



## Town of Thomaston

### Town Hall

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### DRAFT

## THOMASTON BOARD OF FINANCE SPECIAL MEETING TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2015

### Present:

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

### Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 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 May 12, 2015 regular meeting as presented. Motion was seconded by T. Duffany. With all in favor, motion carries.

It was noted that S. Turner lives on one of the streets involved in the web sewer project.

### New Business – none.

Glenn Clark was in attendance to discuss purchase of new plow truck. He presented three bids:

### **Park City/Hines Brothers International:**

Price: \$154,639.49

Trade-In: \$ 15,000.00

Total Cost: \$139,639.49

Engine: Int'l 350  
Warranty: 5 years/5400 hours – transmission 5 years  
Delivered: 45 days from delivery of body

**Freightliner of Hartford – DEMO truck:**

Price: \$165,196.85  
Trade-In: \$ 15,000.00  
Total Cost: \$150,196.85  
Engine: 350 Cummins  
Warranty: 5 years bumper to bumper, 5 year 100,000 miles on engine, transmission 5 years  
Delivered: 2 weeks

**Gabrielli Truck Builders:**

Price: \$166,830.00  
Trade-In: none given  
Total Cost: \$166,830.00  
Engine: 345 Cummins  
Warranty: 5 years/100,000 miles on engine, transmission 5 years  
Delivered: \$1,000 deducted if truck is paid when it arrives at body company

Glenn's recommendation is to go with Freightliner, even though it is more than Park City. It has a larger front axle and suspension package, chassis (bumper to bumper) extended warranty for 5 years, engine and ATD system warranty has NO HOUR LIMITATION, it has a HARDOX steel body, etc.

Tracy indicated that there is still money in debt service account to fund this. It can be added to the web project ban and will not affect the overall interest rate.

**Old Business/Adopt Budget for FY 2015-2016:**

Per budget spreadsheet:

Under "**Board of Finance**" – increase for clerical duties taking minutes from \$60 to \$100 per meeting for 15 meetings.

Under "**Computer Information Systems**" – took out the \$7,500 for website upgrade. Not needed at this time.

Under "**Copier Maintenance Contracts**" (this line for all departments copiers) – BOS adjusted to add \$9,790 for a wide format copier for Building/Land Use office which will be shared by other departments. Chairman Seabourne asked if we looked at leasing instead of buying. Tracy indicated yes it was looked at, but to the tune of 6% a year fees.

Under "**Tax Collector**" – no major increases except for contractual salary increases. Otherwise, only a .29% increase overall – she is doing an incredible job this year.

Under "**Tax Assessor**" – no major increases except for contractual salary increases. Otherwise, only 1.87% increase overall.

Under "**Insurance**" – no control over this cost.

Under "**Town Hall Building & Maintenance**" – no major increase except for contractual salary increases. Otherwise, only 2.88% increase overall.

Under "**Town Clerk**" – no major increase except for contractual salary increases. Otherwise, only 1.18% increase overall.

Under "**Contingency**" – per Tracy, both BOE/Special Education and Highway will be over which will affect this line item considerably.

Under "**Emergency Management**" – the \$7,000 added at BOS level was for protective floor covering for the high school floor. Originally, it was submitted through capital, but because the cost was under \$10,000, it was advised to put in the budget as it was for shelter purposes.

Under "**Public Safety/Police**" – they are down two officers. New recruit is in the budget at \$46,000 and change. This person was also supposed to be animal control officer as well. Overtime line reduced at BOS level of \$20,000 and Animal Control reduced by \$2,000.

Under "**Fire Marshal**" – they had a decrease in the Machinery & Equipment line as the iPad purchase hit last year's budget and was a one-time only cost.

Under "**Public Works**" –the clerical position requested for FY 2015-2016 at a salary of \$42,653.00 was already removed from budget at BOS level. The request for a full-time maintainer for FY 2015-2016 was reduced to a part-time seasonal employee with a reduction of \$18,700 in "Salaries & Wages – Regular", however, the part-time position was eliminated as union was not in agreement. Under the "Association Dues, Fees, Permits" line there was a reduction of \$4,500 – was originally a typo at \$5,000, should have been only \$500.

Under "**Solid Waste & Recycling**" increased \$29,817 as we will be going to an automated service. There will be a one-time delivery fee for the new carts and pick up of old carts.

Under "**Susan B. Anthony**" – BOF reduced to \$2,000 from \$2,500 requested.

Under "**Groundwater Remediation**" – decreased from \$7,800 as remediation services will now be performed by our own town engineers, Weston & Sampson and a savings realized. Chairman Seabourne would like to see this cost go away completely. However, as First Selectman Mone indicated, as long as there is some residuals found in the ground soil (per DEEP), we have to continue to monitor. We will eventually be able to reduce the monitoring visits.

Under “**Culture & Recreation**” – there was an increase of \$19,995 mostly due to the consolidation of Nystrom’s Park into this budget and \$7,495 from a vacation payout (for five weeks).

Under “**Public Library**” – increase of \$22,174 was added - \$5,858 for carpeting, \$6,316 for ceiling tiles and \$10,000 for a condenser unit. Library Board approached the Capital Improvements Committee who informed them that none of the repairs alone hit the \$10,000+ threshold and asked them to add to their regular budget. Deborah Radasovich did get three quotes from three different vendors for the condenser unit (one was \$5,700, one \$10,000 and the other \$8,325). Budget was reduced to \$5,700 to reflect vendor’s bid of \$5,700.

Under “**Housing, Land Use & Development**” – cut \$1,000 from legal notices line to bring cost to \$1,500.

Under “**Board of Education**” – we will need to see the actual figures for this year. BOE has put a freeze on spending within the last 3-4 months. There may be another new student to the PATHS program that will generate another \$50,000 in tuition. There is a large decrease in the salary line as retirees are not being replaced.

With all the cuts made within all departments, we are looking at a .3% MIL increase or \$160,000 increase overall. The recommendation is to transfer from surplus and balance the budget for a zero increase for 2015-2016. All Board of Finance members agree. Therefore, budget will go forward at \$25,609,068 for FY 2015-2016 and have a MIL rate of 33.63%. A zero increase to taxes over last year.

**Member Comment:**

First Selectman Mone – wanted to thank the Board of Finance and the BOE or the good work done on behalf of the Town. Zero increase!

S. Turner – wanted to thank Superintendent Francine Coss and her team. They brought forth very innovative ideas for some additional programs for the students.

M. Madow – this shows how efficient we are. The dialog and communication has been tremendous.

Chairman Seabourne – wanted to thank the BOE for coming to the table to talk. They have virtually been coming to every meeting.

L. Freimuth – approves, now send to the Board of Selectmen to call for the town meeting.

S. Turner – approves.

A motion was made by T. Duffany have a public hearing on the FY 2015-2016 budget for Wednesday, May 27, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in Lena Morton Art Gallery. Motion was seconded by S. Turner. With all in favor, motion carries.

**Public Comment:**

Tony Durso – appreciates all the efforts made for a good budget.

Diane Labonte – wanted to commend First Selectman Mone for going forward with the energy audit – we are now seeing the savings.

Roxy Fainer – wanted to thank the Board of Finance for all their hard work and with working with the BOE.

**A motion was made by S. Turner to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. Motion was seconded by L. Freimuth. With all in favor, motion carries.**