



## **Town of Thomaston**

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### **DRAFT**

## **THOMASTON BOARD OF FINANCE REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2016**

### **Present:**

George Seabourne, Mike Madow, Luke Freimuth, R. Sileo, S. Turner, T. Duffany, Tracy Decker, and First Selectman Ed Mone. Members of the community.

### **Call to Order:**

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chairman Seabourne.

### **Pledge of Allegiance:**

Those in attendance stood and recited the Pledge.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by L. Freimuth to approve the minutes of February 9, 2016 regular meeting as presented. Motion was seconded by S. Turner. With all in favor, motion carries.

### **New Business/Board of Education-Discussion of 2016-2017 Budget:**

Todd Bendtsen, Business Manager and Superintendent Francine Coss presented with a power point presentation.

BOE's operating budget request for FY 2016-2017 shows an increase of \$194,877 from FY 2015-2016 or a 1.24% increase. The Town's allocation budget for FY 2016-2017 will see an increase of \$239,951 from FY 2015-2016 or a 1.62% increase. The initial budget increase was actually 9.35%, but was reduced to 1.62% after a number of BOE meetings by:

- \* Administrators making additional budget cuts to trim the budget to 8.5%;
- \* Reduced or eliminated new staffing (new Facility Director & new Technology Director) to trim budget to 4.76%;

- \* Health benefits account lowered and contractual costs lowered to trim budget to 3.37%;
- \* Reduced debt service, utility and copier costs and eliminated Benefits Coordinator (now merged with the Town, a savings of \$32,367) to trim budget to 1.99%;
- \* Updated special education costs and increased excess cost rate from 50% to 55% to reduce budget to 1.62%.

Regionalization efforts have helped reduce costs (i.e. bus transportation and oil bidding).

Budget highlights were addressed at each of the three schools. Chairman Seabourne asked what was being done to encourage other students to come to Thomaston. Superintendent Coss indicated that Effective School Solutions has been promoting along with Amy Turner who has been getting the word out.

L. Freimuth would like to see explanation for any line items increase over \$30,000. Todd will provide. BOE has another meeting scheduled for March 22.

**Old Business:**

A motion was made by M. Madow to approve the expenditure for the Black Rock School faucets taking \$3,549.51 from funds remaining in CNR- Black Rock tank removal and offsetting with money from the State of Connecticut/NAA grant in the amount of \$8,159.00. Motion was seconded by S. Turner. With all in favor, motion carries.

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A motion was made by S. Turner to approve Superintendent Francine Coss to purchase a used I-phone 5 from the Town for \$60 for her own use. Motion was seconded by M. Madow. With all in favor, motion carries.

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**Communications:**

Chairman Seabourne read a memo from Ken Koval from Johnson Controls re: faucets at Black Rock School. The memo indicated that the faucets were the “push-down” type that will be replaced in the kid’s bathrooms only. Total number of faucets went from 12 to 20.

**Selectman’s Report** – none.

**Financial Director’s Report** – nothing to call attention to this month.

**Member Comment:**

Chairman Seabourne wanted to take this opportunity to thank Superintendent Coss and Todd Bendtsen and all the administrators for all their hard work in putting the budget together and for the working relationship between all parties.

**Public Comment** – none.

**A motion was made by S. Turner to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Motion was seconded by L. Freimuth. With all in favor, motion carries.**