



TOWN of THOMPSON
Board of Finance
North Grosvenordale, CT 06255

THOMPSON Board of Finance Regular Meeting

Thursday, June 18, 2020

via Zoom from remote locations

MINUTES

1.The call to order by Chair Aaron McGarry was at 7:03 PM.
 Present: Aaron McGarry, Steve Herbert, Rhonda Rooney, Robert Mann, Jim Bellavance. The chair noted that a quorum is present via Zoom. (Robert Werge informed the Chair that he is out-of-state and cannot attend, even by Zoom). Others: Orla McKiernan-Raferly (Finance Director @7:21), Amy St Onge (First Selectman), Ken Beausoleil and Susanne Witkowski (Selectmen), Rene Morin (Tax Collector), Kathleen Herbert (Board of Education Chair), Melinda Smith (Superintendent of Schools), Bob Gentes (Schools Finance Director). Board and Commission members, Members of the public, Recording Secretary Dotti Durst

2.Approve minutes:

a. **Motion S. Herbert seconded by R. Mann to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2020 Regular monthly meeting carried unanimously.**

b. **Motion R. Rooney seconded by J. Bellavance to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2020 Special Meeting carried unanimously.**

3.Correspondence: Superintendent of Schools, Melinda Smith: FY20 budget information and Correspondence to parents, both dated June 10, 2020, was sent to the BOF members.

4.Citizens’ comments: two comments were received at the dedicated town hall public comment email address, both dated June 1; one is from a resident, Peter, and one from resident John Gray (no addresses were required on the email form). Both were read aloud into the record. First Selectman A. St Onge – the one from Mr. Gray referenced a previous version of the budget; she so informed him by responding to his email.

5.Selectman’s Update - First Selectman Amy St Onge * The DPW Director and an electrician have restored usage for the 50% of the lights that were out in Riverside Park. * The safety concerns at the upper parking lot at the Town Hall have been addressed by the DPW and it is re-paved. *The DPW has significant other near-term goals concerning roads, bridges, mowing including along the Airline Trail; they took core samples for a grant application which if awarded will result in being 90% reimbursable for a significant project. * The Town Hall will re-open at the upper level for payment of taxes beginning on July1, with security staff in place to monitor the number of people in the building, and mask usage/distancing requirements. Other town offices will be open by appointment. * The Rivermill development effort is moving ahead, with the BOS preparing a Resolution to enable the town to consider tax abatement and then incremental tax increases on the property under development as it becomes usable. A Public Hearing will be held on July 23 about this matter; the Town Attorney will be present to address questions. If successful, this process will keep the redevelopment moving forward.

6. School District Update - Superintendent of Schools Melinda Smith *The school year has officially ended, it being a very transient year with a total of 975 students enrolled, a gain of 2



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since October 1, the baseline date. Only 50 sought alternative high schools. * Graduation was a little different this year. Thanks go to all school staff/faculty/Directors/principals as well as to the Fire Departments and A. St Onge who contributed to and participated in the parade. * A re-entry Committee has been formed to look ahead; the State will provide more details about their mandates at the end of June.*The current fiscal year looks to have a deficit of very close to \$173,885. * The RFP for the schools roof replacement will go out shortly, having been Covid-delayed. * Meals are being served at 4 sites (250 breakfasts and 250 lunches) but when school ends and staff is reduced, the locations will be reduced to 2. Question R. Rooney about the anticipated number of meals during the summer. Previous years it was about 100 a day, but this year a significantly higher number is predicted, due to so many needy families.

7.Financial Report through May, 2020 (11 months) - Finance Director O. McKiernan-Rafferty: Current property tax collection (\$17,052M) is higher than last year at this time by \$149K. Income from Interest and Liens is lower by \$6K than the prior year, and Motor Vehicle supplements, lower by \$13K. In the 18 days of the current month, since this report closed, an additional \$48K has come in. Total revenue to date (\$838K) is lower than last year by \$52K. Expenses for the year committed are \$6.34M; prior year at this time was \$6.42 M which is very similar. She noted that the Budget Books will be mailed next week to BOF members. The audit for the previous fiscal year is done, with final questions being addressed; it will be finalized very soon, then posted on the website and a copy provided to each BOF member. Question from S. Herbert- has a Management Letter been received? Not yet.

8.Tourtellotte Fund update - Board of Trustees: no report. The Board has not met since February. The current Chair is Joe Iamartino; Orla McKiernan-Rafferty is the Secretary. She will ask for a report for the next BOF meeting.

9.New Business: Tax Suspense Report/June 10, 2020 -Rene Morin, Tax Collector confirmed that all members of the BOF received a copy of the report by email: the amount requested to be suspended is \$240,589.70. Last year, the amount was \$137,101.92. The major reason for the year-to-year difference is that the Tax Bills went out 3 months later than usual. During the current fiscal year, \$128,976.96 was recovered from the previous year's Suspense Account, which is a very high percentage of the \$137K Suspended.

He expects income to come up short of budget by just over \$100K in the current year. But for the 20-21 year, the tax bills will go out on time for payments to begin on July 1. The Governor's Executive Order, endorsed by our BOS, allows a 90-day window to get taxes paid without penalty. A. McGarry: The BOF is called upon to re-categorize this specified amount within the Finance office.

Motion A. McGarry seconded by R. Rooney to move \$240,589.70 from Active Accounts Receivable to Suspended Accounts within the Finance Office carried unanimously.

10.Old Business: none

11.Board of Finance Member Comments: R. Rooney-praised the fact that everyone came together so well (Melinda Smith and Education, Amy St Onge and the Town, Rene Morin and the other Town Officials, and town hall staff) to meet the town's obligations during this stressful time. A. McGarry- with Covid, drastic changes had to be made, for which there was no way to plan, yet they got things done... terrific work!



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12. Motion J. Bellavance seconded by R, Rooney to adjourn carried unanimously.
Chair A. McGarry adjourned the meeting at 7:51 PM.

To hear the meeting via Zoom- Click or Copy/paste the link into your Search bar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/wJ1bLpjN5kdIbonT7ETFVpEOH8Ppaaa81HRK_vEJzU3W_gxTAjGEdwlocRFmA5Pb
Password: 1z\$\$U*M^

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.