



## Town of Thomaston

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### DRAFT

## THOMASTON BOARD OF FINANCE REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2015

### Present:

George Seabourne, Mike Madow, Steve Turner, Frank Treglia, Luke Freimuth, Tracy Decker, and First Selectman Ed Mone. Members of the community.

Not in attendance was Dave Bernagel.

### Call to Order:

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

### Pledge of Allegiance:

Those in attendance stood and recited the Pledge.

### Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by S. Turner to approve the minutes of February 10, 2015 regular meeting as presented. Motion was seconded by L. Freimuth. All in favor, motion carries.

### New Business/Budget Discussion 2015-2016:

Chairman Seabourne would like to add additional meeting dates for budget discussion purposes.

He would like to add:

March 24 - **Police** (which includes Police, Communications, ACO and Emergency Management); and **Highway Department**

April 7 - **Board of Ed**

***A motion was made by L. Freimuth to add both dates for special BOF meetings. Motion was seconded by S. Turner. All in favor, motion carries.***

At our next regularly scheduled meeting on April 14, we will invite Library, TVAC and Fire. We will add the Capital Improvements Committee once they are ready to do so, per Tracy should be right after their next meeting. All members should have had plenty of time to review the spreadsheet handed out by Tracy at tonight's meeting.

A motion was made by S. Turner to add under New Business "***Appointment of New Member to Board of Finance***". Motion was seconded by M. Madow. All in favor, motion carries.

Tom Duffany has come forward with an interest in serving in this capacity, which will be to serve out the remaining term of Dave Bernagel until the end of November.

***A motion was made by M. Madow to appoint Tom Duffany to serve out the term of Dave Bernagel until the next general election in November, 2015. Motion was seconded by F. Treglia. All in favor, motion carries.***

**Old Business** – none.

**Communications:**

Chairman Seabourne received a copy of a memorandum from the Board of Ed re: 2014-2015 February Budget Projection. In a nutshell, it indicates that the 2014-2015 January budget projection was a deficit of \$136,473 and now the February projection shows a deficit of \$56,111. The memo gives some reasons for the difference of \$80,362 by highlighting decreases in costs in Wages, Benefits and Property Services and increases in costs in Pupil Transportation, Public/Non-Public Tuition and Equipment and Capital. ***See copy of memo attached and made part of record.***

\* \* \* \* \*

Deb Radosevich recently had a crisis at the Library. There were repairs to a boiler with costs at approximately \$2,700 and repairs are needed to a hot water heater. Chairman Seabourne said that they should be using the money in their own budget first for these type of repairs and only come to BOF if they go over budget.

**Finance Director's Report:**

The revenue side is looking good. Have had a lot of building permits and police special duty revenues coming in recently.

The Snow and Ice budget has had a lot of overtime costs so far this season.

WPCA was just approved for their phosphorus study.

We recently went out to bid on audit services.

\* \* \* \* \*

We recently went out to bid on solid waste and recycling services. A total of five (5) contractors placed bids. We asked them to bid two different ways:

**Town** owns the carts (96 gal), with recycling bi-weekly; and  
**Contractor** owns the carts (96 gal.),with recycling bi-weekly.

If the contractor owns the carts, it would only cost us approximately \$13,000 more than what we are currently paying. M. Madow wanted to know if there is verbiage in the contract that relates to breakage of carts. Both E. Mone and T. Decker indicated they have not drafted the actual contract yet, but would keep that in mind. It was unanimous among the members to go with contractor-owned carts.

Per Barry Bernabe and Bruce Chudwick, borrowing costs would be minimal, but there would be issuance costs. According to Barry and Bruce, it would cost approximately \$7,500 to issue the debt/bans.

There will be contact person, Glenn Clark, who will handle any and all complaints there may be.

BOE will pay for their own pickup out of their own budget.

F. Treglia wanted to know what happens to all existing containers for solid waste and recycling. What do we do with them? T. Decker said the contractor will do a one-time pickup of all containers.

**Selectman's Report:**

E. Mone indicated everything he wanted to discuss has been rolled in with the Finance Director's Report.

**Member Comment:**

M. Madow said it is wonderful to hear we are finally going to bigger recycling containers as he sees much savings with this.

**Public Comment:**

**Cindy Doyle** – why would solid waste/recycling costs go up 13 to 20%? E. Mone indicated that it is not costs that would go up, but amount of recycling that would be increased now with bigger containers.

***Diane Labonte*** – will the WPCA employee benefits spoken about in prior meetings go back to the town side – they are town employees, right? Chairman Seabourne indicated that there is nothing to prohibit this. It is up to both the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen and then town meeting approval. Diane said it was never voted on before in this manner.

Chairman Seabourne said the WPCA does put money aside in a reserve fund for maintenance issues at the facility as opposed to them coming to us for smaller items. The Town has always funded the major projects (i.e. the web, Kennedy Drive pump station, etc.).

**A motion was made by S. Turner to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Motion was seconded by F. Treglia. All in favor, motion carries.**