



*TOWN of*  
***THOMPSON***

***BOARD OF FINANCE***

**Minutes: Special Meeting**  
**Thursday, October 19, 2017**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, Town Hall**

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Chairman Aaron McGarry called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

- I. Roll call
  - A. Members Present: Jim Bellavance, Larry Groh, Jr. (entered at 7:33 PM), Ray Faucher, Jr., Aaron McGarry, Rhonda Rooney, and Susanne Witkowski (entered during recess).
  - B. Members Absent: None
  - C. Staff Present:  
Tina Fox, Recording Secretary  
Orla McKiernan-Rafferty, Finance Director
  - D. Also Present: Members of the Public
  
- II. Approve Minutes
  - A. September 21, 2017
    1. **Rhonda Rooney moved and Jim Bellavance seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2017 meeting as written.**  
Jim Bellavance-Yes                      Ray Faucher, Jr.- Abstain  
Aaron McGarry- Yes                      Rhonda Rooney- Yes  
**The motion carried.**
  - B. September 28, 2017
    1. L. Groh, Jr. entered the meeting at 7:33 PM.
    2. **Rhonda Rooney moved and Jim Bellavance seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2017 meeting with the following correction:**
      - a. Section III(B): Rene Morin stated that his opinion was that a 1.3 mill increase would be accepted by taxpayers; he did not stated this as a fact.  
Jim Bellavance-Yes                      Larry Groh, Jr.- Yes                      Ray Faucher, Jr.- Yes  
Aaron McGarry- Yes                      Rhonda Rooney- Yes  
**The motion carried unanimously.**
  
- III. Correspondence
  - A. Email from Orla McKiernan-Rafferty sent October 13, 2017 regarding the September 28<sup>th</sup> recording.
    1. O. McKiernan-Rafferty read the email aloud.
    2. L. Groh, Jr. stated that he did not have an opportunity to listen to the recording, but he will. If the budget fails, he believes the Board will need to have a conversation about some housekeeping things. He wanted the minutes to reflect that he would like to make a comment about this at some point in the future.
  - B. Email from Tina Fox sent October 12, 2017 regarding resignation.
  - C. Email from Orla McKiernan-Rafferty sent September 29, 2017 regarding correspondence from the Town Attorney and CCM.
  - D. Email forwarded October 12, 2017 regarding recapture fees from the Assessor.
  - E. Email sent October 17, 2017 from Danielle Pederson regarding the action plan development.

## IV. Citizen's Comments

- A. Tom Angelo, 640 Fabyan Rd., stated that Melinda Smith would not be present at the meeting this evening due to her mother passing away the previous week. The Board offered their condolences.
- B. Ramon Jameson, 56 Taylor Rd., read a quote aloud that he found in a local newspaper from author Neil Gaiman. He stated that education does not wait until the day someone goes to school; great things happen at the library. There is a program trying to get preschoolers to read 1,000 books before kindergarten or first grade. It saves the Town a lot of money if they show up in kindergarten knowing how to read. Story hour encourages parents and children. The Library is an incredible asset to the Town. If the budget fails, he hopes the Board won't cut the Library any further.

## V. Kenneth Beausoleil: Selectmen's Update

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that he spoke with Danny Rovero who stated that **three** is a tentative budget in place. Thompson would be held harmless with no cut to ECS and no contribution to teacher's pension. VFIS met with three of the five fire departments to further the fire study. There has been a delay due to fire departments not filling out paperwork and getting the information to VFIS. There are going to be serious truck repairs on a few vehicles, as mentioned at the previous meeting.

## VI. Melinda Smith: Education Update

- A. Joe Lindley stated that homecoming is this weekend; Friday is career day; and Saturday evening is the alumni concert. The cow plop is also at 10:00 AM Sunday morning.

## VII. Orla McKiernan-Rafferty: Financial Report

- A. O. McKiernan-Rafferty gave a verbal report on the Town finances through the end of September. She stated that she is finalizing items with the auditors. The surplus estimate as of the end of June is still \$771,000.
- B. O. McKiernan-Rafferty stated that she was made aware from reliable sources of things being said about her. She wanted to note that she carries out her duties as a servant to the Town. She is a neutral party, an employee. She requested that her office be kept out of the current campaigns. There was some discussion regarding her statement.

## VIII. Board of Trustees of the Tourtellotte Fund

- A. J. Lindley stated that the purchase order for the windows was placed. There is going to be a special meeting to go over the procedural issue on how the trust holds money in abeyance. The fund is healthy at \$2.64 million, with about a \$200,000 cushion over the original amount.

## IX. New Business

- A. Budget Transfers for Fiscal Year 2017: Moved to next regular meeting.
- B. Presentation of Annual Tax Collector Report
  1. R. Morin distributed copies of the Tax Collector's report, and gave a brief verbal presentation of the report.
  2. L. Groh, Jr. asked about number of households have transfer station tickets. R. Morin stated that about 2,400 envelopes were sent out to remind people to renew, and they expect between 3,500-3,600 transfer stickers for the year.

3. **Rhonda Rooney moved and Ray Faucher, Jr. seconded the motion to include this report from the Tax Collector's office into the Town's annual report.**

Jim Bellavance-Yes

Larry Groh, Jr.- Yes

Ray Faucher, Jr.- Yes

Aaron McGarry- Yes

Rhonda Rooney- Yes

**The motion carried unanimously.**

X. Old Business: None

XI. Board of Finance Members Comment

A. A. McGarry stated that if the budget does pass and a mill rate is set, this would be the last Board meeting for Ray Faucher, Jr. He thanked R. Faucher, Jr. for serving on the Board for 12 years, and added that he has brought tremendous knowledge to the Board and has always been a steady hand and straight shooter.

B. **Larry Groh, Jr. moved and Rhonda Rooney seconded the motion to recess.**

Jim Bellavance-Yes

Larry Groh, Jr.- Yes

Ray Faucher, Jr.- Yes

Aaron McGarry- Yes

Rhonda Rooney- Yes

**The motion carried unanimously.**

C. The Board recessed at 8:18 PM.

D. The meeting reconvened at 8:50 PM, with all members including S. Witkowski present.

XII. Set Mill Rate for Fiscal Year 2017/2018 if Applicable: None

XIII. Budget Workshop if Applicable

A. The Board agreed to not have a budget workshop, and to have a special meeting October 26, 2017 at 7:00 PM.

XIV. Adjourn

A. **Susanne Witkowski moved and Larry Groh, Jr. 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. Chairman Aaron McGarry adjourned the meeting at 8:53 PM.

Tina Fox  
Recording Secretary