

Thomaston Board of Finance
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 12, 2010

Present: Present: D.Colavecchio, Chairman; K. Mosimann O'Sullivan, G. Seabourne, S.Turner, F.Treglia, M.Galbraith

Also present: E. Mone, First Selectman; Sue Smith, Finance Director

Also: T. Mueller, Chairman Thomaston WPCA; J. Fainer, member WPCA, J. Torrence, member Thomaston Opera House Commission, members of the public, press.

1. Call to Order

Chairman D. Colavecchio called the meeting to order at 7:01pm

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All those present rose and recited the pledge.

3. Minutes

i.) September 14, 2010 Regular Meeting

On a motion by K. Mosimann O'Sullivan, seconded by G. Seabourne the minutes of the regular meeting of September 14 , 2010 were accepted as presented.

4. Communications: none

On a motion by K. Mosimann O'Sullivan, seconded by G. Seabourne, it was voted to move

8. New Business: Roads bond and construction update, to the top of the agenda. Vote: Unanimous

8. New Business

i.) Road bond and construction update:

Paul Pronovost, head of Public Works, reported that the following roads have been completed: Lynnrich, Trestle, Twin Oaks and the roads are under repair are Kennedy and Old Northfield. Pavement estimates are on track; cost overruns are due to excavation on Bayberry where the developer used stumps and tree trunks as fill. P. Pronovost reported that \$35,000 was spent on labor, good gravel, and stone for one hole. He noted that the roads were not inspected when this road was installed.

The following roads will be repaired in 2011: Baum, Karen, Valley View, and Woodbridge.

On a motion by K.Mosimann O'Sullivan, seconded by S. Turner, it was voted to add Tony Durso and Diane LaBonte to the agenda. Vote: Unanimous

ii). T. Durso and D. Labonte questioned why the WPCA has two capital improvement funds.

It was explained that the funds are for two different categories of maintaining and improving the treatment plant, substations, etc. One is a \$250,000 Repair and Replacement Fund which is used to replace broken operating equipment. The second fund is for Capital Improvements and the Dept. of Environmental Protection recommends that we maintain the fund at \$500,000.

Chairman Mueller noted that the user fee is \$2 less than it was two years ago. Following a detailed discussion, the consensus of the Board of Finance was that the two funds are necessary and do not place an undue burden on the users.

iii). Bond Refinancing

Finance Director Sue Smith explained that because of the Town's improved bond rating and lower interest rates, it would be prudent to refinance the Town's bonds.

On a motion by K. Mosimann O'Sullivan, seconded by S. Turner, it was voted to authorize the Finance Director to refinance the Town's bonds and take the savings in the first year.

Vote: Unanimous

5. Finance Director's Report

S. Smith reported that she has just received the Opera House September income information from Sharon Wilcox and has not had time to record it in her system.

6. Selectman's Report

a. Minibus: Selectman Mone reported that the repair of the minibus has cost \$9625 to repair and still needs a spacer which will cost about \$400.

b. The Town received a STEAP grant of \$200,000 to continue the sidewalk improvements.

7. Old Business

i.) Opera House

RFP: E. Mone reported that Christine Jackson from the Dept. of Economic and Community Development is looking into the restricted covenant placed on the Opera House as a condition for receiving a significant grant several years ago. The question the DECD must decide is whether allowing an outside entity to run the Opera House is in violation of the restricted covenant.

Julianne Torrence, member of the Thomaston Opera House Commission, reported that the ruling by the DECD will affect the Commission's effort to find an outside operator for the Opera House. The Commission has made a list of repairs and cleaning projects that will need to be completed before a new operator takes over. The Commission has asked Henry Osowiecki to give a realistic estimate for the repairs and refurbishments if a professional contractor is needed and the jobs could not be handled by volunteers due to issues of safety and skill.

9. Member Comment

K. Mosimann O'Sullivan advised that the Board should set a budget percentage for the 2012 Budget and recommended that the 2012 Budget should not exceed a 1% increase over the current budget.

10. Public Comment

i.) T. Durso stated that he was disappointed with the Board regarding "the plight of the sewer users."

ii.) Diane LaBonte recommended that the Town get a grant writer and asked stated that the State does not have to follow the GASB requirements but towns must follow them.

iii.) P. Yoos observed that escalating taxes keep development out of Town. He reported that a 50 person bar in Town pays the same user fee as a homeowner.

11. Adjournment

On a motion by K Mosimann O'Sullivan, seconded by S. Turner, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

Marie Galbraith, Secretary
Thomaston Board of Finance