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**DRAFT**

**THOMASTON BOARD OF FINANCE  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2016**

**Present:**

George Seabourne, Mike Madow, Rich Sileo and Tom Duffany were only members in attendance along with First Selectman Mone, Tracy Decker and members of the community. Both Steve Turner and Luke Freimuth were not in attendance.

**Call to Order:**

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chairman Seabourne.

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

The pledge was recited by all.

**Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by T. Duffany to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2016 meeting. Motion was seconded by M. Madow. Rich Sileo abstains. Motion carries 4-0 with one abstension.

**A motion was made by R. Sileo to move Old Business/BOE before New Business/Town-Side Budget. Motion was seconded by T. Duffany. Motion carries 4-0.**

Superintendent Coss and Todd Bendtson presented.

The BOE approved budget was handed out to all. They will be able to pay off bonding obligation of approximately \$77,000 with their excess.

Gov. Malloy, just today, announced a reduction of approximately \$219,628 in ECS, which is the portion the Town receives.

There is a proposal for two new positions at Black Rock School – Academic Coaches. Two ways to measure performance – 1) state tests and 2) district-wide tests. Once we have had some years under our belt, we can take measurements.

Town allocation more due to State decrease in revenues, which might have put them at ½%. Francine wanted to know when budget will go before the town. Chairman Seabourne indicated that public hearing will most likely be in May. We are waiting for State numbers.

### **New Business/Discussion of Town-Side Budget:**

**Selectmen** - Chairman Seabourne asked when will white collar union be ready. First Selectman Mone said it might be awhile.

**Elections** – this is driven by what State stipulates. They have mandated training for all registrars (they need to be certified). Chairman Seabourne indicated that now that they will be certified, should they be paid more? First Selectman Mone said he gives them what every non-union employee gets (1% to 1.5%).

**Board of Finance** – no increase.

**Treasurer** – just under a 1% increase. Waiting for WC union negotiations so we can include the increase in salary.

**Computer** – increased by 45.69% This increase includes new website (web hosting) and 5 pc's to replace computers 10 years old and older. Chairman Seabourne asked why line item number was so much higher (from \$11,826.40 to \$22,000). Tracy indicated that we have already had many service calls and are at 100%. Chairman Seabourne wanted to know who was going to maintain the new website going forward as it is so outdated right now. Tracy suggested to have her department send out a reminder to all committees re: updating their sections of website.

**Audit** – there is a 4.59% increase, with \$52,550 for town audit plus \$5,000 for additional audit work.

**Legal** – no increase.

**Tax Collector** – Chairman Seabourne said we have always been paying bonuses for certifications – wouldn't this be part of the job description?

**Assessor** – just under 1% increase. Salaries do not include increase as union negotiations are not final yet.

**Board of Assessment Appeals** – no increase. First Selectman Mone indicated that the Board of Selectmen have already approved of the removal of stipends for all three members at the time of each of their respective elections.

**Insurance** – small increase per contract.

**Town Hall Building** – First Selectman Mone indicated that under “Professional & Technical Services”, the \$18,000 is for verification engineering/audit of Johnson Controls as the payback from the geothermal system in town hall was not what was expected.

**Town Clerk** – the only increase was for payout of accumulated vacation time for Rosemary Martin in the event of retirement.

**Probate** – this is given.

**Social Security** – this is given.

**Unemployment Expense** – this is given.

**Pension** – slight decrease of 2.62%.

**Fringe Benefits** – up almost 10% on medical and life insurance. We went out to bid, but same company won contract.

**Council of Governments** – this is given.

**CCM** – this is given.

**Public Safety** – took ACO officer and put under Police. Also, decrease in fuel costs.

**Communications/Dispatch** – Chief inadvertently removed the \$5,000 for phones, but had to put back in.

**Fire Protection** – there is a \$11,466 increase, most of which is under “Repairs & Maintenance/Building” due to age of building.

**Fire Marshal** – down slightly.

**Ambulance** – small increase.

**Tree Removal** – increase by 50% as there are a lot of dead and aging trees throughout town. Contractor chosen to do the work is most economical.

**ACO** – decreased by \$45,000 due to transfer of ACO officer salary to Police.

**Public Works** – increased by \$62,966 for additional man shared between Public Works (utilized as extra man for plowing) and Recreation Department (to work with Marty). The \$48,000 salary includes medical (\$9,000) and saves on unemployment expenses as employee will no longer be laid off in winter. Also, under “Contracted Repairs/Building” there is an increase of \$9,000 as furnace will need to be taken off line due to new mandated State regulations.

**Town Aid Road** – won't know until State gives numbers.

**Snow & Ice** – there will be a savings this year after mild winter.

**Streetlights** – this is a given from vendor.

**Fire Hydrants** – this is a given from vendor.

Solid Waste & Recycling – decrease.

**Groundwater Remediation** – there is a savings here after Town went with Weston & Sampson to do the reporting. Chairman Seabourne said now that it has been three years since our last conversation with the State, we should follow-up with them again as to when we can finally stop monitoring the wells at the town garage.

**Health & Welfare** – this is a given from vendor.

**Torrington Area Health** – this is a given from vendor.

**Northwest Regional Mental Health** – this is a given from vendor.

**Social Services** – no change, pending WC contract negotiations.

**Elderly Nutrition** – this is a given from vendor.

**Susan B. Anthony** – no increase.

**Minibus** – down due to reduction in fuel costs. Plus, 1.5% increase in salary.

**Recreation** – reduction here as the \$18,000 is now in highway.

**Memorial Day** – no change.

**Public Library** – a overall decrease of 5.91% due to one-time repair expense in 2015/2016.

**Building & Land Use** – salary line up by 5.26%, which reflects contractual increase for Land Use Officer and increase of 2.5 hours/week for Building Inspector.

**Debt Service** – up \$100,000 due to no longer having energy rebates.

**Seth Thomas** – increase of 21.86% due to need for fence replacement (one-time expense).

Chairman Seabourne asked with all reductions and add-ins, where will we be. Tracy indicated \$26,262,922 or 2.55% increase or just over 1 MIL.

**Communications** – Moody's gives the Town an AA rating.

**Selectman's Report** – First Selectman Mone was at CCM today. Governor is suggesting “no change” to LOCIP and “Town Aid Road” money, but the biggest hit was to ECS funding. Thomaston is seeing a reduction. The DMV issue is now dead.

**Finance Director's Report** – on Revenue side, pistol permits continue to rise and Peggy is at 100% collection now. On the Expenditure side, we should have enough money in Legal to cover us until the end of the fiscal year.

**Member Comment** – Chairman Seabourne asked all members to review the BOE budget presented.

**Public Comment:**

**Diane Labonte** – when is next meeting? April 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Tony Durso** – how does ECS affect us? Chairman Seabourne explained it is a State cut that affects the town budget side.

**A motion was made by R. Sileo to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Motion was seconded by T. Duffany. Motion carries 4-0.**