



**Town of Thomaston**  
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**DRAFT**

**THOMASTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2011**

**Roll Call:**

Meeting was called to order at 7:06 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.

**A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to add "Executive Session" as #8 on the agenda. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.**

**Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Selectman Barrett, Sr. to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2011 regular meeting as presented. Motion was seconded by Selectman Scheppard. With all in favor, motion carries.

**Old Business/ECG Energy Audit Update:**

The Request for Proposals for an Energy Performance Contract – Notice to Energy Performance Services Companies was posted. The pre-proposal review of the proposal requirements will be held on June 16, 2011 at 2 p.m. here at Town Hall, with proposals due back to the First Selectman's Office by July 28, 2011 at which time they will be reviewed with ECG.

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

First Selectman Mone indicated that Paul Pronovost will be giving us updates on a monthly basis from here on out. Selectman Scheppard asked if we were going to re-bond and First Selectman Mone indicated that, yes, we will have to. We are waiting for verifiable numbers from BL Companies before we repackage. It will then need to go before the Board of Finance and the

Board of Selectmen for approval, then onto a town meeting and finally a referendum. We are trying to move ahead as quickly as possible.

**New Business/Tax Collector Write-offs:**

Peggy Duffy, Tax Collector, was in attendance to explain the write-offs. She indicated that this was for housekeeping purposes only. Per CT Statute Section 12-129, refunds are allowable up to three years from the tax due date. After the three-year period, in order to zero out their balances, adjustments equal to their overpayment amounts are to be made.

A motion was made by Selectman Barrett, Sr. that in accordance with the CT State Statute Sec. 12-129, application for refunds must be made within 3 years of the due date of the tax. The 101 taxpayers on the attached list dated 6/1/2011 have balances totaling \$6,652.82 for bills on or prior to the 2006 Grand List. To zero out their balances, adjustments equal to their overpayment amounts are to be made. Motion was seconded by Selectman Scheppard. With all in favor, motion carries.

A motion was made by Selectman Barrett, Sr. that in accordance with the ordinances of the Town of Thomaston, per Thomaston's Code 247-17 adopted on March 31, 2010, recorded in the Thomaston land records in Volume 12, Page 768, the Tax Collector is authorized to retain overpayments of taxes if such overpayment is less than \$5.00. The 145 taxpayers on the attached list dated 6/1/2011 have balances from \$-0.01 to \$-4.99. To zero out their balances, adjustments equal to their overpayment amounts are to be made. The total of these balances is \$214.76. Motion was seconded by Selectman Scheppard. With all in favor, motion carries.

**New Business/Small Cities Subordination Request – 63 Litchfield Street:**

Our office received a call from L. Wagner & Associates indicating that the resident at 63 Litchfield Street has requested subordination on a loan they received back in 1990 in the amount of \$79,507.00. In a conversation with the resident, this office was informed that she is trying to secure a loan through Embrace to help her pay off her existing debts. According to the town attorney, with the total mortgages and liens outstanding, subordinating the Small Cities loan of \$79,507 (a second mortgage) to a refinance of the existing first mortgage, tax liens and sewer liens on a property appraised at approximately \$129,000 leaves no equity, leaving the Small Cities loan virtually unsecured. If the town wishes to take this risk under its subordination policy, the only positive aspect is that the town's taxes and sewer liens will be paid, allowing the resident to stay in her home. Discussion ensued.

We will follow up with L. Wagner to find out what position the town will be in.

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

### **New Business/Contract Approval of New Finance Director:**

There were a total of seven candidates for this position, out of which three were chosen for interviews. Interviewers included Sue Smith, Vinnie Carey, Ken Hopkins, Dave Colavecchio and Ed Mone. Tracy Decker was the first choice out of the three candidates.

Tracy's employment contract mirrors contracts that have been used for other staff members in Town Hall. The selectmen reviewed the contract. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to hire Tracy Decker of Thomaston as the new Finance Director effective for a one-year period starting June 20, 2011 through June 20, 2012. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.

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

According to our current contract with CRRA, the Town has an annual tonnage commitment of 3,120 tons. With the increase in awareness in recycling over the years, the Town's tonnage should be reduced. With that said, First Selectman Mone is working on renegotiating with CRRA to reduce the tonnage number before we renew. Out of all the Tiers offered by CRRA, Tier 1 and Tier 3 are both being considered. We are currently under Tier 3.

The positive point with Tier 1 is that it has a nominal term of 5 years, where Tier 3 is 15 years. However, the only issue with Tier 1 is that the Town would have to make a commitment, through an ordinance, that all MSW and residential recyclables generated within its borders go to CRRA.

Deadline date for renewal was July 1, 2011, but that has been extended to October 1, 2011. So we still have time to make a decision. Discussion ensued. Selectman Scheppard feels 15 years is a long term to be locked into an agreement and wants to table to the next meeting. Selectman Barrett, Sr. agrees stating that with increased recycling, we should see a decrease in MSW.

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

### **New Business/Fuel Adjustments – Allied Sanitation:**

Bill Patterson, President of Allied Sanitation, met with First Selectman Mone to request a fuel adjustment going forward with due to the increase in diesel fuel costs. We would be able to check diesel prices each day by going on the DOE website. First Selectman Mone said he does want to set a specific amount (for example, \$10,000/yr.) and that would be the cap. The adjustment would begin as of July 1, 2011 going forward.

Selectman Scheppard understands Mr. Patterson is looking to cut his loses going forward and that if we make it work for him, it is a win-win for both the Town and Mr. Patterson. If we were to go out to bid for services, we would find other companies would be charging more per household anyway.

**New Business/Appointment of Deputy Treasurer – Vincenza Carey:**

Currently, Nancy Latour, the past Director of Payroll and Human Resources, is still listed as the Deputy Treasurer. It was requested by the Treasurer that Vincenza Carey, the new Human Resource/Payroll Manager, replace her. Discussion ensued due to the fact Vincenza is not a resident of Thomaston, even though the ordinance states she only needs to be an elector of a Connecticut municipality.

A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to table this until the town attorney can be consulted for further clarification. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.

**Board/Commission Appointments & Resignations:**

There were two candidates for the Zoning Board of Appeals vacancy as a result of the resignation of Peter Fuller. One was from Christine Yoos and the other from Bob Flanagan of Thomaston. Discussion ensued as to the candidates qualifications. It was noted that Mr. Flanagan currently served in the capacity of ZEO/WEO for the Town of Redding since 2007 and prior to that, held the same positions for the Town of Coventry, dealing with zoning issues on a daily basis. He is a member of CAZEO (the Connecticut Association of Zoning Enforcement Officials).

A motion was made by Selectman Barrett, Sr. to appoint Bob Flanagan to the Zoning Board of Appeals to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Peter Fuller for a term ending April 1, 2015. Motion was seconded by Selectman Scheppard. 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 \$56.06 to American Unibrass Tube Company, overpayment of personal property taxes. 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 \$139.00 to CAB East LLC, Assessor pro-rated bill as the vehicle was sold. 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 \$668.00 to CAB East LLC, Assessor pro-rated bill as the vehicle was sold. Motion was seconded by Selectman Scheppard. With all in favor, motion carries.

**Public Comment:**

In attendance at tonight's meeting were Robby Piazzarolli/Town Times, Alec Johnson/Republican-American, Tracy Decker, Doreen Breen/Phoenix Rising Center, Bob Flanagan and Christine Yoos.

Doreen Breen of the Phoenix Rising Center was in attendance to introduce herself and the mission of the Phoenix Rising Center. The Phoenix Rising Center is an artist's collaborative that will offer the residents of Thomaston classes, workshops, programs and summer arts camps in addition to special events and exhibits throughout the year. A contract has already been signed with the owner of 135 South Main Street (the old Seth Thomas Clock building) for studio space in the "tower" section. They will be ready to open in 6-8 weeks. Hours of operation will be Wednesday – Sunday from 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m. They already have a preliminary exhibit with the train station and will be working with the Seth Thomas/Bradstreet House on an art exhibit. They are looking to use the Teen Center in Town Hall and the town parks throughout the year.

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The issue of animal defecation has been taken up under Police Commission.

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A letter was received from Sallyann Gladych of Morris requesting that a name be put to the unnamed tributary to the Naugatuck River on West Hill Road. She is requesting that the name be changed to Ralph Warner or Ralph Goodwin Warner. This was her grandfather who was the last one to be born and lived his whole life on Cedar Mountain Farm. According to the town attorney, she will need to take this up with the CT. DEP or the USDA NRCS. The town only has the authority to name town streets in a subdivision at the time of acceptance.

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A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to go into executive session at 8:48 p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.

A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to come out of executive session at 9:00 p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.

No decision rendered at this time.

**A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.**