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**DRAFT**

**THOMASTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2011**

**Roll Call:**

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

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

**Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2011 regular meeting as presented. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.

**Old Business/Road Improvement Plan Update:**

First Selectman Mone presented Paul's road report to the selectmen. The report indicated there are three roads under construction and their current status as follows:

**Blakeman Road** – reclamation will start on Wednesday, June 22, 2011. Once the grading is finished, basins will have to be adjusted. As of this time, no more costs have been encumbered.

**Prospect Street** – drainage has been completed and we are just waiting to start reclamation. The contractor should move from Blakeman to Prospect. Paul will meet with him to get firm schedule. The drainage work is so far under budget.

**Broadview Heights** – drainage has begun.

Paul and the engineer from BL Companies (the company retained by the Town to provide an opinion of probable construction costs for the network of roads in the three-year rehabilitation plan) met and went out to make visual observations and take measurements of these roads. Out

of the 37 roads investigated, 6 of them have been recommended for engineering services. A report from our Finance Director, Tracy Decker, was presented and discussed. This report highlights the total costs to date. The only correction that needs to be made is to move Valley View Road and Woodbridge Lane out of Year 2 to this year. The report shows an unallocated amount of \$243,790.36 in Year 2. Calculations by the First Selectman show that of the original bond authorization of \$ 10,674,500, \$ 4,917,093 has been expended as of 6/21/11 leaving a balance of \$ 5,757,407 yet to be utilized for road construction.

There has not been any feedback from the Board of Finance, as this information was just received today.

### **Old Business/Small Cities Subordination – 63 Litchfield Street:**

Embrace Home Loans will handle a refinance for the property owner in order to pay off all liens and encumbrances listed on the property to prevent a tax sale. Both the town attorney and Peter Testa of L. Wagner & Associates agree that the property is “under water” in terms of total mortgages and liens outstanding. Subordinating the Small Cities loan of \$79,507 to a refinance of the existing first mortgage, tax liens, sewer liens and a credit union loan on a property appraised at approximately \$129,000 leaves no equity, meaning that the Small Cities loan will be virtually unsecured. If the Town denies the subordination request and the property is sold at a tax sale, there is very little chance the Small Cities loan would be paid in full, if at all. In addition, there would be no potential for the property to accumulate equity for a possible repayment in the future.

Either way, the Town would at least recoup the tax liens. Peter Testa suggests that if the Town subordinates, it may want to consider it being contingent upon the owner escrowing the taxes to prevent a repeat of conditions that exist now.

The title search paperwork did not clearly indicate in what position the Town would have after all debts were paid. It is presumed it would have second position. Further information needs to be gathered from Embrace and the property owner.

A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to table this to the next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.

### **Old Business/Contract Renewal - CRRA:**

After the last regular meeting, both Selectman Scheppard and Selectman Barrett, Sr. were uncomfortable with a 15-year termed contract with CRRA. First Selectman Mone indicated there are shorter terms, but we would have to enact an ordinance to guarantee that all haulers who pick up within town limits bring their loads to CRRA and enforce such or be subject to penalty or breach of contract. We are not in the business of policing everyone nor do we believe we want to be. Additionally, with the proximity of the town transfer station to the CRRA’s in Watertown, we should be able to continue to receive favorable rates from haulers. Regarding our

guaranteed tonnage requirement we should have no problem staying within the required tonnage numbers.

A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to empower the First Selectman to enter into a contract with the Connecticut Resource and Recovery Authority (CRRA) as proposed for a Tier III for 15 years. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.

**Old Business/Appointment of Deputy Treasurer:**

Discussion ensued as to whether or not the position of Deputy Treasurer should be given to a non-resident. Discussion ensued. The selectmen agreed that this position should be given to a town resident and suggested the Town Clerk. First Selectman Mone did approach the Town Clerk, Cathy Dupont, to ask if she would be willing to serve in this capacity, and she said she would. Attorney Ryback was consulted regarding legality and conflict and approved.

A motion was made by Selectman Barrett, Sr. to appoint the Town Clerk (who is currently Cathy Dupont) as Deputy Treasurer with a term of office concurrent with that of the Treasurer. Motion was seconded by Selectman Scheppard. With all in favor, motion carries.

A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to propose a town meeting to amend the language of the ordinance to indicate that the Town Clerk be appointed as Deputy Treasurer. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.

**New Business/RFP for Professional Engineering Services:**

We have received a number of RFP's back, but the committee still needs to review them. We will have at our next regular meeting.

**New Business/Opera House Commission – RFP Presentation:**

In attendance were Lucille Killiany, Becky Skinner, Julianne Torrence and Matt Kamens from the commission.

This revised RFP has already been endorsed by the commission, the Board of Finance and the town attorney. It incorporates some basic changes such as changing the word "theatre" operation to "entertainment" operation in the Intent of Offering, it breaks out the monthly fee of \$3,500 towards utilities and other expenses incurred by the Town to maintain the facility and a revenue-sharing proposal above this monthly fee toward other Town expenses, etc. It gives respondents more time to respond (8 weeks) and gives more time to the commission to review. Respondent must reply by September. A party will be selected in October with the intent of beginning new operations in January 2012.

A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to approve the Thomaston Opera House Commission Request for Proposal – Operations of Thomaston Opera House. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.

**New Business/Light Up the Town Committee:**

In attendance from Light up the Town were Liz Eaton/Secretary, Kathy Jo Butkevicius/Co-Chairman, Janet Bergamo, Tony Troccolo and Don Lamy. Tina Duffy was also in attendance.

First Selectman Mone indicated that Light up the Town volunteers were not covered under the Town insurance. He explained that if Light up the Town became an official committee of the Town (appointed by the Board of Selectmen), its' members would have insurance coverage at no cost to them. However, as a committee, the committees' responsibilities would now include:

- posting all agendas within 24-hours of their meetings with the Town Clerk;
- keeping minutes of all meetings and filing those with the Town Clerk in a timely fashion;
- make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen to spend any money received (there is already a Light up the Town account set up by the Finance Department);
- committee has to be comprised of people who are town residents. They could have outside residents if part of a sub-committee if one is developed.

Selectman Scheppard also wanted them to be aware that some grants will no longer be available to them once they become a town committee.

Will take up at next regular Board of Selectmen meeting.

**New Business/Police Commission Recommendation re; Nystrom's Park Closing Time:**

A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard based on the recommendation of the Police Commission to modify to establish closing time of the park as 8:30 p.m. at Nystroms Park and to empower the Recreation Director to change the signage and post the change in a local newspaper per ordinance. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.

**New Business/Resignation of Zoning Officer:**

First Selectman Mone received a letter of resignation from Mary Barton, the Land Use Enforcement Officer, on June 17, 2011. She indicated that she will be taking the position of Land Use Enforcement Officer for the Town of Woodbury with a start date of July 1, 2011. She also indicated that she would be willing to stay on in a limited capacity in order to help ease the transition until we hire her replacement. She would also be happy to help with the interviewing process.

A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to accept the resignation of Mary Barton, Land Use Enforcement Officer, with regrets and send her a letter of appreciation for her years of service to the Town. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.

### **New Business/Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA):**

Prior to this meeting, there was a short public hearing to inform the public of the NAA program and this year's projects.

First Selectman Mone asked Debbie Bournival, Administrative Assistant, to briefly explain the Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) and describe this year's programs/projects.

Debbie explained that the program is designed to provide funding for municipal and tax exempt organizations by providing a corporation business tax credit for CT-based businesses who make cash contributions to these entities.

Businesses can receive a credit of 60% of their approved contribution to certain programs (or 100% in the case of certain energy conservation programs) approved by the Department of Revenue Services (DRS).

Any municipality or tax-exempt organization can request a minimum amount of \$250 or a maximum amount of \$150,000.

The projects for this year are as follows:

- Thomaston Track Committee for a track/athletic facility. Amount requested - \$150,000.
- Town of Thomaston for an LED town sign. Amount requested - \$29,000
- Town of Thomaston for a new senior/disabled minibus - \$53,800

A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to approve all applications presented and send along to the Department of Revenue Services for their approval. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.

A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to designate Deborah Bournival as the liaison to handle all Neighborhood Assistance Act matters. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.

### **Board/Commission Appointments & Resignations:**

A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to appoint Christine Yoos to fill a vacancy as an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term from April 1, 2009 to April 1, 2014. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. Discussion ensued. First Selectman Mone indicated his opposition to this appointment. He feels it would be a conflict of interest for the applicant based on her many issues with Planning and Zoning Commission in so far as the ZBA is its' oversight board. The other selectmen felt that if there are volunteers out there that are willing to serve on commissions in some capacity, that is a positive and we should appoint them. Motion carries 2-1, with the First Selectman voting nay.

**Tax Refunds:**

A motion was made by Selectman Barrett, Sr. to approve the tax refund submitted by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$68.79 to Diane Soucy, paid bill twice. 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 \$86.28 to Diane Soucy. Overpaid car bill. Motion was seconded by Selectman Scheppard. With all in favor, motion carries.

**Public Comment:**

In attendance at tonight's meeting were Christine and Paul Yoos and Julianne Torrence.

Paul Yoos said the Board should think twice about sending Mary Barton a thank you note for her services.

Paul Yoos said the amount asked by the Opera House Commission in the RFP (\$3,500) is still not enough to cover expenses. Julianne Torrence responded by saying that the breakdown is \$3,500 is to cover utilities, elevator, cleaning the theatre, etc. and the additional \$1,500 that was in the previous proposal was for miscellaneous items including the repayment of the loan.

**A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.**