



TOWN of
THOMPSON

BOARD OF FINANCE

Minutes: Regular Meeting
Thursday, May 19, 2016
Thompson Library/Community Center
7:00 PM

p. 1 of 4

Chairman Aaron McGarry called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

I. Roll call

- A. Members Present: Jim Bellavance, Larry Groh, Jr., Aaron McGarry, Rhonda Rooney, Susanne Witkowski.
- B. Members Absent: Ray Faucher, Jr.
- C. Staff Present:
Tina Fox, Recording Secretary
- D. Also Present: Members of the Public.

A. McGarry called for a moment of silence for Linda Groh, former First Selectman, who passed away recently.

II. Approve Minutes

A. **Rhonda Rooney moved and Jim Bellavance seconded the motion to approve the minutes of April 7, 2016 with the following correction:**

- 1. Page 2, Section IV(E): Remove "...and to start a capital improvement plan with \$50,000 for repairs related to the locker room, gym, and middle school."

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

The motion carried unanimously.

B. **Susanne Witkowski moved and Larry Groh, Jr. seconded the motion to approve the minutes of April 14, 2016 as written.**

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

The motion carried unanimously.

B. **Susanne Witkowski moved and Larry Groh, Jr. seconded the motion to approve the minutes of April 21, 2016 with the following correction:**

- 1. Page 3, Section XI(B): The breakdown for the \$500,000 into Capital Improvements should be included, which is: \$118,000 for remediation costs for the oil spill at Town Garage; \$118,000 for remediation costs for the oil spill at the school; \$137,000 for proposed legal fees/recovery costs related to the oil spill at the school; and \$127,000 for repairs/building improvements at the school.

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

The motion carried.

C. Susanne Witkowski moved and Larry Groh, Jr. seconded the motion to approve the minutes of April 28, 2016 with the following correction:

1. Page 1, Section III(D) and (M): Correct spelling is Ted Hudon, rather than Ted Union.

Jim Bellavance- Yes Larry Groh, Jr.- Yes

Aaron McGarry- Yes Rhonda Rooney- Yes Susanne Witkowski- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

D. Larry Groh, Jr. moved and Susanne Witkowski seconded the motion to approve the minutes of April 14, 2016 with the following corrections:

1. Susanne Witkowski was not present at the meeting and did not vote on any motion, so her name should be removed.

2. Page 3, Section V(D): Amend the motion from "...to approve the resolution as read" to "...to approve the resolution as read, which was to undertake a lease purchase financing for the acquisition of a new sweeper in the principle amount not to exceed \$216,000." Add the sentence after the motion: "Copy of the resolution attached." Attach a copy of the resolution to the official copy of the minutes in the Town Clerk's office.

Jim Bellavance- Yes Larry Groh, Jr.- Yes

Aaron McGarry- Yes Rhonda Rooney- Yes Susanne Witkowski- Abstain

The motion carried.

III. Correspondence

A. Emails from Tina Fox, Marie Mongeau, and Steve Herbert related to the May 5th BOF minutes.

B. Email from Larry Groh, Jr. regarding BOS motions.

IV. Citizen's Comments

A. Steve Herbert suggested that the Board approve the \$216,000 lease financing resolution for the sweeper again tonight just in case there is a problem with the May 5th Special Meeting, as an overabundance of caution. L. Groh, Jr. stated that the Town Meeting supersedes the BOF meeting, and A. McGarry stated that the resolution is not on the agenda.

V. Kenneth Beausoleil: Selectmen's Update

A. K. Beausoleil explained the difficulties with the Marianapolis Sewer Project. Dr. Jolin and K. Beausoleil will be on WINY at 9:00 Am Tuesday morning to discuss the budget with voters.

VI. Dr. Michael Jolin: Education Update

A. Dr. Jolin invited BOF members to the Awards Night on Thursday, May 26th and the graduation ceremonies on June 17th. R. Rooney stated that it was a nice project for the 8th graders to go out and do the Town cleanup with the Recreation department. She also stated that the Middle School Graduation will be on June 14th at 6:00 PM.

B. K. Beausoleil stated that there is an open forum on May 26th at the Library at 7:00 PM to discuss the proposed power plant in Burrillville, RI.

- C. A. McGarry indicated a flyer that was sent out in the mail from the school regarding the budget. He asked who paid for the mailing of the flyers. Dr. Jolin stated that the school paid for the flyer, and they did check the law beforehand to make sure they were able to. The law says that the school can't publish something when a Referendum is pending, but can publish anything about the budget before the Referendum is pending. They sent the flyer before the Town Meeting when the Referendum was set, which is why the flyer does not indicate the date of the Referendum (because it hadn't been set yet). Bill Witkowski, BOE Chairman, stated that until Monday night at Town Meeting, the school was legally able to say anything they wanted about the budget, but could not do anything with public funds after the Town Meeting. They paid for the flyer out of the school's advertising line.

VII. Orla McKiernan-Rafferty: Financial Report

- A. O. McKiernan-Rafferty was not present at the meeting to give a verbal report, but had provided the written report to members beforehand.
- B. L. Groh, Jr. asked about a transfer of \$30,000 to the Tourtellotte Trust in FY 15-16 budget, as indicated in the financial report provided. He wanted clarification as to whether it belonged in this year's budget, as it was included in the proposed FY16-17 budget. He requested the Board discuss this at the next regular BOF meeting under "Old Business."

VIII. Board of Trustees of the Tourtellotte Fund

- A. No report was given.

IX. New Business

- A. Allocation of Funds for Town Hall HVAC repairs up to \$4,200
1. K. Beausoleil stated that the repair budget for Town Hall is over by \$5,200 already, but the HVAC repairs are necessary. He stated that there are two open, unencumbered PO's, one for a website upgrade with an unknown out-of-state vendor, and one for painting the interior of Town Hall. If those PO's are closed out, they would go back into the general fund and the \$4,200 could then be allocated for the HVAC repair. A. McGarry asked if the unencumbered PO's would go into surplus, to which K. Beausoleil replied affirmatively.
 2. **Larry Groh, Jr. moved and Jim Bellavance seconded the motion to, as presented to the Board of Finance, have these two outstanding purchase orders be closed out and put back into surplus, and to fund the HVAC repairs not to exceed \$4,200, money to come out of contingency.**
 Jim Bellavance- Yes Larry Groh, Jr.- Yes
 Aaron McGarry- Yes Rhonda Rooney- Yes Susanne Witkowski- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.
- B. Allocation of Funds from Contingency to Cover Legal Costs Relating to the School Oil Spill Remediation up to \$19,000
1. K. Beausoleil stated that Town counsel recommended a maximum of \$19,000 to start the first part of the litigation process. He stated that the Town Attorney advised that the litigation should continue with the counsel the Board of Education had been using.
 2. B. Witkowski clarified that this amount might avoid the entire legal cost that is earmarked in the proposed loan. He stated that this is to pursue a settlement and hopefully avoid a full-blown lawsuit, and if it doesn't work, then the \$137,000 earmarked in the loan may be needed.

3. Dr. Jolin stated that the money would be used to develop a tolling agreement with the potential parties to the lawsuit. The tolling agreement basically has the other party waive their right to the lawsuit deadline that is coming up and continue negotiations between the two sides past that current deadline.
4. R. Rooney asked if the \$19,000 would be recoverable, to which B. Witkowski responded that it would likely not be recoverable.
5. L. Groh, Jr. asked that the agenda, in the future, not stipulate where the allocation would come from, as the current agenda states "Allocation of Funds from Contingency..."
6. **Larry Groh, Jr. moved and Rhonda Rooney seconded the motion to take up to \$19,000 from contingency to cover the legal costs relating to the school oil spill remediation.**

Jim Bellavance- Yes

Larry Groh, Jr.- Yes

Aaron McGarry- Yes

Rhonda Rooney- Yes

Susanne Witkowski- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

X. Old Business

A. Oil Spill at Town Garage

1. K. Beausoleil stated that there is nothing new to report.

B. Oil Spill at School

1. Dr. Jolin stated that they are pursuing litigation. The installation of the replacement tank is complete. No further ground oil contamination has been found.
2. S. Witkowski asked for clarification that Shipman and Goodman are the counsel that is pursuing litigation. B. Witkowski answered affirmatively.

XI. Adjourn

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

Jim Bellavance- 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 8:09 PM.

Tina Fox
Recording Secretary