



TOWN of
THOMPSON

BOARD OF FINANCE

Minutes: Special Meeting
Thursday, October 26, 2017
Thompson Library/Community Center

p. 1 of 3

Chairman Aaron McGarry called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

I. Roll call

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

II. Correspondence

- A. Email from Marie Mongeau forwarded from Tina Fox regarding help wanted advertisement for a Recording Secretary.
- B. Email from Orla McKiernan-Rafferty regarding budget transfers.

III. Citizen's Comments: None

IV. Action on 30 Day Spending Authorization for the Town and School per Connecticut General Statute section 7-405

- A. **Larry Groh, Jr. moved and Ray Faucher, Jr. seconded the motion that pursuant to Connecticut General Statute section 7-405 the spending and authorization through the month of November in the current fiscal year shall not exceed actual expenditures for the same period the previous year.**

Jim Bellavance- Yes

Ray Faucher, Jr.- Yes

Larry Groh, Jr.- Yes

Aaron McGarry- Yes

Rhonda Rooney- Yes

Susanne Witkowski- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

V. Budget Transfers for Fiscal Year 2017

- A. O. McKiernan-Rafferty discussed the proposed transfers that were sent via email.
- B. **Jim Bellavance moved and Ray Faucher, Jr. seconded the motion to approve the fiscal year 2017 budget transfers as presented by the Finance Director.**

Jim Bellavance- Yes

Ray Faucher, Jr.- Yes

Larry Groh, Jr.- Yes

Aaron McGarry- Yes

Rhonda Rooney- Yes

Susanne Witkowski- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

VI. Budget Workshop

- A. O. McKiernan-Rafferty distributed information regarding the past proposed Town budgets that were voted on at referendum, and the newest proposed State budget. **There was a consensus amongst the Board to make changes based on the latest proposed State budget, including removing teacher's pension contribution, removing municipal aid grant, adding the Pequot museum grant, and adding the in-lieu of taxes pilot grant.**
- B. There was some discussion regarding special education reimbursement, the reduction to the Library from the previous meeting, surplus, and the Town's bond rating.
- C. R. Morin stated that he has been told what the earliest possible date for a Town meeting and referendum would be, and they make it impossible for tax bills to come out in December. O. McKiernan-Rafferty stated that there should be enough cash at least until the end of December, and the reserves should not need to be touched until January.
- D. L. Groh, Jr. stated that there was a lot of concern during the previous referendum that a State budget had not been passed, and now that the senate and house passed a budget with a large majority, the Town budget should be moved to forward. J. Bellavance agreed. S. Witkowski added that there had also been confusion regarding the teacher's pension contribution at the last referendum, and between that and the lack of a State budget, the last referendum was destined to fail.
- E. Tom Angelo, 640 Fabyan Rd., asked if there had been discussion regarding raising the costs for the transfer station. K. Beausoleil stated that the BOS can discuss that later. O. McKiernan-Rafferty stated that there is an advisory committee that provides recommendations on fees to the BOS.
- F. Steve Herbert, Wilsonville Rd., stated that the school budget is going up by .4%, but the front page of the budget shows a 3.64% increase in the mill rate attributed to the school budget. O. McKiernan-Rafferty stated that the .4% increase is for expenditures only, and the first page calculates the percentage change of expenditures minus revenue.
- G. Shawn Brissette, Fairway Dr., stated that there were people coming up to him saying that the school budget is increasing and the Town budget is decreasing. He has said for years that the budget does not get explained correctly. He stated that the front page can be misleading, and the truth about the budget should be told in a manner that shows people what is actually happening.
- H. Changes were made to the front page of the budget for clarification purposes.
- I. Rene Morin, 130 Pompeo Rd., asked if the BOS or BOF have a game plan if the next referendum fails. It would be difficult to go through the entire Town meeting and referendum process again and still get tax bills out for January 1st as statutorily required. A. McGarry stated that if the next referendum fails, he would be looking to contact the Town Attorney to find out how much authority the BOF has to set a mill rate without a passed budget.
- J. There was some discussion about shutting down Town services such as the transfer station, library, and Town Hall for one or more days per week. There was also discussion regarding the ordinance that requires the Town to go to referendum to pass a budget.
- K. **Aaron McGarry moved and Ray Faucher, Jr. seconded the motion to send the total proposed budget of \$25,702,409 (mill rate of 27.00) to Town Meeting.**
 Jim Bellavance- Yes Ray Faucher, Jr.- Yes Larry Groh, Jr.- Yes
 Aaron McGarry- Yes Rhonda Rooney- Yes Susanne Witkowski- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.

VII. 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 8:32 PM.

Tina Fox
Recording Secretary