

Thomaston Board of Finance
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 14, 2011

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

Also present: First Selectman Ed Mone; Finance Director, Sue Smith, incumbent Finance Director Tracy Decker

Also: Members of the public, press

1. Call to Order

Chairman Colavecchio called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All rose to recite the Pledge.

The Chairman introduced Tracy Decker who will take over the position of Finance Director and thanked Sue Smith for her outstanding service to the town; he noted her dedication, commitment and the high quality of her work which was recognized by her peers across the state.

3. Minutes

On a motion by K. Mosimann O'Sullivan, seconded by G. Seabourne, the minutes of the meeting of the Regular Meeting of May 10, 2011 were accepted as presented. Vote: Unanimous

K. Mosimann O'Sullivan noted that the high school boilers will be replaced in the 2012 fiscal year with money from the Contingency Fund.

4. New Business

i.) Ambulance: Projected Overage

Ambulance Commissioner, D. Bernagel reported that the budget is \$5950 over budget due to vehicle repairs.

On a motion by S. Turner, seconded by K. M. O'Sullivan, it was voted to move \$6000 from Contingency, line # 1-001-10-142-570-806, to the Ambulance budget, Repairs-vehicle line 2-001-20-212-520-430.

Vote: Unanimous

ii.) Fire Dept: not present

iii.) Opera House

B. Skinner, accompanied by J. Torrence and M. Kamens presented the revised request for proposals for the operation of the Opera House. The most significant changes in the new document are the reduction of the monthly fee from \$5000 to \$3500 and the request for respondents to propose a revenue sharing plan for repairs and improvements to the facility. The Commission plans to issue a call for proposals on July 1, 2011 with proposals to be submitted by September 1, 2011 with the goal of opening the Opera House by January 2012.

G. Seabourne stated that the Town should contribute to the operation of the Opera House.

On a motion by K. Mosimann O'Sullivan, seconded by M. Galbraith, it was voted to approve the revised request for proposal for the Opera House: Vote: 5-1-0 G. Seabourne noted that he voted against the motion because he objected to a fixed usage fee.

ii.) Fire Dept

Captain Jamie Wilson reported that the old ambulance was sold for \$2011.50 and requested that those funds be put in the Fire Dept budget vehicle maintenance line.

On a motion by M. Galbraith, seconded by K. Mosimann O'Sullivan it was voted to put the \$2011.50 from the sale of the ambulance in the Fire Dept Budget RM Vehicle Line # 1-001-20-208-530-640. Vote: Unanimous

iv.) Dump Truck sale

Paul Pronovost requested permission to sell the dump truck.

On a motion by S. Turner, seconded by F. Treglia, it was voted to give the Director of Public Works permission to sell the 1992 Chevrolet dump truck. Vote: Unanimous

Executive Session

On a motion by S. Turner, seconded by K. Mosimann O'Sullivan it was voted at 8:50pm that all members of Board of Finance enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a legal matter and that the First Selectman and the Director of Finance and the incumbent Director of Finance be invited. Vote: Unanimous

All others present left the room.

At 8:55pm, on a motion by S. Turner, seconded by F. Treglia, it was voted to return to regular session.

Vote: Unanimous

5. Old Business:

i.) Road Bond: Director of Public Works P. Pronovost reported that as of June 7,2011, \$4,789,612 was spent on road repairs and rebuilding on a bond of \$10,674,500. P. Pronovost reported that the engineering firm, BL Companies, which was hired to assess the roads and advise on a course of work, will have a "good construction estimate" for the project on June 21,2011. P. Pronovost also reported that there was flood damage at Reeves Field caused by a beaver that was caught in a drain pipe.

ii.) Fund balance policy

On a motion K. Mosimann O'Sullivan, seconded by S. Turner, it was voted to approve the Fund Balance Policy as presented. Vote: Unanimous

On a motion by S. Turner, seconded by K. M. O'Sullivan, it was voted to add the 2012 Budget to the agenda.

Vote: Unanimous

S. Smith reported that the proposed 2012 Budget reflects a .91% increase. The following items needed to be added to the budget: Tax Collector \$4195; Fuel surcharge for trash hauler \$10,000; Jeff Dunn unemployment \$6204.

Chairman Colavecchio announced that the Board of Finance will hold a Special Budget meeting on June 28,2012 at 7:00pm.

6. Communications:

D. Colavecchio reported the following:

- Memo from the Tax Collector noting that she is writing off small credit balances in the amount of \$214.76 and refunds over 3 years old in the amount of \$6652.82 to clear the books.
- Rich Tingle reported that the WPCA approved the purchase of a Ford Escape at a cost of \$5200 which was taken from the WPCA Capital Account.

7. Financial Director's Report

S. Smith reported the following

Phone system: The bid opening for the phone system will be held on June 23,2011; several vendors attended the information session.

OPEB: The final trust agreement has not been finalized with Webster

\$82,000 should be transferred from Debt Trust Fund to OPEB Trust by June 30,2011

8. Selectman's Report:

Ed Mone reported that the preliminary assessment report of the energy audit indicates that \$1 to \$2 million could be realized in energy savings in the town's buildings.

A request for proposal to energy service companies to submit proposal to save energy was announced on June 9,2011 and are due to the town on July 28,2011.

CRRA is requesting a 15 year commitment from the town for trash hauling. Ed Mone will have a recommendation at the July Board of Finance meeting.

9. Member Comment: None

10. Public Comment:

i.) P. Yoos: Asserted that Town Attorney said that taxpayers should not subsidize the Opera House.

Response: G. Seabourne responded that the Town Attorney said that expenditures over \$20,000 need to be approved by the Board of Finance.

ii.) T. Durso: Board of Finance is going backwards on the Opera House.

Response: K. Mosimann O'Sullivan responded that one member of the Board of Finance spoke in favor of a subsidy to the Opera House, not the entire Board. She observed that the Opera House should not be left to sit vacant. The Opera House Commission should be allowed to move forward with its request for proposals.

D. LaBonte: Stated that she is shocked to learn that the town has a five year contract with Allied Sanitation.

M. Madow: Stated that disposal prices never go down and a five year contract is a good idea. The town should get a performance contract if it can.

On a motion by S. Turner, seconded by F. Treglia, the meeting was adjourned at 8: 55pm.

M. Galbraith, Secretary

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