



Town of Thomaston

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DRAFT

THOMASTON BOARD OF FINANCE

REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2012

Present:

David Colavecchio, George Seabourne, Mike Madow, Steve Turner, Kristen Mosimann O'Sullivan, Frank Treglia, Tracy Decker, First Selectman Ed Mone. Members of the community.

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chairman Colavecchio.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Those in attendance stood and recited the Pledge.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Kristen Mosimann to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of 12/13/11 as presented. Motion was seconded by Steve Turner. All in favor, motion carries.

A motion was made by Kristin Mosimann to approve the minutes of the special meeting of 12/13/11 as presented. Motion was seconded by Steve Turner. All in favor, motion carries.

New Business/Tracy Street Sewer:

First Selectman Mone explained that the Crystal Lake drainage issues occurred because of the numerous rain storms that hit us last year, causing damage to personal property and town roads. Two companies, Tighe & Bond and Weston & Sampson, submitted RFP's for this project, with Weston & Sampson the lowest bidder with a cost of \$22,050. It was the Board of Selectmen's recommendation to bring before the Board of Finance for discussion and approval if deemed needed. This money will come from the road bond fund. The first piece will be for surveying the storm drainage and for the preliminary engineering. The second piece will be for the design and

construction engineering. No costs to date. This will give us the options as to what we need to do when we get up in that area for road improvements. We need to outline our next steps and costs looking at capacity of system. Kristen Mosimann said we have a lot going on (i.e. WPCA project, etc.) and need to pull all the pieces together going forward. No action taken as no motion made. Money will come from road bond issue.

New Business/Chapel Street Dump:

First Selectman Mone highlighted issues with the Chapel Street landfill. The landfill was closed and capped a number of years ago (approx. 30 years). Within the last year, neighbors in that area, after a few storms, noticed erosion taking place, exposing some of the items that were once buried. Apparently, there has been some damage to the drainage pipe, causing the water to flow all the way to the river. We have been instructed to clean up the debris and cap again. Paul received three quotes for clean-up and capping. G.H. Kelly \$66,400, On-Site Developer \$72,585 and KRP & Son \$73,400. Henry Osowiecki was asked for quote, but did not send one. This is for labor only.

George Seabourne wanted to know what caused the failure and what will need to be done to fix the problem. First Selectman Mone indicated that after erosion took place, the drainage pipe was compromised. If we extend the pipe 30' out from where it is now, rip rap it and cover with additional dirt, which should take care of it for some time. Of course, this will ultimately need to be brought before a town meeting. First Selectman Mone indicated that the Board of Selectmen are scheduled to have a special meeting tomorrow morning to make the call for the town meeting if approved here.

Discussion ensued as to where the money will come from. George has no problem going forward, but wants to be assured that this will solve the problem, otherwise, we might be back here again in a few years. Without Paul Pronovost or a town engineer in attendance at tonight's meeting to thoroughly explain the situation, we really don't have a clear picture. DEEP has not even been to the site. FEMA has indicated that through aerial shots they have of the area, it clearly shows this problem existed before the hurricanes and, therefore, it cannot help fund the clean-up efforts.

Costs may be justified for said work, but the Board doesn't feel there isn't enough information to proceed at this time. No vote.

New Business/Preliminary Budget Discussions:

Budgets were handed out, but Board of Finance will not be looking at until the Board of Selectmen have had a chance to review and make their recommendations first. First Selectman Mone said his objective was to have line items be realistic – zero based. Actually, some are even too low.

Steve Turner wanted to bring up an issue that was already approved back on November 15, 2011. A motion was made to allow the Board of Education to set up an Unexpended Education Fund account under a new statute that came out June 30, 2011 (C.G.S. Sec. 10-248a). This fund was

set up to place any unexpended revenue at the end of the fiscal year for the purpose of capital equipment. In hind sight, Steve feels we are actually giving up our primary responsibility of oversight by extending this authority to them to use to their discretion. With that in mind, he moves the board to rescind. Discussion ensued.

Steve Turner made a motion to add to agenda and Kristen seconded this issue. Motion carries.

Steve Turner made a motion to rescind the Board's motion made on November 15, 2011. Kristen Mosimann seconded. Discussion ensued. We need to have and keep fiscal control here. The policy is that any budget surplus be put in a capital improvement account that Board of Finance has control over. We don't want this to be a "sub-budget". With all in favor, motion carries.

Dave Colavecchio will send out email re: change.

Communications:

Dave had discussions with Peg Duffy – tax collections on the downside. That is why we are being careful with contingency.

Financial Directors Report:

Numbers are pretty close at this point.

Selectman's Report:

First Selectman Mone said that most storm debris has now been picked up on all streets, sometimes twice. Roadside debris we are have begun picking up. Wood chipper broke, but back up and running. It was suggested that First Selectman Mone put the word out that clean-up is done.

The Board of Selectmen have a tax collectors ordinance amendment slated to go to town meeting. Peg Duffy has asked for an additional tool to help with collections. This tool would allow her to sell tax liens. The town attorney has already looked at.

We have another officer who will be unavailable for about a month – will go in for surgery.

Member Comment:

None.

Public Comment:

Christine Yoos – disappointed that public was not allowed to speak at town meeting.

Diane Labonte – very happy that you rescinded the vote BOE vote. Also, she wanted to know if the Town was getting money from FEMA. First Selectman Mone addressed, saying yes we will be getting 75% reimbursement.

Tom Daley – heard the Town received a grant from the State for the generator. He feels that the size of the generator seems very excessive. Did they base it on maintaining all services to the high school or some services? First Selectman Mone indicated it will run the whole building. There are mobile generators available through DEHMS now that we have access to. High school has always been intended to be the primary shelter – has everything you need. What fuel will run generator? Diesel. Will fuel be housed on site? Some.

Paul Yoos – asked this board to work on debt reduction.

A motion was made by Kristen Mosimann to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p. Motion was seconded by Mike Madow. With all in favor, motion carries.

Minutes prepared and presented by Deborah Bournival.