



TOWN of
THOMPSON
BOARD OF FINANCE

Minutes: Budget Meeting
Thursday, March 26, 2015
Thompson Library/Community Center
7:00 PM

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Chairman Ray Faucher, Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

- I. Roll call and seating of alternates
 1. Members Present: Raymond Faucher, Jr., Paul Dery, Larry Groh, Jr., Aaron McGarry, and Susanne Witkowski.
 2. Members Absent: Laurent Guillot.
 3. Staff Present:
Tina Fox, Recording Secretary
Orla McKiernan-Rafferty, Finance Director
 4. Also Present: Neil Breen, Kerstin Forrester, Dr. Michael Jolin, Members of the Public
- II. Correspondence
 1. Information regarding ages and mileage of the school busses was distributed by the Board of Education. Paul Dery provided a similar handout with additional information.
 2. Information regarding enrollment numbers for both in- and out-of- district students was distributed by the Board of Education.
- III. Citizen's Comments: None
- IV. Budget Workshop
 1. There was discussion regarding the replacement of the roof at the school. Ray Faucher, Sr. suggested that the Board be provided with clarification on the matter for the next meeting.
 2. Page 7: R. Faucher, Sr. asked for clarification regarding line item 'Transportation Revenues.' Orla McKiernan-Rafferty will provide an update at the next meeting. Special Education Placement was also discussed. Neil Breen estimated that the school would receive \$475,000 reimbursement at best for Special Education costs from the State for fiscal year 2014-2015. **There was a consensus amongst Board members to change line item 430332 from \$550,000 to \$475,000.**
 3. Board of Assessment Appeals: The Board discussed the increase in pay for the Recording Secretary position. Kerstin Forrester explained that the former Chair had been doing the Recording Secretary duties for a small fee; no one on the Board is willing to take that work on now. **There was a consensus amongst Board members to pay the Recording Secretary \$100 per meeting.** K. Forrester agreed to bring information to the Board at the next meeting regarding how many meetings the Board of Assessment Appeals held in 2014. **There was a consensus amongst Board members to decrease line item 510154 from \$1,500 to \$1,200 pending the additional information at the next meeting.**

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4. The Board discussed a news article regarding probate court fees. Orla McKiernan-Rafferty stated that she would keep the Board up-to-date on the per capita amount changing.
5. Maintenance of Municipal Buildings: Larry Groh, Jr. asked for clarification on line 522230, Service Contracts. K. Forrester explained that the amount on that line had been taken out of the Building Repairs and Maintenance line budget.
6. Fire Departments: R. Faucher, Sr. mentioned a question that was asked by John Sharpe at a previous meeting; J. Sharpe was concerned that there was no appropriation for a new ambulance in the budget. R. Faucher, Sr. referred to his personal notes from a Board of Finance meeting in 2014 to clarify why there was not currently an appropriation for a new ambulance in this year's budget proposal. K. Forrester agreed to bring the Board additional information for the next meeting regarding the income the ambulances generate. The Board discussed the cost of equipment for the fire departments. **There was a consensus amongst Board members to add \$2,000 per department on line 522500, increasing from \$43,500 to \$45,500 per department.**
7. Canine Operations: **There was a consensus amongst Board members to decrease the percentage on line 510028 from 5% to 2.5%, and to increase line 533040 by \$400, from \$150 to \$550.**
8. Town Garage: Orla McKiernan-Rafferty stated that she sent out RFP's for fuel oil; the Board of Selectmen would be meeting April 1, 2015 to open sealed bids for unleaded gas, diesel, and heating fuel. Discussion regarding the heating lines for all three municipal buildings will be discussed after the bids are reviewed.
9. Public Works: The Board discussed the Centerline Marking line item.
10. Ground Supplies/Parks: The Board discussed the Summer Temp line item. **There was a consensus amongst Board members to decrease line 510063 from \$15,000 to \$14,000, to be further revisited at a later date.**
11. Transfer Station: The Board discussed line 522915. K. Forrester clarified that the company Lakeshore suggested the Town budget \$7,500 for that line. The Board also discussed line 522910, Water Monitoring. Orla McKiernan-Rafferty explained why the current year-to-date amount seems questionable. R. Faucher, Sr. thanked Orla for all of the work that she has been doing.
12. Cemeteries: R. Faucher, Sr. wanted to know what is paid for out of the 'Cemetery Care and Supplies Line.' K. Forrester agreed to provide the Board that information at a later date.
13. Snow Removal: The Board discussed the increase in 'Additional Payroll' line, with clarification on the matter from K. Forrester.
14. General Services: R. Faucher, Sr. brought up a concern that a citizen had asked him about regarding the Thompson Housing Authority increasing their employee's pay. Susanne Witkowski explained the employee pay increases.
15. Veteran's Services: K. Forrester explained that the person employed as the Veteran Officer stated that he did not want a pay increase.
16. Library Administration: The Board discussed the Libraries request for an increase so that they can begin opening on Sundays. **There was a consensus amongst Board members to decrease the total proposed library budget from \$380,016 to \$376,635 and revisit the line at a later date.** The Board discussed upcoming library repairs. The Board requested that the year-life of the shingles on the library roof be provided to them at a later date. **There was a consensus amongst Board members to remove \$67,000 from the 'Library HVAC' line with the understanding that that money is available in the Transfer Account.**
17. Recreation Commission: The Board discussed the pay for the Recreation Director. The Board believed the percentage increase could be inaccurate. The Board agreed to revisit the matter at a later date once the correct percentage

is obtained, and apply that percentage to the pay for the Director of Planning and Development and the Building Official, as well.

18. Planning and Zoning Commission: The Board discussed the pay increase for the Zoning Enforcement Officer, with clarification from John Rice, Secretary for the Planning and Zoning Commission.
19. Zoning Board of Appeals: It was clarified to the Board that ZBA meets once a month.
20. Fringe Benefits: The Board discussed fringe benefits, including the 25% increase to Worker's Compensation.
21. Municipal Insurance: Orla McKiernan-Rafferty agreed to provide more detail regarding this increase to the Board at a later date.
22. Capital: The Board revisited the discussion of a new ambulance with John Sharpe, who was not present earlier in the meeting. He clarified some information, and agreed to provide the Board with more information at a later date.

V. Adjournment

1. **Larry Groh, Jr. moved and Aaron McGarry seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.**
2. Chairman Ray Faucher, Jr. adjourned the meeting at 9:17 PM.

Tina Fox
Recording Secretary