



TOWN of THOMPSON
Board of Finance Meeting - Minutes
Thursday – April 18, 2024
Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall
And via Zoom from remote locations

1. The call to order by Chair Robert Werge was at 7:00 PM.

Roll call: Steve Herbert, Nicola Chrzanowski, Brian Lynch (via Zoom) Dave Johnson, Robert Werge.

Others: First Selectman Amy St Onge, Bill Steglitz (Finance Director), Kathleen Herbert (Chair, BOE).

Board/Commission members and members of the public. Recording Secretary Dotti Durst

2. Approval of minutes:

 a. **Motion S. Herbert seconded by D. Johnson to approve the March 28, 2024 BOF Meeting minutes carried unanimously.**

 The April 02, 04, 09, 11, and 16 BOF meetings had been cancelled

3. Correspondence:

 - Tax Collector Scott Antonson's Monthly Report as of March, 2024

4. Citizens' comments: none

5. Selectman's Update-First Selectman Amy St Onge: * Thompson's Poet Laureat will be at the Library on Monday evening * The Opening Day Little League Parade is Saturday at 11 AM *the Art Show in the Library is underway * The contract for the Salt Shed was awarded by the BOS to the lowest bidder, which, when the proposal was reviewed, made some "value-conscious engineering" adjustments, utilizing the alternative options which were included in the bid, but still retaining the salt structure's size. This kept the cost within the Budget for the project, at \$1.5M. * Bids for underground oil tank removal were received by the BOS this week. The Building Committee will review them carefully. * Wednesday, a meeting took place with the DPW Director, First Selectman and BETA Group, which was hired to create a long-term town roads maintenance plan and evaluate options for extending the life cycle of some road surfaces.

6. School District Update- BOE Chair Kathleen Herbert for the Superintendent of Schools: *the population has decreased by 1 student. * There is no news yet about the HVAC Grant. *The Special Education percentage of the population is flat but one student has now been placed out-of-district, which does have a financial impact.

7. Financial Report (as of March 31) Finance Director William Steglitz: in reviewing his prepared report, noted the HVAC Grant awards have not yet been made and yet borrowing for the major projects is imminent. Higher interest rates have worked to the town's advantage. * He noted that the term of service of the auditors, King & King, and Associates, will need to be addressed by the BOF. Typically, an out-of-the area firm such as this offers the advantage of few or no local ties; continuing with a tested firm removes the learning cycle time. The BOF will want to move ahead on this subject; the Auditing firm's work usually starts in June.

8. Tourtellotte Fund update – Board of Trustees: no changes

9. New Business: * D. Johnson inquired about scheduling a Special BOF Meeting at the conclusion of the Budget Referendum count; in the past this has been held in the Upstairs Town Hall Conference Room. Should a Budget Workshop be needed, it can then be scheduled. A. St Onge: the BOS has a contingency plan in place. If the Budget is approved by the voters at the Referendum on May 20, the BOS will meet immediately after the Special BOF meeting that night. If the budget is not approved, she proposes a Special BOF Budget Workshop on May 22 and a subsequent BOS meeting on May 23. Several members: business obligations/travel will prevent a May 22 BOF Special Meeting. The consensus of the BOF: if a Special Meeting is needed, it will likely be scheduled for Saturday, May 25 at 8 AM. This will allow a Referendum to be scheduled with the required two weeks for a legal notice in the Villager (by May 31: note the possible impact of the Holiday weekend). With this schedule, the Tax Department can handle their mailing on time.

* May 16 is the next scheduled monthly BOF meeting.

10. Old Business:

a. Discuss and consider action on an appointment to fill the vacancy on the Board of Finance; a recommendation from the Democratic Town Committee has been received. After discussion:

Motion D. Johnson seconded by N. Chrzanowski to seat Nathaniel Lenky in the vacant BOF seat, as recommended by the DTC, carried unanimously, 5-0.

Mr. Lenky, who was present, indicated his thanks.

11. Citizens' Comments: none

12. Board of Finance Member Comments:

* N. Chrzanowski: the Little League Opening Day and Parade will be promoted on WINY

* R. Werge asked about purchasing of salt for road treatment in greater volumes if the new Salt Shed has greater capacity; fewer deliveries have an impact on costs.

* B. Lynch: an 8% increase in electrical costs has been announced, beginning July 1, which will have an impact on every resident as well as on town expenses.

13. Adjourn:

Motion B. Lynch /S. Herbert to adjourn at 7:31PM carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Dorothy Durst, Recording Secretary *Dorothy Durst*

To access ZOOM to see and hear this meeting, click on this link or copy/paste it to your Search bar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/8zD->

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Passcode: rgNF*0.@

These minutes have not yet been approved by the Board of Finance. Please refer to next month's meeting minutes for approval of and/or amendments to these minutes.