



TOWN of  
**THOMPSON**  
BOARD OF FINANCE

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TOWN OF THOMPSON, CT.

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*Cenei Walden*  
TOWN CLERK

Minutes: Regular Meeting  
Thursday, April 19, 2018  
Thompson Library/Community Center  
7:00 PM

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Chairman Aaron McGarry called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM.

I. Roll call

- Members Present: Aaron McGarry, Larry Groh Jr., Jim Bellavance, Rhonda Rooney, Susanne Witkowski and Rob Mann.
- Members Absent: None
- Staff Present: Orla McKiernan-Raftery, Diane Minarik, Recording Secretary
- Also Present: Members of the Public

II. Approve Minutes:

A. March 15, 2018 Regular Meeting

**Susanne Witkowski moved and Jim Bellavance seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2018 meeting with these bolded amendments to agenda item II.**

Larry Groh, Jr. moved and Rob Mann seconded the motion to go into Executive Session **to get updates on Thompson's current court cases** with Atty. St. Onge and 1st Selectman K. Beausoleil.

**Aaron McGarry – Yes, Larry Groh Jr. – Yes, Jim Bellavance – Yes,  
Rhonda Rooney – Yes, Susanne Witkowski – Yes, Rob Mann – Yes**

The motion carried unanimously.

7:05pm – **Board Members Aaron McGarry, Larry Groh Jr., Jim Bellavance, Rhonda Rooney, Susanne Witkowski and Rob Mann left the meeting room and went to a private room to entered into Executive Session with Atty. St. Onge and 1st Selectman K. Beausoleil.**

B. March 22, 2018 Special Meeting – Budget Presentation

**Larry Groh, Jr. moved and Rhonda Rooney seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2018 meeting as written.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

C. April 5, 2018 Special Meeting – Budget Presentation

**Susanne Witkowski moved and Larry Groh, Jr. seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2018 meeting as written.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

D. April 12, 2018 Special Meeting – Budget Presentation

**Rhonda Rooney moved and Susanne Witkowski seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2018 meeting as written.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

## III. Correspondence

- A. BOF monthly budget report
- B. Email from 1st Selectman: Property Tax, OPEBs, and CT's Fixed Costs
- C. Email from Orla: House Passes Bill To Waive Penalties for MBR Reductions Resulting From Holdbacks
- D. Email from Rene Morin: would like to see a .50 Mil increase
- E. Email from Bill Witkowski: thanking BOF for responsible and attainable budget numbers at the end of their last meeting
- F. Memo dated 4/16/18 from Renee Waldron re: EDC Funds Transfer Request, would like it read into the minutes, Chair McGarry read the letter into the minutes
- G. Email from Orla on 4/17/18: Updated budget from 4/12/18 meeting.
- H. Email from Orla on 4/19/18: Letter to be read at meeting from Thompson resident Kristi Durocher, Chair McGarry read the letter during the meeting.

## IV. Citizen's Comments:

- o Julie M., 277 Quaddick Town Farm Rd, representing all the school budget supporters who were unable to make it due to school vacation, they are all there in spirit supporting the proposed budget from last week.
- o Steve Herbert, Wilsonville Rd, Please speak up.
- o Emma Poulin, 257 Reardon Rd, taking away sports and music will have an impact, they learn time management, life skills, sportsmanship and how to take part in the community, she read the Star Fish Poem.
- o Shawn Brissette, Fairway Dr, the budget isn't all about the school, the Town needs to decide what kind of town it wants to be before it can move forward, he was upset that after all the children attended last week's meeting to show support the direction of the BOF went straight to the Mil Rate when there are needs to be met in the Town, we are giving away historic buildings, we need to supporting of the Fire Depts. Ambulance, fix roads, Community Center Roof, etc..., as a resident it is our responsibility to support the town.
- o Christine Campbell, 861 Thompson Rd, new Superintendent is doing great job and has got \$1.5M in Grants this year, no clear explanation of BOE Budget increases, \$84,000 bus driver severance pay will increase MBR next year, kids shouldn't need someone to rally them to come to any meeting, BOE decides what to cut not BOF, feels 0.8 Mil Rate increase will pass and doesn't think we should be taking money out of Surplus.
- o Joe Lindley, 24 Hill Rd, BOE is a big part of overall Town budget, a quality school systems is a big part of building and branding our Town, we've been through hard times but its turning around now, please leave the BOE budget alone without further cuts.
- o Denette Snay, 221 Pompeo Rd, her kids graduated from TPS with 16-17 college credits which help them when they went on to College, she wants all the students to have the same opportunity.
- o Charlene Langlois, 369 Lowell David Rd, on several Boards and Commissions in the Town trying to help put Thompson on the map, questioning why the EDC budget was cut from \$50,000 to \$25,000 when it takes money to build up the Town, the school is very important to growing the Town and their budget should be left alone, unfortunately need to spend a lot of money to gain a little.

## V. Kenneth Beausoleil: Selectmen's Update

- o The new Sweeper has arrived, the F550 Dump Truck has been ordered, F350 Pick-up truck is out to bid, the Brownfield Area-Wide Revitalization (BAR) \$200 K Grant has

been chosen as a finalist which means the state is backing Thompson and the interview is on 5/3/18. \$875,000 is the max amount could get back from the Schools Oil Tank Spill Lawsuit which will go towards the loan of \$913,000.

- VI. Melinda Smith: Education Update – School Vacation
- o B. Witkowski reached out to the Attorney on the DATCO Contract but hasn't heard back yet and the work required by DEEP is continuing at the school.
- VII. Orla McKiernan-Rafferty: Financial Report
- o 9 months through budget, \$15.86 M in Property Taxes; received \$33 K in Grants in March; Local Revenue for the year is \$633 K; Expenses committed for the year is \$5.713 M; cash decreased by \$2.27 M for the month but up \$965 K from last year and no change in Surplus from prior month.
- VIII. Board of Trustees of the Tourtellotte Fund Update
- o The window project is going well and quickly, should be done in couple weeks, should drive by school and check them out, they look like the original windows; taking a breather to accumulate money for Phase 2 and possibly 3; holding a meeting in July to go over funds in Trust.
- IX. New Business:
- A. EDC Request Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$30,000K for EDC projects. Economic Development Commissions Chair Brian Yacino explained why they are requesting a money transfer from their Staffing line item. Legal services - \$8 K to write incentive agreement between the Town and River Mill Developer; Town Website - \$15,500 max estimate to create new website; Engineering Study - \$3 K to UConn Engineering Students for the engineering work done on Town projects; Town Zoning Regulations - \$3 K for NECCOG to re-write Zoning Regulation to enhance economic development; Recording Secretary - \$500.00 for additional meetings.
- Larry Groh, Jr. moved and Susanne Witkowski seconded the motion to create these new line items:**
- Legal Services, Town Website, Engineering Study, Town Zoning Regulations, in the FY18 Economic Development Commission's Budget.**
- The motion carried unanimously.**
- Rhonda Rooney moved and Rob Mann seconded the motion to transfer \$30,000 from the FY18 Economic Development Commission's Budget Staffing line item to the following line items:**
- \$ 8,000 into Legal Services**
  - \$15,500 into Town Website**
  - \$ 3,000 into Engineering Study**
  - \$ 3,000 into Town Zoning Regulations**
  - \$ 500 into Recording Secretary**
- The motion carried unanimously.**
- X. Old Business: None
- 8:06pm - **Larry Groh, Jr. moved and Susanne Witkowski seconded the motion to take a 5 minute recess.**
- The motion carried unanimously.**
- 8:14pm - Meeting resumed.

XI. Budget Workshop: starting Mil Rate increase 0.7152

- A quick review of the budget to clean up these inadvertent changes on the 4/12/18 updated budget:
  - ✓ Pg 8, Tourtellotte Trust: return Dept. & Selectman Proposed amounts to \$20K
  - ✓ Pg 57, Salt & Sand: return Dept. Proposed to \$185K & Selectman Proposed \$200K
  - ✓ Pg 96, Municipal Insurance: return Dept. Proposed to \$62,727
  - ✓ Pg 99, Tourtellotte Trust: return Dept. & Selectman Proposed amounts to \$20K

**These changes did not effect the budget in any way!**
- While going through entire budget a calculation error was found that will effect the budget amount and Mil Rate:
  - ✓ Pg 48, new line item Crew Leader \$54,163 K was not added to the total budget amount. After adding it the Mil Rate increase is 0.8051, Mil Rate of 27.81.
- Last year the Board took \$675K from Surplus to balance the FY18 Budget, because of the State budget cuts, which starts the FY19 Budget with a Mil Rate increase of 1.0849 or \$675K less revenue coming into the town before any changes/additions are made for the FY19 Budget.
- The Tax Collector's summarization of comments heard in his office from tax payers is they are still fuming over last year's tax increase, 4 referendums won't happen again and area Towns are coming in with less than ½ Mil increase. He would vote for this budget but the tax payer's wont. The Town is \$164K lower in motor vehicle tax collections from last year and has 6 months less to collect delinquent taxes.
- It costs \$5K - \$7K each time the budget doesn't pass.
- BOE Chair's summarization of comments heard: don't do enough for the school, it's notoriously underfunded, do nothing for "Gifted & Talented Kids" (but are supposed to be), don't do enough for social services or guidance. The school is responsible for more things like feeding children Breakfast and Lunch, it can't keep operating on irresponsible cuts. Can't say what would be cut but there will be cuts if their budget is cut \$183,747 K.
- A long discussion ensued between Board Members on where/what to cut to present a responsible budget.

**Aaron McGarry moved and Susanne Witkowski seconded the motion to approve these changes to the working budget:**

Pg	Acct. # & Name	Dept. Proposed	Selectman Proposed	BOF Action	BOF Proposed	Reason
8 & 99	470371 – Tourtellotte Trust	\$20 K	\$20 K	Remove \$5 K	\$15 K	Amend 3/25 motion to correct budget numbers, outcome is same
57	533060 – Salt & Sand	\$185 K	\$200 K	Remove \$25 K	\$175 K	Amend 4/12 motion to correct budget numbers, outcome is same

Revenue – 3040 Local				Page 8
Project Name	Proposed	Action Voted	New Amount	Reason
470371 – Tourtellotte Trust	\$15 K	Return \$5K	\$20K	Requested for Art Work repairs
440342 – Miscellaneous Income	\$ 35,000	Add \$3,208	\$ 38,208	To move FY19 Budget forward
Expenditures – 8101 Capital Expenditures				Page 99
Tourtellotte Trust Fund	\$15 K	Return \$5K	\$20K	Requested for Art Work repairs
Expenditures – 9000 School Board Budget			Page 106	
400/4880 – School Board Expenditures	\$18,553,744	Remove \$30,000	\$18,523,744	To move FY19 Budget forward
<b>OR</b> FY19 Budget Increase	\$301,978		\$271,978	New FY19 Budget Increase amount

Aaron McGarry – Yes,  
Rhonda Rooney – Yes,  
**The motion carried.**

Larry Groh Jr. – Yes,  
Susanne Witkowski – Yes,

Jim Bellavance – No,  
Rob Mann - Yes

S. Witkowski would like the same agreement that when the bus money comes in, the school can come back the Board if they need more money.

**Larry Groh, Jr. moved and Susanne Witkowski seconded the motion to approve to send \$25,815,853 for the combined FY19 Town of Thompson Budget to the Board of Selectmen to send to Town Meeting.**

Aaron McGarry – Yes,  
Rhonda Rooney – Yes,

Larry Groh Jr. – Yes,  
Susanne Witkowski – Yes,

Jim Bellavance – No,  
Rob Mann - No

**The motion carried.**

XII. Board of Finance Member's Comments:

- o S. Witkowski stated there is no meeting next week!

XIII. Adjourn: **Larry Groh Jr. moved and Susanne Witkowski seconded the motion to adjourn.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Chairman Aaron McGarry adjourned the meeting at 10:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Diane Minarik*

Diane Minarik  
Recording Secretary