



Town of Thomaston
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DRAFT

**THOMASTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2011**

Roll Call:

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

First Selectman Mone and Selectman Scheppard were present. Selectman Barrett, Sr. was not present at the meeting.

Call for Special Town Meeting – Appropriation/Transfer of \$38,967 for Dump Truck:

A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard that:

The electors and those persons eligible to vote in town meetings of the Town of Thomaston, Connecticut, are hereby warned and notified to meet in the Selectman's Conference Room of the Town Hall, 158 Main Street, Thomaston, on Tuesday, February 1, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. for a special town meeting for the following purposes:

To appropriate \$38,967 from Contingency account #1-001-10-142-570-805 to the Capital and Nonrecurring fund account #1-001-90-908-610-956 for the replacement of a one (1) ton dump truck for the Highway Department subject to Town meeting.

Dated at Thomaston, Connecticut this 25th day of January, 2011.

Motion was seconded by First Selectman Mone. With all in favor, motion carries.

2011-2012 Budget Reviews:

The following budgets were reviewed and discussed, highlighting recommended cuts made by the Board of Selectmen that will be presented to the Board of Finance:

Present at tonight's meeting were Rick O'Connell/TVAC, Daniella Ouellette/TVAC, Dave Bernagel/TVAC, Scott Potter/Fire Department, Jamie Wilson/Fire Department, Jim O'Neil/Fire Department, Ken Koval/Fire Department, Joseph Wassong/Seth Thomas House-Historical

Commission, Kristen Mossiman-O'Sullivan/Seth Thomas House-Historical Commission, Val Polowy/Seth Thomas House-Historical Commission, Paul Pronovost/Highway Department and Tree Warden, Pam Deziel/Recreation Commission and Deborah Radosevich/Library.

TREASURER (Acct. #106):

Line Item – **Association Dues & Fees**

FROM: \$1,240 **TO:** \$1,115 **REDUCTION OF:** **\$125.00**

Due to the economic climate we are facing now, Selectman Scheppard expressed his concern with replacing the Payroll/Human Resource person right now. He felt interviewing for this position should be put on hold. First Selectman Mone said that after discussions he had with the Finance Director, it would be detrimental to that office if not filled. First Selectman Mone will revisit with the Finance Director at our next regular meeting.

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS (Acct. #120):

Line Item – **Salaries & Wages-Regular**

FROM: \$3,600 **TO:** \$3,000 **REDUCTION OF:** **\$600**

Line Item – **Postage & Freight**

FROM: \$150 **TO:** \$100 **REDUCTION OF:** **\$50**

TOTAL REDUCTION: **\$650**

TOWN HALL BUILDING & MAINTENANCE (Acct. #124):

No changes.

POLICE: (Acct. #200)

Line Item – **Salaries & Wages-Overtime**

FROM: \$105,000 **TO:** \$100,000 **REDUCTION OF:** **\$5,000**

COMMUNICATIONS & DISPATCH (Acct. #206)

Line Item – **Telephone**

FROM: \$28,000 **TO:** \$25,000 **REDUCTION OF:** **\$3,000**

FIRE PROTECTION (Acct. #208)

No changes.

First Selectman Mone asked about the sizable increase in the Communication line. Jim O'Neil indicated that the department has numerous pager units that are outdated and are no longer supported by Motorola. The new pagers come with a five-year warranty. If there is an issue, they replace.

FIRE MARSHAL (Acct. #210)

Line Item – **Gas/Diesel**

FROM: \$624 **TO:** \$225 **REDUCTION OF:** **\$400**

First Selectman Mone asked if it was necessary that all three fire marshals attend training. Jim O'Neil indicated that, statutorily, it is required they each do 90 hours of training in order to earn their CEU's

AMBULANCE (Acct. #212)

Line Item – **Contracted Repairs & Maintenance-Buildings**

FROM: \$5,200 **TO:** \$3,200 **REDUCTION OF:** **\$2,000**

The selectmen inquired as to the increase in the Custodial Services line. Dave Bertnagel explained that because \$5,300 was taken out for the full-time person, this increase is for someone to strip and clean the floor twice a year, which equates to \$1,100 each visit.

TREE REMOVAL (Acct. #214)

No changes.

HIGHWAY AND STREETS (Acct. #300)

Line Item – **Salaries & Wages-Regular**

FROM: \$402,400 **TO:** \$360,200 **REDUCTION OF:** **\$42,200**

The original amount requested included one mechanic and one maintainer. First Selectman Mone felt it important to add back the mechanic, who would also be able to go out on the road if needed. Therefore, the reduction of \$42,200 for the maintainer position.

Line Item – **Association Dues & Fees**

FROM: \$500 **TO:** \$250 **REDUCTION OF:** **\$250**

Line Item – **Repairs & Maintenance-Vehicles**

FROM: \$40,000 **TO:** \$36,000 **REDUCTION OF:** **\$4,000**

TOTAL REDUCTION: **\$46,450**

First Selectman Mone inquired as to the increases in Education & Training, Advertising and Street Signs. Paul explained that the training classes he was able to take free of charge through CIRMA are no longer being offered for free. The increase in the Advertising line is for legal notices when they go out to bid for road improvements this year. Paul further explained that the \$4,000 he is asking for in the Street Sign line is because of a federal mandate.

SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL (Acct. #304)

No changes.

VISITING NURSE (Acct. #402)

We received communication from the VNA that the amount they requested and that we approved at the January 18th meeting was revised and reduced to \$7,119. So noted and approved.

SUSAN B. ANTHONY (Acct. #412)

FROM: \$2,500 **TO:** \$1,500 **REDUCTION OF:** **\$1,000**

MINIBUS (Acct. #416)

No changes.

RECREATION (Acct. #500)

No changes.

Pam Deziel explained the distinction between parks and recreation. Through the Parks Department, Marty and those employees who work under him, are responsible for the up-keep of all town-owned parks. The Recreation Department, on the other hand, offers recreational programs for residents in the community. It has been recommended to split the current budget into two separate budgets; one for Parks and the other for Recreation, with Recreation as a program-based budget and Parks strictly set up for salaries only for Marty and those who work with him.

Pam described a survey that CCM recently conducted with respect to recreational programs. Out of all the towns surveyed, about nine responded. The survey showed that the revenue that was taken in for the proposed programs was kept and used to run those programs. Therefore, they did not have to cut anything out of their budgets – it paid for itself.

Pam indicated that they would like to put back in the playground program and swimming lessons.

This new model will be presented to the Board of Finance for approval.

NYSTROMS PARK (Acct. #504)

No changes.

Discussion ensued as to the use of the bathhouse/concession stand. Pam indicated that the concession house is not set up as a cooking facility, but can accommodate packaged foods (microwavable) and refreshments.

PUBLIC LIBRARY (Acct. #508)

Line Item – **Salaries & Wages-Regular**

FROM: \$205,040 **TO:** \$204,440 **REDUCTION OF:** **\$600**

Line Item – **Repairs & Maintenance-Other**

FROM: \$5,000 **TO:** \$4,500 **REDUCTION OF:** **\$500**

TOTAL REDUCTION: **\$1,100**

SETH THOMAS OPERATIONS (Acct. #516)

Line Item – **Contracted Services**

FROM: \$2,600 **TO:** \$910 **REDUCTION OF:** **\$1,750**

Line Item – **General Supplies**

FROM: \$800 **TO:** \$560 **REDUCTION OF:** **\$240**

Line Item – **Heating Fuel**

FROM: \$2,015 **TO:** \$1,800 **REDUCTION OF:** **\$215**

TOTAL REDUCTION: **\$2,205**

Joe Wassong and Kristen Mossiman-O’Sullivan explained that the \$1,750 was for the 1st floor bathroom restoration and the \$240 was for lamps. After discussion, the selectmen agreed that leaving these items/costs in the budget would not be fiscally prudent at this time.

Public Comment:

Paul Yoos commented that he was in full agreement with the decision the selectmen made to reinstate the position of mechanic back in the budget. Ray Taylor agreed as well.

Ray asked why the City of Torrington just received a sizable grant to retrofit their streetlights throughout the city with LEDs. First Selectman Mone said Torrington was able to do so because they own the streetlights, we do not.

In addition, Torrington also received a sizable grant for upgrades to their communications systems. First Selectmen Mone explained that both the state and federal governments are behind communities that want to regionalize operations.

A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m. Motion was seconded by First Selectman Mone. With all in favor, motion carries.