



# TOWN OF THOMPSON Board of Selectmen

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2020 APR -1 P 3:13

TOWN CLERK

## SPECIAL BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING Tuesday, March 31, 2020 Via ZOOM Web Portal MINUTES

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First Selectman Amy St Onge called the meeting to order (held via Zoom) at 7 PM.  
Roll Call: Via Zoom: First Selectman Amy St Onge, Selectmen Susanne Witkowski and Ken Beausoleil. 4 members of the public. Recording Secretary Dotti Durst

### 1. Selectmen's Comments

- S. Witkowski: hopes all are staying safe and abiding by the CDC's guidance
- K. Beausoleil: The Emergency Management crew is working hard to try to keep citizens safe. Windham County at this time has only 1 confirmed Coronavirus case
- A. St Onge :phone calls are coming to the Town Hall regarding the appearance of vehicles with New York license plates. There may be people who own property, particularly in the Quaddick Lake area, who have come to their homes in Thompson. We ask them to self-quarantine. As was mentioned, there is only one confirmed case of the virus in this county.
- On April 1, the town's annual Roadside Pick-up will take place, with bags available at the town hall, provided by the Recreation Department. Here is a chance for residents to get outside in the fresh air and simultaneously help the environment.

### 2. Citizen Comments: none

### 3. Discussion and Possible Action on Resolution re: FY 2020-21 Budget Timeline:

First Selectman A. St Onge read into the record the Resolution pertaining to a modified budget process (see below). K. Beausoleil - the Resolution had been reviewed by the Town Attorney. A. St Onge- if the Governor's Executive Order is lifted in time, Thompson would be free to hold the Annual Town Budget Meeting and the Referendum; however, currently, the town is mandated by the state to operate in the manner described in the Resolution. S. Witkowski - by what date would the Governor's restriction have to be lifted in order for the town to go back to the normal budget procedure? A. St Onge- it appears that May 14 seems a workable date, from which the town could move to the traditional budget process. It seems important that all parties have the timeline in place. In the meantime, members of the public must be able to access the BOS and BOF meetings, and an electronic method has been set up to facilitate that participation. All matters to be discussed at any of the meetings must be posted on the town website at least 24 hours before the meeting occurs.

Resolution key points: Governor Lamont on March 10, 2020 declared a public health emergency. To address the budget process the Governor has ordered: "all budget deadlines prior to May 15, 2020 are extended by 30 days" and the Resolution permits the Board of Selectmen to alter or modify the schedules of all the steps in the budget process. The Resolution dispenses with any in-person voting requirements, conferring

budget-making responsibility to the town including the adoption of a budget and setting the mill rate; Thompson having a Board of Finance, that authority will rest with that Board. The Board of Selectmen set forth a schedule/timeline for submission, deliberation and final action on the Town budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. The Resolution calls upon the Board of Finance, the budget making authority for the town, to adopt the budget and set the mill rate in accordance with the schedule approved in this Resolution.

**Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to adopt the FY 2020-2021 Budget and Capital Resolution as read carried unanimously.**

4. **Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve the Tax Refunds as listed carried unanimously.**

Fairley, Judith A.	\$55.50	Connor, Travis	\$367.69
Poplawski, Karen	\$108.39	Toyota Lease Trust	\$273.06
Vault Trust	\$503.11	Tremblay, David W.	\$1.44

5. **Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to adjourn carried unanimously.**  
First Selectman A. St Onge adjourned the meeting at 7:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Dorothy Durst, Recording Secretary *Dorothy Durst*  
*These minutes have not yet been approved by the Board of Selectmen. Please refer to next month's meeting minutes for approval of and/or amendments to these minutes.*

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**RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO A MODIFIED CALENDAR FOR THE FY 2020-2021 GENERAL AND CAPITAL FUND BUDGETS AUTHORIZED BY EXECUTIVE ORDERS 2020-7B, 7C AND 7I**

**WHEREAS**, on March 10, 2020, the Governor of the State of Connecticut ("Governor") declared a public health emergency and civil preparedness emergency for the State of Connecticut, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Sections 19a-131 and 28-9, in response to the global pandemic of COVID-19 disease associated with a novel coronavirus that is currently affecting multiple countries and states; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States ("President") declared a national emergency to combat the coronavirus that is currently infecting the population of the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the effects the transmission of COVID-19 has resulted in the spread of infections in Connecticut and throughout the country, as well as resulting in shortages of personal protective equipment and other supplies that could jeopardize public safety and civil preparedness; and

**WHEREAS**, in response to the issuance of declarations of a public health emergency and civil preparedness emergency by the Governor he has issued a series of Executive Orders setting for the law governing the conduct of the business of state and municipal government during the period of the emergency;

**WHEREAS**, on March 14, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order No. 7B ("EO 7B"), paragraph 1 of which suspends all statutes, charter provisions, ordinances and regulations mandating open meetings in order "...to permit any public agency to meet and take such actions authorized by the law without permitting or requiring in-person, public access to such meetings, and to hold such meetings or proceedings remotely by conference call, videoconference or other technology" ("Electronic Meetings"); and,

**WHEREAS**, EO 7B sets forth the following requirements for Electronic Meetings:

- ☐ the public has the ability to view or listen to each meeting or proceeding in real time, by telephone, video, or other technology;
- ☐ any such meeting or proceeding is recorded or transcribed, and such recording or transcript shall be posted on the agency's website within seven (7) days of the meeting or proceeding, and made available within a reasonable time in the agency's office;
- ☐ the required notice and agenda for each meeting or proceeding is posted on the agency's website and shall include information about how the meeting will be conducted and how the public can access it;
- ☐ any materials relevant to matters on the agenda, including but not limited to materials related to specific applications, if applicable, shall be submitted to the agency a minimum of twenty four (24) hours prior and posted to the agency's website for public inspection prior to, during, and after the meeting, and any exhibits to be submitted by members of the public shall, to the extent feasible, also be submitted to the agency a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting and posted to the agency's website for public inspection prior to, during, and after the meeting; and
- ☐ all speakers taking part in any such meeting or proceeding shall clearly state their name and title, if applicable, before speaking on each occasion that they speak; and,

**WHEREAS**, on March 15, 2020 the Governor issued Executive Order No. 7C, paragraph 5 ("EO 7C") of which extended "all budget deadlines for the preparation of the municipal budget" for the FY 2020-2021 "that falls on any date prior to and including May 15, 2020 are extended by thirty (30) days";

**WHEREAS**, EO 7C permits the Board of Selectman to "alter or modify the schedules and deadlines pertaining to the preparation and submission of a proposed budget and the deliberation or actions on said budget" including any required public hearing(s), publication, referendum or final budget adoption: and,

**WHEREAS**, EO 7C postpones all submission dates as set forth in Ordinance No. 10-003 and 10-005 of the Town of Thompson Code of Ordinances until such time as the Board of Selectman approves said modified scheduled and deadline consistent with the thirty (30) day extension; and,

**WHEREAS**, on March 21, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order No. 7I, paragraph 13 ("EO 7I") of which dispenses with any in-person voting requirements (including referenda and town meetings requiring in-person votes) for purposes of adopting 2020-2021 fiscal year municipal budgets and setting the mill rate; thereby conferring final responsibility on the "budget-making authority" of the town to adopt a budget and set a mill rate;

**WHEREAS**, a board of finance is the budget-making authority in any non-charter town which has a board of finance, and,

**WHEREAS**, EOs 7C and 7I do not alter or modify the control of line-items that fall squarely within the authority of the Board of Education budget and, thus, the Board of Education should comply with all submission requirements pertaining to budget deadlines adopted by the municipality; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** pursuant to paragraph 5 of Executive Order 7C, the Board of Selectman hereby sets forth the following modified schedule and deadline for the submission, deliberation and final action on the Town Budget for FY 2020-2021, which meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements noticed in accordance with EO 7B ¶ 1:

1.	April 2, 2020 April 6, 2020 April 9, 2020 April 20, 2020 April 23, 2020	Electronic Special Meetings of the Board of Finance noticed in accordance with EO 7B ¶ 1. The Board of Selectmen Proposed Town Budget is available for public inspection electronically.
2.	May 4, 2020	Electronic Board of Finance Proposed Town Budget available for public inspection electronically.
3.	May 14, 2020	Electronic Special Board of Finance Meeting/Public Hearing Comments from Thompson Residents shall be heard
4.	June 1, 2020	Electronic Special Board of Finance Meeting Approving Final Proposed Town Budget and setting the Mill Rate

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** pursuant to paragraph 13 of Executive Order 7I, the provisions of Ordinance 10-003 and 10-005 are hereby suspended for the deliberations pertaining to the adoption of the Town budget for FY 2020-2021 and that the Board of Finance, the budget-making authority of the Town of Thompson, adopt the FY 2020-2021 budget and set the Mill Rate in accordance with the schedule set forth herein.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** pursuant to paragraph 1 of Executive Order 7B, the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectman of the Town of Thompson shall comply with all requirements pertaining to notice including, but not limited to notice and posting on the website of the Town all submission items at least twenty-four hours prior to the public meeting for which the item has been submitted or shall be considered.

**IN TESTIMONY WHERE OF**, we hereunto set our hand and cause the seal of Town of Thompson to be affixed this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_ 2020

\_\_\_\_\_ Amy St. Onge

\_\_\_\_\_ Susanne Witkowski

\_\_\_\_\_ Kenneth Beausoleil

**IT'S BOARD OF SELECTMEN**