

TOWN of THOMPSON
Board of Finance Meeting - Minutes
Thursday – March 14, 2024
Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall
And via Zoom from remote locations

**The BOF meeting was video recorded via Zoom
and is available for the public to see, in the meeting's entirety.
The link is at the end of these Minutes.**

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

Roll call: Brian Lynch, Dave Johnson, Nicola Chrzanowski (7:04 pm), Robert Werge, Steve Herbert (via Zoom). Absent: Laurent Guillot. A quorum is present.

First Selectman Amy St Onge, Bill Steglitz (Finance Director), Kaylee Beck (Schools Liaison). Board/Commission members and members of the public. Recording Secretary Dotti Durst

Chair R. Werge introduced Kaylee Beck, BOF/Schools liaison, to the two newer BOF members.

2. Approval of Minutes:

Motion B. Lynch seconded by D. Johnson to approve the listed BOF Meeting minutes.

After discussion: Motion B. Lynch seconded by S. Herbert to approve the listed BOF Meeting minutes with adjustments carried unanimously:

- . **A. BOF Regular Meeting 01-18-2024 (Citizens' Comments: spelling of Kathleen Herbert)**
- . **B. BOF-BOS Special Joint Meeting – Budget Presentations 02-07-2024**
- . **C. BOF-BOS Special Joint Meeting – Budget Presentations 02-13-2024**
(# D ~~BOF~~ BOF; # L a Citizen Jess Bolte, Riverside Dr, commented about connectivity issues in the Library Community Room: #U ...~~school~~ schools)
- . **D. BOF-BOS Special Joint Meeting – Budget Presentations 02-19-2024**
(Roll call: *David Johnson*)
- . **E. BOF-BOS Special Joint Meeting – Budget Presentations 02-22-2024**
(S. Herbert was not in attendance. Registrars: ~~no changes~~. Early voting is covered in the current year by a state grant; next year \$10,200 will be needed.)
- . **F. BOF Special Meeting (TEEG) 02 -19-2024**
- . **G. BOF Special Joint BOE/BOS Budget Presentations 03-07-2024:**
(Note: The BOF Regular Meeting 02-15-2024 was cancelled)

3. Correspondence: The Little League submitted a budget proposal document today.

4. Citizens' comments:

- Kelli Langer speaking as a representative of the TMHS teaching staff, reviewed the accreditation time-line and the 4 areas of particular focus, asking that the BOF understand the Schools' needs.
- Josh Kinsella, speaking as the Little League President, noted the 3-year plan for physical improvements of the playing fields is in year one, with the subsequent 2 years remaining.

5. Optional Updates from Board of Selectmen, Board of Education, Finance Director:

The Finance Director provided two updates to the BOF. * The State's published pensions rate generated a projected savings of \$58,008 (Fringe Benefits, Pension - Line 7301)

* Health Insurance was projected at +3-5% but will actually be a smaller increase (+2%) or a reduction of \$17,554. The two reductions (p. 50, Lines 4 and 5) would reduce the proposed budget by \$75,562. The Superintendent of Schools and the First Selectman did not comment.

6. Budget Workshop: the BOF members reviewed the proposed Budget Book page by page, with the Finance Director updating the Budget proposal in real time and “Screensharing” so everyone in attendance could see the line items. After all questions asked of the Finance Director during the meetings are researched, Budget Book page 1 will be updated, weekly.

**The Budget workbook pages are numbered (top right) and the Department name is at the top of each column (left

Budget Book Overview, page 1: the page was reviewed. The combined Town/Education budgets result in a Tax warrant of \$22,403,864, a mil rate increase of 2.98 or 11.46%.
Question: Increased debt service. Yes, for Bonding anticipation notes for the 3 major projects.

Summary Expenditures pages 2-3: the pages were reviewed

Summary Revenue, pages 4-8: the pages were reviewed

*Page 7, Line 3 (Investment income). After discussion:

Motion D. Johnson seconded by B. Lynch to add \$70K to Investment Income, Line 3, (from \$120K to \$190K), due to the favorable rate environment, carried unanimously, 5-0
B. Lynch- yes D. Johnson – yes N. Chrzanowski -yes S. Herbert – yes R. Werge- yes.

Expenses begin on page 9.

Each was reviewed, with note of the decreases the BOS had implemented, as well as the reasons for any proposed change from the current fiscal year. The BOF may return to any page as the budget process moves forward.

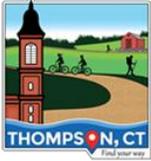
Page 50 Sundry/ Fringe Benefits. Motion D. Johnson seconded by B. Lynch to adjust Line 4 (Health Insurance) down by \$17,554 and Line 5 (Pension), down by \$58,008 as determined by the Finance Director as being consistent with projected costs, carried unanimously, 5-0. B. Lynch- yes D. Johnson – yes N. Chrzanowski -yes S. Herbert – yes R. Werge- yes.

Page 51 Financing.

Motion B. Lynch seconded by N. Chrzanowski to roll closing costs into the Bond (Debt Service Line 26) increasing the loan amount although not substantially, given the low interest rates, carried unanimously, 5-0.

B. Lynch- yes D. Johnson –yes N. Chrzanowski -yes S. Herbert-yes R. Werge- yes.

Page 53 Capital Expenses and Transfers. Repainting the school lockers, \$55,200, was advocated for, due to the upcoming accreditation visits; the BOS had removed this as a Capital expense. First Selectman A. St Onge noted recent information: the 30-year-old underground oil storage tank at the Library must be removed/replaced at a cost of about \$160K.



TOWN of THOMPSON
Board of Finance Meeting - Minutes
Thursday – March 14, 2024
Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall
And via Zoom from remote locations

Motion B. Lynch seconded by S. Herbert to restore Repainting TMHS Hallway Lockers to the budget - Capital Expense (page 53) - in the amount of \$55,200, carried 4-1.

B. Lynch- yes D. Johnson - no N. Chrzanowski -yes S. Herbert - yes R. Werge - yes.

Discussion: the DPW vehicle needs, noting the projected end of some DPW equipment lease payments and the need for a Loader, perhaps leased at the current 4-5% in which case the payments would begin the following fiscal year. The Library oil tank removal and replacement was factored in after reviewing balances in the Municipal Repairs Fund and others.

Motion R. Werge seconded by D. Johnson to modify the DPW Loader as a purchase and change it to a 7-year leased piece of equipment - Capital Expense (page 53) carried 4-1.

B. Lynch- yes D. Johnson - no N. Chrzanowski -yes S. Herbert -no R. Werge - yes.

6. a. Citizens' Comments (agenda item added by the Chair):

- Valerie Clark, Alm Road, suggested that the spreadsheet indicate line items that are an expense, but which are offset by comparable income, resulting in a net-zero budget impact.

7. Board of Finance member comments:

- R. Werge asked about paving. The line is \$660K after the BOS cut the budget request, which was for \$710K. This year: \$1.1M spent in paving.

- D. Johnson asked the impacts on the decisions made at this meeting, as reflected on page 1.

* After the adjustments made at this meeting, the proposed mil rate is reduced to 28.56 resulting in a proposed increase of 2.56 mils (the original proposed increase was 2.98 mils).

REMINDER: The March 28 BOF meeting will be at the Library Community Room.

8. Adjourn:

Motion N. Chrzanowski seconded by B. Lynch to adjourn at 9:09 PM carried unanimously.

Use this link to see/hear the full BOF meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/qhk8lGoAeM98Oug-iDSb4oBsuL1fm5XqV5g9GpvUKe8ZTF8cpVefjsRG9iKd2hPv.DDDKElqp3eZidole>

Passcode: m@S80a4Q

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

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.