



**TOWN of**  
**THOMPSON**

**BOARD OF FINANCE**

**Minutes: Regular Meeting**

**Thursday, June 15, 2017**

**Thompson Library/Community Center**

**7:00 PM**

p. 1 of 3

Vice-Chairman Larry Groh, Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

I. Roll call

- A. Members Present: Jim Bellavance, Ray Faucher, Jr., Larry Groh, Jr., Rhonda Rooney (entered at 7:02 PM), and Susanne Witkowski.
- B. Members Absent: Aaron McGarry
- C. Staff Present:  
Tina Fox, Recording Secretary  
Orla McKiernan-Raftery, Finance Director
- D. Also Present: Members of the Public

II. Approve Minutes

- A. May 18, 2017
  - 1. **Susanne Witkowski moved and Ray Faucher, Jr. seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2017 meeting as written.**  
Jim Bellavance- Yes                      Ray Faucher, Jr.-Yes  
Larry Groh, Jr.- Yes                      Susanne Witkowski- Yes  
**The motion carried unanimously.**
- B. April 27, 2017
  - 1. **Ray Faucher, Jr. moved and Susanne Witkowski seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2017 meeting as written.**  
Jim Bellavance- Yes                      Ray Faucher, Jr.-Yes  
Larry Groh, Jr.- Yes                      Susanne Witkowski- Yes  
**The motion carried unanimously.**
- C. May 31, 2017
  - 1. **Susanne Witkowski moved and Ray Faucher, Jr. seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the May 31, 2017 meeting as written.**  
Jim Bellavance- Yes                      Ray Faucher, Jr.-Yes  
Larry Groh, Jr.- Yes                      Susanne Witkowski- Yes  
**The motion carried unanimously.**
- D. June 5, 2017
  - 1. **Ray Faucher, Jr. moved and Susanne Witkowski seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2017 meeting with the following correction:**
    - 1. Page 3, Section IV(N): June 20<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup>, rather than June 20<sup>th</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup>.Jim Bellavance- Yes                      Ray Faucher, Jr.-Yes  
Larry Groh, Jr.- Yes                      Rhonda Rooney- Yes                      Susanne Witkowski- Yes  
**The motion carried unanimously.**

III. Correspondence: None

## IV. Citizen's Comments

- A. Rene Morin, Pompeo Rd., stated that he has his eleven month actual collection report through the end of May to distribute. At the end of the fiscal year, his office will be just under \$150,000 over budget for tax collections. Money will be returned to general surplus. He asked if the Board is planning to discuss setting a mill rate so that real estate tax bills can be sent out for July 1<sup>st</sup>. A new State statute has been passed that allows Towns to set a mill rate and adjust the mill rate for a second billing in January. He stated that if a mill rate is not set by Tuesday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, tax bills will not be sent out for July 1<sup>st</sup>. L. Groh, Jr. stated that he personally would like to have the full Board present for that discussion.

## V. Kenneth Beausoleil: Selectmen's Update

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that CCM does not expect a State budget until well into the summer. PZC approved the transfer of the Ellen Larned building to the Thompson Historical Society. He will work on the language for the transfer and bring it to Town meeting. He received a response from Chris Murphy's office regarding the Blain Rd. foot bridge, which he read aloud. The letter stated there is currently no funding for the project and it is on hold. He will be finalizing the contract for the fire study with the vendor that was chosen, VFIS. VFIS is currently the insurance carrier for the Town's volunteer fire department insurance. The BOS discussed the proposal, and their references were checked. The price is about a third less than what was projected, at around \$6,500. The BOS had a conversation about having a joint meeting between the BOS, BOF, BOE and Building Committee to discuss the three solar proposals that have been presented to the Town. The Building Committee will be presenting to the BOS who they would like to select for the engineering, which could cost upwards of \$200,000.
- B. S. Witkowski asked if there has been feedback regarding the ad in the Shopper's Guide, and pointed out some inconsistencies in the ad.
- C. R. Faucher, Jr. stated that he does not understand the need for a joint meeting to discuss the solar proposal, and that the BOS should make the decisions if they are the Board responsible for doing so.
- D. J. Bellavance asked about the scope of the fire study and the timeline for when it will be completed. K. Beausoleil stated that the study will encompass all facets of the fire departments; it will start within 30 days of signing the contract and will take approximately 30 days to complete.
- E. There was discussion regarding the possible joint meeting.
- F. K. Beausoleil stated that he did meet with the new superintendent. He commended the committee that did the search for the new superintendent and believes she will be a great asset.

## VI. Dr. Michael Jolin: Education Update

- A. Bill Witkowski, BOE Chairman, stated that he is pleased with the choice for the new superintendent, Melinda Smith. Graduation is June 19<sup>th</sup>. He stated that the BOE has heard all of the solar proposals already. He was not able to formally poll the BOE members, but he asked some of them informally, and they are not interested in a joint meeting. He stated that he personally thinks a joint meeting is a bad idea, and the Building Committee should be left to do their job. Forty-nine seniors will be graduating on Monday, and other classes that are coming up are getting bigger.

VII. Orla McKiernan-Rafferty: Financial Report

- A. O. McKiernan-Rafferty gave a verbal report on the Town finances through the end of May. She stated that the preliminary audit is finished, and the auditors will be coming back at the end of August.
- B. L. Groh, Jr. asked if Community Fire purchased all of the equipment that was approved at the special Town meeting yet. O. McKiernan-Rafferty stated that the full \$48,600 had not been spent yet. She estimated that about \$32,000 would be spent because some equipment prices came in less than expected, and she would update the Board with a better estimate.

VIII. Board of Trustees of the Tourtellotte Fund

- A. B. Witkowski stated that they will begin the window project when school is out. The \$300,000 will not replace all of the windows, and they will need approximately \$200,000 to replace the rest of the windows.

IX. New Business

- A. Annual Request to Suspense List- Rene Morin, Tax Collector
  - 1. R. Morin stated that by State statute, Tax Collectors have to request that the BOF suspend accounts that have not been paid each fiscal year. He stated that his office still collects on these accounts. The amount requested this year is \$145,312.77, but will decrease before the end of the fiscal year.
  - 2. There was brief discussion regarding delinquent tax bills.
  - 3. **Susanne Witkowski moved and Ray Faucher, Jr. seconded the motion to suspend not to exceed today's suspense list of \$145,312.77 in combined personal property tax, motor vehicle tax, and motor vehicle supplement tax from the 2015 Grand List which is for the period July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017.**  
Jim Bellavance- Yes                      Ray Faucher, Jr.-Yes  
Larry Groh, Jr.- Yes                      Rhonda Rooney- Yes                      Susanne Witkowski- Yes  
**The motion carried unanimously.**

X. Old Business: None

XI. Board of Finance Members Comment: None

XII. Adjourn

- A. **Susanne Witkowski moved and Ray Faucher, Jr. seconded the motion to adjourn.**  
Jim Bellavance- Yes                      Ray Faucher, Jr.-Yes  
Larry Groh, Jr.- Yes                      Rhonda Rooney- Yes                      Susanne Witkowski- Yes  
**The motion carried unanimously.**
- B. L. Groh, Jr. adjourned the meeting at 8:05 PM.

Tina Fox  
Recording Secretary