



TOWN OF THOMPSON

Board of Selectmen Special Tri-Board Meeting Minutes

Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, Board of Education

Wednesday, September 28, 2022

via ZOOM Online Meeting Portal

Attendance:

Board of Selectmen:

Amy St Onge
Susanne Witkowski

Board of Finance:

Aaron McGarry
Robert Mann
Robert Werge

Board of Education:

William Witkowski
Heather Santos
Thomas Angelo
Valentine Iamartino
Linda Jarmolowicz
Jessica Bolte

I. The call to order by First Selectman Amy St Onge was at 7 PM.

Board attendance is listed, above. A quorum was present for all three Boards.

Also in attendance were members of the Tourtellotte Board of Trustees; in addition to Robert Werge and Amy St Onge, listed above: Brian Santos, Joe Iamartino, Melinda Smith, and Bill Steglitz.

Others: Thompson Director of Planning and Development Tyra Penn-Gesek, Schools Facilities Manager Bill Birch, Thompson Finance Director Bill Steglitz (listed above).

The Zoom recording began at 4:12 minutes into the meeting, after Roll call. The full audio recording is available in the Selectman's Office.

II. Citizen Comments:

Several members of the three Boards, speaking as citizens and not in an official capacity, asked questions of the members of the Tourtellotte Trust and of the Director of Planning and Development, who has obtained a \$240,000 Federal Grant for renovation of the town-owned 65 Main Street property. Although the grant will cover the actual renovations, the design/engineering work (\$0,000) is not covered and is the focus of this meeting. Several concerns about the impact on the Trust Funds' availability to address other school facility needs, should the \$20,000 be thusly used, were expressed. Other matters were also brought forward.

The 65 Main Street property falls under the Trustees' responsibilities per the terms of the Trust documents. The Trust Board recently unanimously voted to request \$20,000 from Trust funds to cover these up-front design/engineering costs. The resulting renovations, once the project is completed and the building again usable, must result in a benefit to the schools/Thompson students.

III. Appropriation of \$20,000 from the Tourtellotte Trust to the 65 Main Street –Design Discussion and Possible Action: The Director of Planning and Development, together with Trustee Brin Santos, himself involved in the construction industry, used a PowerPoint presentation to provide the history of the project and to point out the benefits of moving ahead with the renovations. One particular note is that the 65 Main structure has not been occupied for 10 years and appears to be in poor condition on its Main Street facade, thus impacting the appearance of the neighborhood as well as livability and the encouragement of the walkability of Main Street; this even is as other Main Street upgrades are planned and/or underway. Specific terms of the grant were reviewed, indicating how the proposal will benefit students in a proposed entrepreneurship environment.

After considerable discussion and sharing of opinions, Trustee Joe Iamartino inquired of the Tri-Board members if there would be any concerns with moving ahead with the project if the requested \$20,000 came from another source. No concerns were voiced. He will take the arrangements for that to take place.

Trustee Tom Angelo praised the Tri-Board process of, in real time and face-to-face(virtually), collectively working through an issue, of hearing opinions and thoughts.

Tyra Penn-Gesek thanked all Board members for their participation.

A. St Onge: since the question of the request for allocation of \$20,000 is now moot, no action will be taken at this meeting. She thanked Joe Iamartino for being willing to find an alternative route to the \$20,000 which will enable the entire project to advance.

IV. Adjourn:

Motion Jessica Bolte seconded by Tom Angelo to adjourn carried unanimously.

First Selectman A. St Onge adjourned the meeting at 8:49 PM.

To see and hear the meeting in its entirety, click or copy/paste into your search bar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/YtVHfU31cfynl0qpQx9UCwWwba80X97WJrFui_n7Rc1-6xV6Rpf6G7FI-B4luAwg.Kqly-ulYEDT7xwFV Passcode: Wv^ZqM4+

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.