



TOWN of
THOMPSON
BOARD OF FINANCE

Minutes: Budget Meeting
Thursday, April 9, 2015
Thompson Library/Community Center
7:00 PM

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Chairman Ray Faucher, Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:03 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, Paul Lenky, Shaina Smith, Members of the Public
- II. Correspondence
- III. Citizen's Comments
 1. Kathleen Herbert, Wilsonville Rd., stated that she would like Larry Groh, Jr. to announce to the Town that he is now an employee of the Board of Education. She believed that presents a conflict of interest in his discussion and voting on the part of the budget that has to do with the Board of Education. She requested he recuse himself from the Board of Education portion of the budget.
- IV. Budget Workshop
 1. Larry Groh, Jr. responded to Kathleen Herbert's Citizen's Comment, stating that he is not sure that he is technically an employee of the Board of Education.
 2. The Board discussed where they would like the mil rate increase to ultimately stand. There was a consensus that the increase should be between .5 and .95 mills in order for the budget to pass.
 3. The Board discussed the Quaddick Road Bridge Project, specifically whether or not the project is expected to be finished by June 30, 2016.
 4. The Board received final prices for heating oil, diesel, and gasoline. **Town Hall, Department 1801, Line 522210 (Fuel-Heating) was changed from \$8,250 to \$6,355. Library Department 5102, Line 522210 (Heating) was changed from \$20,000 to \$16,940. Highway Garage Department 3201, Line 522210 (Heating) was changed from \$10,000 to \$10,585.**
 5. The Board discussed the up-coming retirement of the Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk. The Board is seeking clarification as to how much training a new Town Clerk and Assistant will need, and how much that will cost the Town.

6. **A typo on page 22 regarding lines 510010 and 510011 (hours for each Finance Tax Clerk) was fixed.**
7. **The Public Works Department 3202 budget was adjusted for current fuel prices. Line 533210 was changed from \$18,000 to \$18,705. Line 5333130 was changed from \$103,500 to \$92,700.**
8. **There was a consensus amongst Board members to decrease Line 510063 in the Ground Supplies Park Department 3203 from \$15,000 to \$12,500.**
9. The Board discussed the increase in pay to the Recreation Director to account for that position not receiving an increase the prior year. **There was a consensus amongst Board members (with Paul Dery disagreeing) to increase Line 510046 on the Recreation Commission Department 5301 budget by 4.9% instead of the proposed 3.5%.**
10. The Board discussed the possibility of decreasing the Library Administration Department 5101 budget to eliminate the additional payroll. There was a consensus to revisit this portion of the budget later in the evening. Upon revisiting, **there was a consensus amongst Board members to decrease the Library Administration Total for Object from \$282,524 to \$277,202.**
11. R. Faucher, Jr. asked for clarification from John Sharpe as to what the income and expenses are for the ambulance services at the Speed Way. John Sharpe agreed to provide more information to the Board at the next meeting.
12. The Board discussed whether or not purchasing a new bus should be in the budget. **There was a consensus amongst Board members (with Larry Groh, Jr. and Paul Dery disagreeing) to not include the purchasing of a new bus in the budget.**
13. The Board asked for clarification as to what the Fence for Municipal Sand in Capital was for. P. Lenky explained that the fence was to go around the free sand to the public to ensure that people do not remove excessively large quantities. **There was a consensus amongst Board members to remove the \$2,000 from Capital for Fence for Municipal Sand.**
14. **There was a consensus amongst Board members to remove the \$3,200 from Capital for 3D Printer & Computer for Library.**
15. R. Faucher, Jr. requested that someone who can answer questions regarding the Little League's request for \$10,000 be present at the next meeting.
16. The Board discussed with Renee Waldron the Park Improvements line in Capital. **There was a consensus amongst Board members to decrease the Park Improvements line in Capital from \$9,000 to \$4,600.**
17. The Board asked for clarification regarding the Heating Oil Line in the school budget. Neil Breen answered that the line had been under budgeted significantly in the past.
18. Town Pension Line 511090 was increased from \$141,000 to \$161,000, as per Orla McKiernan-Rafferty's suggestion.
19. There was discussion as to whether or not to decrease Line 522415 Emergency Fuel Assistance in the General Services Department 4101 budget. **There was a consensus amongst the Board to leave Line 522415 as is at \$6,000.**
20. The Board discussed the increase in pay per hour for the Zoning Enforcement Officer position. **There was a consensus amongst Board members to leave the ZEO pay as it currently stands in the budget.**
21. The Board briefly discussed the Education Budget with Neil Breen and Dr. Michael Jolin. No changes were made at this meeting to the Education Budget.

V. Adjournment

1. **Aaron McGarry moved and Larry Groh, Jr. seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.**
2. Chairman Ray Faucher, Jr. adjourned the meeting at 9:15 PM.

Tina Fox
Recording Secretary