



Town of Thomaston
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DRAFT

**THOMASTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2010**

Roll Call:

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

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

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2010 regular meeting as presented. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.

Board/Commission Appointments:

A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to discuss the recommendation of the Economic Development Commission to appoint Ralph Celone as full member of that Commission. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. Discussion ensued. First Selectman Mone has expressed his concern regarding this appointment even though the town attorney does not see an issue with it. First Selectman Mone feels this appointment would be a concern regarding Ralph's position as a full voting member on the Planning & Zoning Commission, as both commissions work closely together on various issues. Both Selectman Barrett, Sr. and Selectman Scheppard share the same concerns. First Selectman Mone did convey this to Ralph in a conversation he had with him.

As part of these discussions, the Board of Selectmen want to make it clear that Ralph will continue to serve on the Economic Development Commission in a liaison capacity.

With the motion open on the floor, all opposed – motion fails.

Tax Refunds:

A motion was made by Selectman Barrett, Sr. to approve the tax refund submitted by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$31.00 to Barbara Duncan, Assessor pro-rated bill due to sale of vehicle in May, 2010. 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 \$47.21 to Alan Steiner, Assessor pro-rated bill due to sale of vehicle in July, 2010. 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 \$76.13 to Honda Lease Trust, Assessor pro-rated bill due to sale of vehicle in June, 2010. 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 \$45.60 to GMAC, Assessor pro-rated. 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 \$17.02 to David Norton, Assessor pro-rated after bill paid/sold July, 2010. 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 \$10.17 to Michael Cavalieri, Assessor pro-rated bill due to sale of vehicle in August, 2010. Motion was seconded by Selectman Scheppard. With all in favor, motion carries.

Old Business/Policy & Procedures-General Discussion:

Nancy Latour, Director of Payroll and Human Resources, was in attendance at tonight's meeting. Two of the four policies and procedures that were presented at the last Board of Selectmen meeting have been revised and presented tonight for discussion and possible approval.

Old Business/Policy & Procedures-Vehicle Usage:

Discussion of the town's vehicle use policy ensued. Policy states employees must use town cars for business purposes as a first option. If no vehicles are available, then they may use their personal cars and receive mileage compensation. No personal use is permitted with some exceptions regarding other language in employment contracts with staff.

A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to adopt the Town of Thomaston Vehicle Policy & Procedures. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.

The only revision to the Freedom of Information Policy is the emphasis placed on the words “**any document not readily available for public inspection**” in the second paragraph.

A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to adopt the Town of Thomaston Freedom of Information Policy. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.

The Recruitment Policy & Procedure is on hold until the next regular B.O.S. meeting.

The Volunteer Policy/Handbook is a work-in-progress. First Selectman Mone will wait to hear back from Nancy on this one. Selectman Scheppard said we need to address groups such as the little leagues, fire explorers, etc. where there is a one-on-one ratio at times. Nancy will consult with all departments to find out what policies they already have in place.

New Business/New Opportunities – rent options:

First Selectman Mone was approached by Joan Neumann of New Opportunities to see if there was a possibility of renting space in town hall. First Selectman Mone told her that as of January, 2011, we will have two offices available as the Probate Court is moving due to regionalization of the probate courts across Connecticut. One of the offices will be earmarked for storage of town hall files (resource room) and the other will be open. First Selectman Mone said before he rents to anyone, he first must have a discussion with the white collar union, check into the insurance company and the town attorney on some issues.

Selectman Scheppard said he had some reservations about renting space in town hall, but Selectman Barrett, Sr. said we will be doing the same thing with the Opera House. Both Selectman Scheppard and Barrett, Sr. would like the First Selectman to do more research on this option.

New Business/Trash Options- general discussion:

First Selectman Mone provided information to the selectmen on the research he did on comparing a private hauler vs. municipal hauler. As an example, Copes was \$93.00 per quarter or \$31.00 per month per household as opposed to \$14.68 per month per household under the current contract with the municipal hauler. Tipping fees were also included in these numbers.

First Selectman Mone also presented some information to the selectmen on pay-as-you-throw (PAYT) options as well. This program reduces trash and encourages recycling.

First Selectman Mone said CRRA (Connecticut Recovery Resource Authority) is in the process of revising their solid waste agreements by looking at their current tiers. We will get those revisions sometime in September.

New Business/ECG Energy Audit – general discussion:

This company is similar to the other companies we signed on with to do the town hall and TVAC building energy upgrades. However, this company goes way beyond electrical retrofits. They look at the whole building envelope. First Selectman Mone would like to move forward on this. He would like to meet with the chairman of the Finance Board, the Building Committee, etc. to discuss further. Selectman Scheppard agrees, but says we should ask for references because this is a company we are not familiar with.

Public Comment: (Mr. & Mrs. Yoos and Tony Durso were in attendance at tonight's meeting)

Mrs. Yoos wanted to thank the Board for their consideration given to the issue with EDC. She also expressed her desire to become an alternate member of the Planning & Zoning Commission. First Selectman Mone said in order to be considered for any commission, you must be a town resident. As an alternative, she then expressed her desire to be a liaison from the business community. First Selectman Mone will take it under advisement.

Tony Durso agrees that renting out space in town hall is a good idea – it generates much needed revenue. He also commented on the trash options, saying that the town will save \$500,000, but the residents will end up paying more to hire someone else to pick up their trash.

A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.