

Thomaston Board of Finance
Special Meeting Tuesday March 23, 2010

Present: D. Colavecchio (Chairman), G. Seabourne, F. Treglia, M. Galbraith, S. Turner,
K. Mosimann O'Sullivan.

Also present: First Selectman Ed Mone; Finance Director, Sue Smith

Also: Members of the public, press

I. Call to Order

D. Colavecchio called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

All present rose to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by K. Mosimann O'Sullivan, seconded by S. Turner, agenda item

VI. New Business: i. Opera House Commission presentation was moved to the top of the
agenda. Vote: Unanimous

VI. New Business: i. Opera House Commission presentation

Aaron Thibault, Chairman of the Opera House Commission presented the budget. The following
comments were made by members of the Finance Board: Restricted revenue for restoration
should be debited as an expense so that it does not appear as profit; a similar surcharge on
ticket sales should be imposed and placed in a dedicated fund to reduce the deficit; the
revenue projection from ticket sales appears to be optimistic.

III. Communications

1. Correspondence from Public Works Director Paul Pronovost indicating that the Snow and Ice
Budget will be over by \$153.
2. Memo from Sue Smith reported that the Internet Technology budget will be over by \$300
because of the need for support services from RKL Associates.
3. Correspondence from Superintendent of Schools Lynda Mitchell that the projected deficit is
of \$347,000 is now down to \$29,000 because of a spending freeze imposed in December.

IV. Financial Director's Report

No report

V. First Selectman's Report

Selectman Mone reported that Captain Kris Nelson will take early retirement.

The White Collar union, management and other non-union employees will take a one week
unpaid furlough and Police will take a pay freeze for an additional year.

Both unions have taken no increase in the last 2 years. S. Smith noted that the result is actually a cut in pay because an additional 3% of their pay goes into the Pension Fund for Police and 1% for all other unions.

Selectman Mone reported that the Police and White Collar contracts have been extended one more year. All unions are paying an additional 1% of the premium for health care costs. The teachers union has voted to take no increase in pay as have the AFSCME employees. The Superintendent of Schools is working with another town to address the costs of special education by creating a regional special education center.

The Police Dept is exploring the possibility of a regional dispatch center.

Selectman Mone presented his recommended budget cuts of \$79,000 in Capital Improvements.

VI. Old Business:

i. Budget Discussion

The Finance Board proposed the following cuts with the goal of limiting the spending increase to 3% in Fiscal Year 2011 :

Social Services \$15,750

Library \$10,360

Tree Removal \$8000

Recreation \$10,000

Fire Dept. \$10,000

Police \$15,000

Highway \$17,218

The Finance Board directed that all departments and commissions review their fee schedules with a view to increasing them. Selectman Mone was asked to recommend \$434,000 in cuts in the Town budget.

G. Seabourne urged the First Selectman to find a way to cut benefits and not people by instituting 401k plans for employees.

The Board will look at the Volunteer Firefighter Pension save money and jobs.

VIII. Member Comment: none

IX. Public Comment:

Discussion of Opera House debt balance, tree cutting costs.

X. Adjournment

On a motion by S. Turner, seconded by F. Treglia, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25pm.

Marie Galbraith

Secretary, Thomaston Board of Finance

