



Town of Thomaston

Selectman's Office

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DRAFT

THOMASTON BOARD OF FINANCE REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2016

Present:

George Seabourne, Mike Madow, Luke Freimuth, Steve Turner (arrived at 7:10 p.) and Tom Duffany were only members in attendance along with First Selectman Mone, Tracy Decker and members of the community. Rich Sileo was not in attendance.

Call to Order:

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

The pledge was recited by all.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by L. Freimuth to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2016 meeting. Motion was seconded by M. Madow. Motion carried 5-0.

New Business/Discussion of Police 2016-2017 Budget:

Chief Campbell presented. He is responsible for three budgets:

Police	\$1,091,420 or a 4.7% increase
Dispatch	\$ 298,654 or a 2.1% increase
Animal Control	\$ 17,314 no increase
	\$1,407,388 or 3.9% total increase

At first glance, the 2016-2017 Police budget initially showed an increase of \$91,671. However, \$45,000, which was previously accounted for in the ACO budget and was originally for one full-time officer, was transferred. After discussions with the Selectman's Office, it was requested

that the \$45,000 be transferred from the ACO budget to the wage account line of the PD budget. The actual PD increase will only reflect contractual obligations against savings in gasoline line for an actual increase in the PD budget of \$46,671 or 4.7%. The ACO budget line was reduced by the \$45,000, leaving a balance in that budget of \$17,314 or 0% increase.

There has been a reduction in the contracted price for gasoline. Therefore, that line has a reduction of \$6,000. Chairman Seabourne asked Chief Campbell what he averages for gasoline in the budget. He indicated 17,000 gallons/year.

Chairman Seabourne also asked Chief Campbell about another part-time officer and whether or not he has posted for the position yet. Chief Campbell indicated that he posts for a certified officer all the time on various websites available to him, but marketing is tough. We have nothing to offer new officers in Thomaston.

The Communications budget has an increase of \$6,000 associated with annual percentage increase in lease agreements for radio tower equipment and communications telephone land lines. M. Madow asked how towers are working. J. Campbell indicated that the towers have made a world of difference in communications. The company came back to inspect in February (one year) and said all was working well. We were at 30-32% coverage before the towers, but they guarantee 95% coverage. J. Campbell feels it is more like 100% coverage – there is much improvement.

The ACO budget was discussed earlier.

Through strategic planning, the Police Department has created financial programs and initiatives that created a successful line of revenue to off-set operational costs of the department. For the last three years, to date, they have generated \$329,026 in revenue. Through the capital cruiser fund, they have been able to lease 7 brand new cruisers, 90% of which was paid for through this cruiser fund.

New Business/Library 2016-2017 Budget:

Deborah Radosovich presented.

She indicated that they had no salary increase to date as White Collar union is still negotiating. They have large decrease in Repairs & Maintenance due to the fact they had larger ticketed repairs such as the ceiling, carpet and a condenser last year. Chairman Seabourne asked Deborah is she and the Board can look at upcoming bills to see where they come in. As for salary line, she will try to provide an idea of percentages of increase.

Old Business/BOE:

Francine and Todd were unable to attend this evening.

Communications – none.

Selectman's Report:

In terms of LOCIP, the final application should be in this week. State is projecting over \$6 million to rebuild Walnut Hill Road, but State is covering all costs. M. Madow asked if there was any progress with the web project. First Selectman Mone indicated that bid opening is set for next week per Rich Tingle. Chairman Seabourne indicated that the web project has already been approved for funding awhile back.

Finance Director's Report:

Discussion ensued. Not knowing what the State budget will look like, we need to be prudent.

Member Comment:

S. Turner – both Chief Campbell and Deborah Radosovich are handling their budgets well. Wish Hartford can be more like that.

Public Comment:

Diane Labonte – when is the next Board of Finance meeting? April 5th meeting is cancelled so, according to the schedule, it should be April 12.

Tony Durso – any more on debt limit? No more to report on this at this time.

Diane Labonte – re: Library. You have to give them some leeway as they do not have a maintenance person.

A motion was made by S. Turner to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m. Motion was seconded by L. Freimuth. Motion carries 5-0.