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**DRAFT**

**THOMASTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, MAY 18, 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 available to take the minutes.

**Approval of Minutes:**

After review of the minutes presented, Selectman Scheppard did make one correction:

In the May 4, 2010 minutes, under "**Approval of Minutes**", in the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph, it should read,

**A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2010 regular meeting as amended..., not April 6, 2010 regular meeting as amended.**

Therefore, a motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2010 regular meeting as amended. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.

A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2010 special meeting as presented. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.

A motion was made by Selectman Barrett, Sr. to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2010 special meeting as presented. Motion was seconded by First Selectman Mone. Selectman Scheppard abstains. Motion carries 2-0-1.

**Board/Commission Appointments:**

None at this time.

**Tax Refunds:**

A motion was made by Selectman Barrett, Sr. to approve the tax refund submitted by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$8.00 to Deborah Dailey, payer wrote check for incorrect amount. 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 \$59.48 to John Miecznikowski, payer wrote check for incorrect amount (rounded up). Motion was seconded by Selectman Scheppard. With all in favor, motion carries.

**Old Business:**

Selectman Scheppard inquired about the roads. First Selectman Mone said discussion was taken up at the last meeting (May 13) which Selectman Scheppard was unable to attend. He said a motion was made to waive the three bid requirement for repair of a section of Hickory Hill Road, which is posing a major safety concern at this point. At the recommendation of Paul Pronovost, Superintendent of Highways, the bid was awarded to S&S Paving who came at the State-level pricing.

First Selectman Mone also mentioned an email he received from Paul Pronovost re: patching of potholes. The email basically said they would be in the Jackson Street, Fenn Road and North Main Street areas this week to patch potholes. They would also be repairing a culvert and sweeping. They were hoping to get to Blakeman Road sometime next week.

Selectman Barrett, Sr. asked if the Greener Corners recycling proposal is off the table – heard rumors to that affect. First Selectman Mone said it is still a viable program for the town, however, after discussions with the various commissions, some are on board with it, others are not. He will take up additional discussions with them soon.

**New Business:**

None at this time.

**Public Comment:**

In attendance at tonight's meeting were Tony Durso, Paul & Christine Yoos, Dave LaManna and Robby Pizzarelli/Town Times.

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Mr. Yoos presented copies of letters/affidavits from various EDC members that were presented to the FOI Commission at the hearing just recently. Mr. Yoos still questions the validity of one of these affidavits and said there should be an investigation into this by the Board of Selectmen. First Selectman Mone said it is in the hands of our attorney. He will do what's in the best interest of his client – the town. First Selectman Mone said the affidavits were signed in Litchfield and are out of our jurisdiction.

Discussion on the budget ensued. Dave LaManna, business/property owner in town, commented on a past article in the paper in which the First Selectman said, “raising taxes can no longer be the first option for maintaining services”, “we must find other ways to fund the necessary services that only town government can provide, in a cost-effective manner” and “local government is the business of our citizens and taxpayers and must be conducted as such. Mr. LaManna said town government should do their best to live by these words.

First Selectman Mone said he has had numerous discussions with every department and asked for zero-based budgeting. Most came in with less than the year before. They have done their best to tighten up their belts. Our budgets are lean, there is no fat to trim. The next step will most likely be a reduction in staffing/services. First Selectman Mone said many departments have been classically underfunded in the past, only to have to take out of contingency later to fund these overages. Selectman Scheppard said in the past, there was more money going into the coffers due to the increased grand list and town-aid money from the State of Connecticut. We don't have that luxury afforded to us now.

**A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.**