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DRAFT

**THOMASTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2010**

Roll Call:

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

First Selectman Mone, Selectman Scheppard and Selectman Barrett, Sr. were present. Deborah Bournival, Administrative Assistant, was in attendance to take the minutes.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2010 special meeting as presented. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.

Tax Refunds:

A motion was made by Selectman Barrett, Sr. to approve the tax refund submitted by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$3.87 to Brian Blair, vehicle sold 8/09 per Assessor. Motion was seconded by Selectman Scheppard. With all in favor, motion carries.

A motion was made by Selectman Barrett, Sr. to approve the tax refund submitted by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$6,252.54 to Hollie Fischer, taxes paid at foreclosure. Wells Fargo escrow money paid to tax office should have gone directly to the homeowner. Motion was seconded by Selectman Scheppard. With all in favor, motion carries.

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Board/Commission Appointments:

Mike Burr, Chairman of the newly-formed Track Advisory Committee, has requested the Board to appoint four additional members to the Committee. They are Annette Canfield, Linda Miller, Jeff Dauphinais and Sandi Mauro.

A motion was made by Selectman Barrett, Sr. to appoint Annette Canfield, Linda Miller, Jeff Dauphinais and Sandi Mauro as additional members to the Track Advisory Committee. Motion was seconded by Selectman Scheppard. With all in favor, motion carries.

Old Business/Opera House Discussion:

After attending a recent Strategic Planning Committee meeting, Selectman Scheppard said there were three criteria the Committee wants to meet:

1. They want to keep the Opera House open,
2. They would like to recover most, if not all, debt owed to the Town and,
3. They would like to establish a relationship that prevents something like this happening again in the future.

If we hit all three, we have hit a home run.

Old Business/Correction:

The motion that was made in the Thursday, February 18, 2010 special meeting re: EDC's proposed tax abatement for 254 Commons was stated incorrectly and needs to be corrected.

A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to rescind a motion made at the February 18, 2010 special Board of Selectmen meeting that accepted the recommendation of the Economic Development Commission (EDC) to waive 75 % of the increased assessment value of the property for two years. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.

A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to accept the recommendation of the Economic Development Commission (EDC) and waive 75% of the increased assessment value of the property for two years, subject to approval at a town meeting. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.

New Business/Opera House 2010-2011 Budget:

Aaron Thibault was in attendance to present the 2010-2011 budget. This budget is the Opera House Commission's best attempt at a realistic and reasonable projection of operations. This budget now tracks each shows revenues and related expenses making for sound fiscal management. Without sound financial management, the Opera House risks its very existence. Discussion ensued.

New Business/Assessor-Reval Bids:

RaeAnn Walcott was in attendance to present and discuss the bids for the 2011 full revaluation. The three bids are as follows:

Tyler Technologies:	Revaluation	-	\$142,000
	Data Mailers	-	\$ 5,900
	Legal Fees	-	\$ 900 per diem}5 days
	Support	-	<u>\$ 12,000</u> through 6/12
	Total Cost		\$153,900
PBS Systems, LLC:	Revaluation	-	\$126,500
	Data Mailers	-	\$ 2,700
	Legal Fees	-	\$ 185
	CAMA Conf.	-	\$ 17,500
	1 yr. Support	-	<u>\$ 6,000</u>
	Total Cost		\$152,700
Municipal Valuations Services	Revaluation	-	\$168,600
	Data Mailers	-	\$ 9,500
	Legal Fees	-	<u>\$ 200</u>
	Total Cost		\$178,300

Tyler and PBS are both fully capable, but RaeAnn feels we would be better served with Tyler. Municipal Valuations is a fairly new company and, of course, has submitted the highest bid.

A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to empower the Assessor to contract with Tyler Technologies to perform the 2011 full revaluation. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.

New Business/Tax Collector-Proposed Ordinance Changes:

Peggy Duffy was in attendance to present and discuss the proposed ordinance changes concerning tax payments, refunds and fees.

- The ordinance will give the tax collector the right to retain any payment in excess of the amount due of any property tax, interest or lien fee which is less than \$5.00, whenever the tax collector determines that the administrative cost of issuing the refund is likely to exceed the amount of the refund.
- The ordinance will authorize the tax collector to waive the payment of any property tax, interest or lien fee which is \$10.00 or less, whenever the tax collector determines that the administrative cost of collection is likely to exceed the amount due.
- The ordinance will allow the tax collector to charge an administrative fee of \$2.00 to be added to the tax levied on each motor vehicle when a motor vehicle tax is delinquent.

A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard authorizing the First Selectman to send the Ordinance Concerning Tax Payments, Refunds and Fees to a town meeting. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.

New Business/EDC-Tax Abatement on Maslak Property:

Jeff Dunn, Chairman of the Economic Development Commission, was in attendance to the tax abatement application from Darryl Maslak (TRC Properties, LLC) for 142 East Main Street property. At its February 25, 2010 meeting, the Economic Development Commission accepted the tax abatement application and recommended a 25% abatement for 3 years, recommending that the Board of Selectmen stay with same.

A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to accept the recommendation from the Economic Development Commission for a 25% tax abatement for a period of 3 years subject to a town meeting. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.

New Business/TVAC-Commission Recommendation on Contract (Executive Session):

A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to go into executive session at 8:20 p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.

The Board invites in Rich O'Connell, Chairman of the Commission, Dave Bertnagel and Wayne Kamens.

A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to come out of executive session at 8:42 p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries. No action taken.

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Public Comment:

Mrs. Yoos expressed her concerns re: Opera House shows content and language, asked about Police overtime hours reported by the Board of Finance and wanted to know if it was true that the school budget was up by 5% (this was a question she asked on behalf of Tony Durso). Discussion ensued.

First Selectman Mone has decided to not take his increase this year (per his contract) and has asked the other selectmen to do the same (a 2.5% increase over their current stipend). Both agreed.

A motion was made by Selectman Barrett, Sr. to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectman Scheppard.. With all in favor, motion carries.

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