



TOWN of
THOMPSON

BOARD OF FINANCE

Minutes: Regular Meeting
Thursday, August 17, 2017
Thompson Library/Community Center
7:00 PM

p. 1 of 5

Chairman Aaron McGarry called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

A. McGarry called for a moment of silence for Ray Faucher, Sr.

I. Roll call

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

II. Approve Minutes

A. June 15, 2017

- 1. **Ray Faucher, Jr. moved and Larry Groh, Jr. seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2017 meeting as written.**

Ray Faucher, Jr.-Yes

Larry Groh, Jr.- Yes

Aaron McGarry- Abstain

Rhonda Rooney- Yes

Susanne Witkowski- Yes

The motion carried.

B. June 20, 2017

- 1. **Susanne Witkowski moved and Ray Faucher, Jr. seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2017 meeting as written.**

Ray Faucher, Jr.-Yes

Larry Groh, Jr.- Yes

Aaron McGarry- Yes

Rhonda Rooney- Yes

Susanne Witkowski- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

III. Correspondence

- A. Email sent August 9, 2017: SAS-114 memo from Town Auditors forwarded from Finance Director Orla McKiernan-Rafferty.
- B. Email sent July 27, 2017: Invitation from BOE Chair Bill Witkowski for a representative from BOF to attend negotiations with administrators and teachers.
- C. Email sent July 27, 2017: A survey conducted regarding Annual Reports forwarded from Town Clerk Renee Waldron
- D. Email sent July 25, 2017: Memo forwarded from Director of Planning and Development Mary Ann Chinatti from EDC Chair Brian Yacino expressing support of the SHR solar project.

- E. Email sent July 21, 2017: Emailed response of Superintendent Melinda Smith declining to attend July EDC meeting forwarded from Noel Lafayette.
- F. Email sent June 27, 2017: Information regarding the State budget from CCM forwarded from Finance Director Orla McKiernan-Rafferty.
- G. Eversource contract for the solar project from Noel Lafayette on August 16, 2017.
- H. Community Fire Department expense summary sent from Orla McKiernan-Rafferty June 16, 2017.
- I. Newspaper article regarding the Town of Lebanon sent from Orla McKiernan-Rafferty June 19, 2017.

IV. Citizen's Comments

- A. Linda Jarmolowicz, 7 Denis Dr., read a citizen's comment aloud (attached) regarding SHR Energy.
- B. Bill Witkowski, 12 Clarence Dr., formally introduced the new Superintendent Melinda Smith. He stated that she is a wonderful person and Thompson is very lucky to have her.
- C. Steve Herbert, 122 Wilsonville Rd., stated that the BOS did propose that all correspondence and contact with Noel Lafayette and his company should be through the Town Attorney. For some reason, some boards are violating that policy.
- D. Mike Krogul, Walker Dr., stated that he wanted to bring it to the Board's attention that the BOE will be sending out RFPs again for outsourcing the buses. He hopes the Town can work together and come to solutions in an open process.

V. Kenneth Beausoleil: Selectmen's Update

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that Shaina Smith resigned from the BOS. There is currently a balance of approximately \$30,000 left for the school oil spill situation, and he will be contacting the attorney to ask for a summary of future costs. The BOS has been working on three ordinances to go to Town meeting, along with the transfer of the Ellen Larned building to the Thompson Historical Society, and the donation of two parcels of land to the Town from Hometown Bank. He had a conversation with Danny Rovero and there is no good news regarding the State budget. There is a possibility of getting a budget passed in the first or second week of October. The fire study is underway with VFIS. The fire departments are working to get the information to the consultant. He is working with Chris Murphy and Joe Courtney to get the Blain Rd. foot bridge completed. The final draft presentation for the Branding Study will be Monday, August 21st at 6:30 PM at Town Hall. 910 Riverside Dr. was sold at tax auction to a bidder. The Town received all back taxes and WPCA fees. Renovations have started at the Old Quinn's Shirt Shop. He has been meeting with the new Superintendent. She has a lot of ideas and believes in partnership between the school and Town. The Town has been using UCONN for engineering studies at no cost to the Town. UCONN accepted some additional projects this year, and asked for \$3,000 to help with the costs of the projects.
- B. S. Herbert stated that the BOS made a decision to stop taxing horses and ponies, which amounts to about \$290 per year. The cost to collect the tax was about the same as the amount collected and the BOS decided to waive that tax.
- C. R. Faucher, Jr. asked if the amount received for the 910 Riverside Dr. tax sale included interest, to which K. Beausoleil answered in the affirmative.

- D. R. Rooney asked if a decision has been made regarding printing the annual reports, referring to an email listed in correspondence sent by Renee Waldron. K. Beausoleil stated that there has been no discussion regarding that.
- E. R. Rooney asked about the solar project with SHR Energy, and whether or not a decision has been made regarding the project. There was discussion regarding the project, with input from some BOE members.

VI. Melinda Smith: Education Update

- A. Melinda Smith thanked the BOE for appointing her, and thanked K. Beausoleil for including her in his recent newsletter. Enrollment is at 998 students, with kindergarten numbers continuing to climb. The custodial staff has done an amazing job over the summer including upgrading the grades 3-4 bathrooms, and replacing and painting ceiling tiles in the middle school foyer. Security cameras are being installed. LED lighting project is underway. The food service department received a grant to expand the breakfast program. Only essential items are being purchased. All teachers are coming back due to enrollment numbers climbing, but three paraprofessionals, one secretary, and one technology education position are not being filled due to retirements and resignations. She commended Michael Joyce, technology education teacher, for submitting a \$93,000 grant to expand the career and technology education programs at the high school during the summer.

VII. Orla McKiernan-Rafferty: Financial Report

- A. O. McKiernan-Rafferty gave a verbal report on the Town finances through the end of the fiscal year, and through the end of July. She stated that the auditors will be coming in soon, and the surplus is approximately at \$771,000. She stated that the tax office brought in \$6.9 million by July 31st, which included the tax sale money for 910 Riverside Dr. No money is being received by the State at the moment. The Town is spending essentials only. She is following up with vendors on a weekly basis, and thus far they have been understanding.

VIII. Board of Trustees of the Tourtellotte Fund

- A. Transfer of 1909 Tourtellotte Window Project Funds, Not to Exceed \$300,000
 - 1. Joe Lindley provided an update on restorations, and stated that all of the budgeted money has been spent with the exception of about \$7,000. The windows should be ordered within the next few days. They hope to replace all of the windows with the exception of the windows in the back of the building which are considered low priority. In 2014, the Board decided to put aside \$75,000 per year for the \$300,000 window project. The money was never transferred out of the trust so that it could continue earning interest until it was needed. The \$300,000 now needs to be moved from the trust to the operating budget.
 - 2. L. Groh, Jr. stated that the \$300,000 has already been approved by the Town through the budget process. There was discussion as to whether a formal vote was needed by the BOF at this time. No action was taken.
 - 3. A. McGarry thanked J. Lindley for the update on the window project.

IX. New Business

A. Selectmen's Office Secretary/Clerk Replacement Hire

1. K. Beausoleil stated that this subject was added to the agenda before the BOS discussed it. The BOS decided to not hire at this time, and instead continue to use a temp agency for this position. He stated that the need to hire someone is due to a vacancy in this position.

B. Building Committee Request for Funds for Engineering Assessment: \$166,200.00

1. K. Beausoleil stated that the BOS decided to put this request before the BOF, with the recommendation to hire Tighe & Bond.
2. John Rice stated that the Building Committee corresponded for several months with both bidders and recommended Tighe & Bond for the engineering assessment.
3. There was some discussion regarding the two bids.
4. **Ray Faucher, Jr. moved and Susanne Witkowski seconded the motion to approve an expenditure of \$166,200 to procure professional engineering services for these three bid projects, to be taken from undesignated surplus.**
 - a. L. Groh, Jr. asked about deadlines, and suggested including this as part of the budget. J. Rice stated that because the oil tanks were supposed to be removed this year, the State could start fining the Town.
 - b. S. Witkowski asked about separating the three projects. J. Rice stated that the Building Committee would then need to go out to bid again, and the State frowns on seeking reimbursement for separate projects.
 - c. L. Groh, Jr. stated that the BOS can choose whether or not to move forward with the project now, or include it in the budget.
 - d. There was some continued discussion about the possibility of being fined by the State, and the likelihood of the tanks passing inspection.

Ray Faucher, Jr.-Yes

Larry Groh, Jr.- Yes

Aaron McGarry- Yes

Rhonda Rooney- Yes

Susanne Witkowski- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

C. Board of Selectmen Request for Funds for Shared Grapple Truck (with Woodstock and Killingly): \$18,699.90

1. K. Beausoleil stated that this started with the previous administration. The truck should be delivered in September or October. A purchase order was encumbered, but the BOF needs to approve the expenditure.
2. **Larry Groh, Jr. moved and Ray Faucher, Jr. seconded the motion to appropriate \$18,699.90 from Fiscal Year 2017 contingency for the purpose of partnering with Killingly and Woodstock on the acquisition of an ICE grant for a grapple truck.**

Ray Faucher, Jr.-Yes

Larry Groh, Jr.- Yes

Aaron McGarry- Yes

Rhonda Rooney- Yes

Susanne Witkowski- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

D. Fiscal Year 2018 Budget

1. There was some discussion regarding the State budget, and whether or not to wait to go into budget workshops until the State passes a budget.
2. The Board agreed to have a meeting on September 14th.
3. A. McGarry suggested contacting the Town Attorney to ask if there is anything the Town needs to do if there is no budget in place by September 30th.

X. Old Business: None

XI. Board of Finance Members Comment: None

XII. Adjourn

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

Ray Faucher, Jr.-Yes

Larry Groh, Jr.- Yes

Aaron McGarry- Yes

Rhonda Rooney- Yes

Susanne Witkowski- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

B. L. Groh, Jr. adjourned the meeting at 8:52 PM.

Tina Fox
Recording Secretary