



Town of Thomaston
Selectman's Office
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THOMASTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2009

Roll Call:

Meeting was called to order at 7:55 p.m.

Selectmen Martin, Hopkins and Scully were present. Deborah Bournival, Administrative Assistant, was in attendance to take the minutes.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Selectman Scully to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2009 regular meeting as presented. Motion was seconded by Selectman Hopkins. With all in favor, motion carries.

A motion was made by Selectman Scully to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2009 special meeting as presented. Motion was seconded by Selectman Hopkins. With all in favor, motion carries.

Board/Commission Appointments:

None at this time.

A motion was made by Selectman Hopkins to move Public Comment after Item #3 on the agenda. Motion was seconded by Selectman Scully. With all in favor, motion carries.

Public Comment:

Bob Flanagan, a resident and past Inland Wetlands Commission member, has agreed to spend some of his free time volunteering in the Social Service Department. The following is a short excerpt of what he has observed for the record:

“The call volume in the Social Service Office is very high. Whenever I have come in to help out on Friday mornings. I spend 3 hours logging in the phone calls from the week before.

Because no one is there to answer the phone during the week, it makes it almost impossible to give a timely response to inquiries that the office receives. I log in between 50 to 75 phone calls each Friday. One day, I logged 92.

Many of the programs that the office uses have strict time limits as to when paperwork needs to be submitted. As with any office, if these time lines are missed, people suffer.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Number of Calls</u>	
July, 08	250	
Aug, 08	364	
Sept. 08	385	
Oct. 08	392	Average: 302
Nov. 08	239	
Dec. 08	274	
Jan. 09	216	

As you can see, the call volume peaked in October, 08 with 392.

Everyone is aware the fiscal times are probably some of the most challenging any of us have ever seen. Obviously, when the economy takes a downturn, the needs in the Social Service Office increase.

The funding for the office assistant/secretary should be restored in order for the office to function properly.”

Discussion ensued.

Resume to Tax Refunds.

Tax Refunds:

A motion was made by Selectman Scully to approve the tax refund submitted by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$473.04 to Torrington Savings Bank, Assessor pro-rated bill – bank paid original amount, monies going back to escrow account per Torrington Savings Bank. Motion was seconded by Selectman Hopkins. With all in favor, motion carries.

A motion was made by Selectman Scully to approve the tax refund submitted by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$189.90 to Nissan Infiniti, Assessor pro-rated, sold 5/08. Motion was seconded by Selectman Hopkins. With all in favor, motion carries.

A motion was made by Selectman Scully to approve the tax refund submitted by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$26.28 to Jennifer Warner, Assessor C of C added exemption, bank paid old amount due. Motion was seconded by Selectman Hopkins. With all in favor, motion carries.

A motion was made by Selectman Scully to approve a tax refund submitted by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$1,202.01 to Naugatuck Valley Savings & Loan. Selectman Scully rescinded his motion – no signature of the Tax Collector on the refund form.

A motion was made by Selectman Scully to approve the tax refund submitted by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$1,258.30 to Countrywide Tax Service Corp., house assessment was adjusted by Assessor after bank had paid. Motion was seconded by Selectman Hopkins. With all in favor, motion carries.

Budget 2009-2010 Review:

Most departments submitted their budgets to the First Selectman's Office by the date requested. The 2009-2010 budget spreadsheet had previously been sent to the selectmen for their review before this meeting. The selectmen noted that there are still some departments showing an increase in this budget over last. It was suggested that First Selectman Martin go back to these departments asking, again, for a 0% increase. Discussion ensued.

First Selectman Martin spoke briefly about a program which she heard about through a webinar that introduces ways to reduce trash costs, especially tipping fees. This program is called SMART = Save Money and Reduce Trash. First Selectman Martin will investigate this further to see how it can save the town money.

Tax Incentive Recommendations from EDC:

It has come to our attention, per the Assessor's Office, that there are some unresolved issues that need to be met with one of the two tax incentive agreements. Until that time, it is advisable to hold off on sending them to a town meeting.

Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan/Schedule Public Hearing:

A motion was made by Selectman Scully that the Town of Thomaston Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 17, 2009 in the Lena Morton Art Gallery of the Thomaston Town Hall, 158 Main Street, Thomaston, CT to consider the proposed Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley's Natural Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan for the Town of Thomaston.

Electors and citizens will be heard at the public hearing concerning this plan.

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

Old Business:

Paul Pronovost, Highway Superintendent, will be in attendance at the town meeting tomorrow night, February 4th, to answer any questions re: purchase of the two dump trucks. One question that has come up in the last few days is whether or not he will be purchasing two 10-wheelers or two 6-wheelers or a combination of the two.

Also, there was some discussion on the road improvements. First Selectman Martin will ask Paul Pronovost if he can be available to attend the March Board of Selectmen meeting to address some issues.

New Business:

The Town recently received a Notice of Grant Award in the amount of \$45,000 for the Housing Assessment and Incentive Housing Zone Plan Project for 2009 from the State of Connecticut, Office of Policy and Management. The State of Connecticut requires a current resolution of authority passed by the town's governing board, indicating that the officer that signs the grant award is specifically authorized to do so.

A motion was made by Selectman Hopkins that the First Selectman, Maura E. Martin, is authorized to sign, on behalf of the Town of Thomaston, the Notice of Grant Award for the Housing Assessment and Incentive Housing Zoning Plan for 2009 in the amount of \$45,000 from the State of Connecticut, Office of Policy and Management. Motion was seconded by Selectman Scully. With all in favor, motion carries.

A motion was made by Selectman Hopkins to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectman Scully. With all in favor, motion carries.

Minutes are respectfully submitted by Deborah Bournival, Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Administrative Assistant, Deborah Bournival.