



TOWN of
THOMPSON

BOARD OF FINANCE

Minutes: Regular Meeting
Thursday, April 28, 2016
Thompson Library/Community Center
7:00 PM

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Chairman Aaron McGarry called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

I. Roll call

- A. Members Present: Jim Bellavance, Ray Faucher, Jr., Larry Groh, Jr., Aaron McGarry, Rhonda Rooney, Susanne Witkowski.
- B. Members Absent: None
- C. Staff Present:
Tina Fox, Recording Secretary
Orla McKiernan-Raftery, Finance Director
- D. Also Present: Members of the Public.

A. McGarry stated that he hopes to pass a budget to the citizen's tonight. Citizen's Comments would be limited to three minutes per person.

II. Correspondence

- A. Received proposed language form Superintendent's office regarding what would be sent to vendors who provided service for the oil spill.
- B. Information regarding Building Official's office from Donna Hall.

III. Citizen's Comments

- A. John Sharpe, Pasay Rd., asked that the BOF look at true needs and necessities. It is time the Town looks at protecting our volunteers. It is the Chiefs of the department's responsibilities to make sure everyone comes home safe, and the volunteers are in some of the harshest situations known to exist. He stated that the track at the school may be in bad shape, but it not a true necessity when there are emergency service personnel with out-of-date equipment. If the Town does pursue the possibility of a loan or bonding, maybe the Board can look at Emergency Services as a necessity. He stated that his personal gear is 8.5 years old, and after 10 years it must go out of service.
- B. Steve Herbert, Wilsonville Rd., asked the Board to consider looking at the Animal Control Officer. He stated that another option is the NECCOG facility in Dayville. In 12 years, they have never put an animal down due to lack of space. The service is offered 24 hours per day, vs. the Town ACO being paid for 22 hours per week.
- C. Joe Lindley, Hill Rd., member of the Thompson Historical Society, reminded the Board that the building that has a 100+ year old roof is now leaking and the Board should look at different options for financing a roof.
- D. Ted Union, Heritage Circle, stated that there are five fire departments, and it might be a good idea to consolidate some of them.
- E. Don Pimental, 40 Starr Rd., stated that the Town is throwing away a lot of money on legal fees, especially on the Starr Road issue based on a fraudulent document. He stated that he would like the Board to have more control over when to hire an attorney. He stated that John Sharpe needs new equipment but the Town is throwing away \$11,000 on legal fees.

- F. Shawn Brissette, Fairway Dr., stated that every year, fiscal responsibility is spoken about at Budget Meetings. He stated that fiscal responsibility has been cutting and not spending to fix the problem and grow. The Board should move forward with the Economic Development Coordinator because if Thompson doesn't grow, the same thing will happen every year. He asked the BOF to lead the Town in the direction it needs to go.
- G. Bill Witkowski, Clarence Dr., stated that both a truck and a track are needed. Thompson has not funded its infrastructure properly. He urged the Board to determine what the Town needs and put forth a responsible budget.
- H. Kathleen Herbert, Wilsonville Rd., stated that the Town needs to come up with a strategic plan for how to move the Town forward. The Town needs to attract businesses to take the burden off the individual home owners.
- I. Tom Angelo, 640 Fabyan Rd., stated that the Town elects Selectmen on a short term basis. He suggested looking at hiring a Business Development Manager as an elected position with a longer term.
- J. Joe Lindley, Hill Rd., stated that the average real estate tax bill in Thompson is \$2,604, and that a one mill increase is not a very significant amount.
- K. Rhonda Rooney, 13 Main St., agreed with the need to hire an Economic Development Coordinator. We are at a time where we're either going to grow or not. She stated that the Town cannot fund the school the way it has been if we don't grow. The Town either needs to grow or make a major change.
- L. Mike Krogul, Walker Dr., asked if an audit could be done to find out exactly where money is being spent and whether or not things are being shuffled from one account to the other. People complain that the school wastes money. He stated that if an audit is done, it can exonerate the school, and point the Town in a good direction.
- M. Ted Union, Heritage Circle, stated that his property value has decreased since he moved into Town, and the Town will never attract people if property values continue to drop while the mill rate goes up.

IV. Budget Workshop

- A. O. McKiernan-Rafferty suggested changing ECS and/or Sales Tax revenue to more accurately reflect numbers being suggested by the State. **There was a consensus amongst the Board to decrease ECS and Sales Tax by a combined \$105,000.**
- B. Selectmen's Office: K. Beausoleil requested an additional \$8,500 for six months of extra time to cover the Selectmen's Office. There was not a consensus amongst the Board to make this change.
- C. Data Processing: **There was a consensus amongst the Board to increase Maintenance Agreement by \$1,300 from \$42,240 to \$43,540, and to increase Vision Support/Website from \$8,010 to \$9,310.**
- D. General Services: **There was a consensus amongst the Board to increase Northeast Transit by \$805 to \$7,717.**
- E. Capital Expenditures: **There was a consensus amongst the Board to increase Mower form \$20,000 to \$23,000 for FY2017, and remove the \$20,000 from FY2018.** K. Beausoleil requested \$20,000 for building improvements for Town Hall. **There was a consensus amongst the Board to not include \$20,000 for Town Hall building improvements in Fiscal 2017, but to include it for Fiscal 2018.** The Board discussed the possibility of a 40 year loan form the USDA for the roof at the old library. **There was a consensus amongst the Board to include \$150,000 for the Old Library Roof, and add \$150,000 into revenue for the USDA loan, and add \$16,300 into Debt Service related to the loan.**

- F. Fire Departments: J. Bellavance suggested de-funding two fire departments and splitting the funds for those two departments to the three remaining departments. There was not a consensus amongst the Board to make this change.
- G. Economic Development Commission: The Board discussed the possibility of including a new Economic Development Coordinator in the budget. **There was a consensus amongst the Board to include \$75,000 in Economic Development to be used for 6 month's of salary for an Economic Development Coordinator, fringe benefits for that employee, and the remainder for the employee to be able to spend appropriately.**
- H. Building Official: L. Groh, Jr. suggested increasing the Building Official's salary by \$12,259 to bring it up-to-date. There was NOT a consensus amongst the Board to make that change. R. Faucher, Jr. suggested increasing the Building Official's salary to \$48,000. **There was a consensus amongst the Board to increase the Building Official's salary from \$47,741 to \$48,000.**
- I. Board of Education: R. Rooney suggested decreasing the BOE budget by another \$220,000. There was not a consensus amongst the Board to make that change. A. McGarry suggested decreasing the BOE budget by \$100,000. **There was a consensus amongst the Board to decrease the BOE budget by a further \$100,000.**
- J. **Larry Groh, Jr. moved and Ray Faucher, Jr. seconded the motion to send the total proposed budget of \$25,867,866 (mill rate of 26.40) to Town Meeting.**

Jim Bellavance- Yes	Ray Faucher, Jr.- Yes	Larry Groh, Jr.- Yes
Aaron McGarry- No	Rhonda Rooney- Yes	Susanne Witkowski- Yes

The motion carried.

V. Adjourn

- A. **Larry Groh, Jr. moved and Susanne Witkowski seconded the motion to adjourn.**

Jim Bellavance- Yes	Ray Faucher, Jr.- Yes	Larry Groh, Jr.- Yes
Aaron McGarry- Yes	Rhonda Rooney- Yes	Susanne Witkowski- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

B. A. McGarry adjourned the meeting at 9:45 PM.

Tina Fox
Recording Secretary