Motion R. Werge seconded by R. Mann to approve the April 14, 2022 Meeting/Budget Workshop minutes as presented carried unanimously.**
3. Correspondence through the town website for BOF members, after the agenda was posted:
*Danielle Carlson 3 Rachel Dr N Grosvenordale * Tamah Senosk 22 First St * Beverly Warner (no address given) * Sean Senosk 22 First St * Daryl Hamilton 304 Ravenelle Rd N Grosvenordale * Heather Santos, 77 Hagstrom Rd.
* A memo from Janice Smith send through the Selectman's Office.
4. Citizens' Comments in person: Tom Angelo, 640 Fabyan Rd; Bill Warner, Lowell Davis Rd; Bill Witkowski, Clarence Dr; Jessica Bolte, 1081 Riverside DR; Fred Smith 78 Lehtinen Rd; Shawn Brissette, Lowell Davis Rd; Gary Kettle, 18 Wilsonville Rd; Ray Williams, Porter Plain Rd; Inaudible name, 108 Fabyan Rd; Susanne Witkowski, Clarence Dr, speaking as a citizen; Sally White, 308 E. Thompson Rd; Joy Harmon, 346 Brickyard Rd; Jason St Onge, 139 Riverside Dr.
Citizen's Comments Via Zoom: Rebecca Aldrich, address inaudible; Valerie Clark, 105 Alm Rd; Gail Brooks, 34 Oakwood Dr.
5. New Business: Request from the Board of Education dated March 29, 2022: transfer of funds not spent in FY21 to the non-lapsing account, not to exceed \$189,805. Discussion: the request is in compliance with the provision for up to 1% of the previous year's BOE budget to be so allocated. The uses will be for current year Capital and Special Education expenses.
Motion D. Johnson seconded by S. Herbert to grant the BOE request to transfer unspent previous-year funds as requested, in the amount of \$189,805 carried unanimously, 6-0.
R. Werge- yes D. Johnson-yes L. Guillot- yes S. Herbert- yes R. Mann- yes A. McGarry-yes
6. Budget Workshop: the Budget Workshop began at 7:53 PM.
Motion R. Werge seconded by D. Johnson to remove \$81,714 from Interest, 522460, and \$74,425 from Bond Retirement, 522465, carried unanimously, 6-0.
R. Werge- yes D. Johnson-yes L. Guillot- yes S. Herbert- yes R. Mann- yes A. McGarry-yes

Motion R. Werge seconded by S. Herbert to reduce the BOE share of the Finance Director's salary, 50112, to match the Town share of the salary at \$75,000 each (reduction of \$21,708) carried unanimously, 6-0
R. Werge- yes D. Johnson-yes L. Guillot- yes S. Herbert- yes R. Mann- yes A. McGarry-yes

Motion R. Werge seconded by S. Herbert to reduce the Capital Expense: Buckley Hill Road Bridge Engineering by 50% (-\$113,550) in anticipation of matching grant funding carried unanimously, 6-0.
R. Werge- yes D. Johnson-yes L. Guillot- yes S. Herbert- yes R. Mann- yes A. McGarry-yes

Motion S. Herbert: restore \$8,000 to the Animal Control Officer Salary, 510028, failed, lack of a second.

Motion D. Johnson seconded by R. Mann to reduce the Town Administrator's salary, 510001, by \$125,000.
Discussion: the town should be asked about this position through a town meeting; procedural aspects were reviewed. Strategies for informing the voters and receiving feedback were considered. **Motion carried, 5-1.**
R. Werge- yes D. Johnson-yes L. Guillot- yes S. Herbert- no R. Mann- yes A. McGarry-yes

Discussion: Bill Steglitz noted that along with the new position of Town Administrator, the proposed salary of the First Selectman would have been reduced by \$10,000. **Motion D. Johnson seconded by S. Herbert to add back \$10,000 to the First Selectman's salary, 510001, keeping it flat at \$60,000, carried unanimously, 6-0.**
R. Werge- yes D. Johnson-yes L. Guillot- yes S. Herbert- yes R. Mann- yes A. McGarry-yes

Discussion of Animal Control Officer's Salary: R. Werge felt the proposed increase was more than could be acceptable at this time, but that the cut of \$8,000 was also unacceptable. A. McGarry discussed the concept of two parallel tracks which the BOF must keep in mind. An appropriate balance must be established. The town requires more than the original idea of a part-time person.

Motion A. McGarry seconded by R. Werge to restore \$2,000 to the Animal Control Officer Salary, 510028, to \$37,000 carried unanimously, 6-0.

R. Werge- yes D. Johnson-yes L. Guillot- yes S. Herbert- yes R. Mann- yes A. McGarry-yes

Discussion: D. Johnson- \$189,805 has been moved tonight to the BOE non-lapsing account, therefore a reduction in the budget proposal is appropriate. R. Werge clarified that the transfer tonight was for use in the current fiscal year, exclusively for specified uses, in particular increased Special Education expenses.

Motion D. Johnson seconded by R. Mann to reduce the BOE budget by \$178,292 did not carry, 3-3.

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

Discussion: D. Johnson spoke with Tax Collector Rene Morin: Revenues will be up a total of \$100,000 (Prior Year's taxes, \$30K. DMV Supplemental tax, \$50K. Interest/Liens, \$20K) .

Motion D. Johnson seconded by R. Mann to increase Revenue by \$100,000 carried unanimously, 6-0.

R. Werge- yes D. Johnson-yes L. Guillot- yes S. Herbert- yes R. Mann- yes A. McGarry-yes

****With the adjustments voted upon so far tonight factored in, the projected mil rate would be 25.12**

Discussion: the BOE budget has been reduced by \$21,078 in order to evenly split the salary of the shared Town/ Schools Finance Director. A. McGarry: all other departments have had reductions to the proposed budget; similarly, Education must give a little something. If the BOE budget is reduced by \$78,292, that will result in an overall reduction of \$100,000, or ½ of 1%.

Motion A. McGarry seconded by D. Johnson to reduce the BOE budget, 510001, by \$78,292 carried, 4-2.

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

****The budget proposal now shows a .07 increase for a mil rate of 25.02. The total expenditure is \$29,468,767.**

Motion D. Johnson seconded by R. Mann to approve the budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023, as adjusted from the BOS proposed, to \$28,468,767, and to forward it to the BOS for a Town Meeting carried 5-1.

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

7. Board of Finance Member Comments:

Motion D. Johnson seconded by S. Herbert to cancel the scheduled BOF Meeting of April 20 carried unanimously. Motion S. Herbert seconded by R. Werge to cancel the scheduled BOF meeting of April 21, 2022 carried unanimously.

-R. Werge praised the budget workshop process, especially the dialogue among BOF members regarding budget line items and concepts

- A. McGarry thanked his fellow BOF members for putting their points of view forward in regard to the matters before the BOF. Understanding various perspectives leads to the best decisions.

8. Adjourn: **Motion D. Johnson seconded by R. Werge to adjourn at 9:37 PM carried unanimously.**

The ZOOM recording of the meeting, audio and video, in its entirety: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/-LObMUkv8Nod1Rx3rTBYeo6pF3i_e0uyhs7aTDDwquX7x66-WGR8BLweVo66vk3s.-OINDIKglhw4Aicg Passcode: 9c#B&3ER

Respectfully submitted by Dorothy Durst, Recording Secretary *Dorothy Durst*