



TOWN OF  
THOMPSON  
Board of Selectmen

**MINUTES FOR SPECIAL SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

Monday, November 29, 2021 6:00 pm  
via ZOOM Online Meeting Portal

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm by Amy St. Onge, First Selectman.

Present: Selectmen Susanne Witkowski and Ken Beausoleil

Staff present: Orla McKiernan-Raftery, Finance Director and Tyra Penn-Gesek, Town Planner

Also present: members of the public

II. 2015 School Bond Proposal to Refinance

Finance Director O. McKiernan-Raftery presented information regarding the 2015 School Bond Proposal to Refinance. The Bond was originally taken out in 2007 at a rate of 4.5%. It was refinanced in 2015 at 2.4% and are currently looking to refinance again down to 1.34%. This will lead to a savings of 130k over the final 6 years of the Bond. There are approximately 50k in issuance fees. The savings are net of the fees.

S. Witkowski expressed concerns that the Board of Finance should be approving and cited past practice. The Refinancing in 2015 was approved by the Board of Finance. The Bond Attorney, Judith Blank, advised that this was not necessary and that the Board of Selectmen was the legislative body to make this decision. Attorney Blank cited CGS 7-370c.

K. Beausoleil stated that he did not have an issue moving forward as 130k is significant savings to our taxpayers.

It was determined that the Board of Finance would hold a special meeting on Thursday, December 2, 2021 at 6:30 pm to formally give their approval on moving forward with the Refinancing.

**Motion by A. St. Onge, seconded by S. Witkowski, to approve the Resolution as presented to pursue the refinancing for the remaining 6 year term.**

**Vote carried unanimously.**

III. CT Community Challenge Grant Opportunity

Town Planner, T. Penn-Gesek presented the Department of Economic Community Development (DECD) guidelines for the Grant Opportunity and the proposed projects for the 1 million dollar Grant Opportunity. AARPA Funds would be utilized as a 1-1 match. S. Witkowski expressed concerns and would have liked to see more allocated to the School Track. Additionally, she was not in favor of the 65 Main Street renovation and cited concerns that the cost estimate for the repairs might be too low since it was 2+ years old and the cost of building materials have risen substantially.

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**Motion by K. Beausoleil, seconded by a. St. Onge, to approve the grant application as presented.**

The prior commitments of the Board of Selectmen for the Salt Storage Facility, Public Safety Facility, Purchase of the Ambulances from Community Fire Department, High School Track Renovation Design Costs and Train Wreck Park Development are not altered by this amended vote. In the event that the grant application to the DECD CT Communities Challenge Grant program is unsuccessful, the funding commitments shall revert to those voted on 8/30/2021 by the Board of Selectmen.

**Vote carried unanimously.**

IV. Adjourn

**Motion by A. St. Onge motioned seconded by S. Witkowski to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 pm. Vote carried unanimously.**

**Meeting Recording:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/eGxw2-BMM7ACeCDLkIL054q24bN-VLX3pA92eAB6oTEf80m44PLkDWO\\_DzFjGnLn.2ayJbdIRr2W1fBsV](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/eGxw2-BMM7ACeCDLkIL054q24bN-VLX3pA92eAB6oTEf80m44PLkDWO_DzFjGnLn.2ayJbdIRr2W1fBsV)

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