

Thomaston Board of Finance

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 13, 2011

Present: D. Colavecchio, Chairman, G. Seabourne, S. Turner, F. Treglia, M. Galbraith, K. Mosimann
O'Sullivan arrived at 7:05pm

1. Call to order

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All present rose to recite the pledge.

3. Minutes

i.) 8/9/11

On a motion by G. Seabourne, seconded by S. Turner, it was voted to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 9, 2011 as presented. Vote: Unanimous

4. New Business

i.) Revaluation

Town Assessor David Ambrose reported the following: 75% of the property revaluations have been completed; 50% of the preliminary valuations have been completed; 50% of the residential field reviews have been completed. Assessment notices will be mailed on November 11, 2011. Informal sessions with the assessor and the revaluation team will be held from November 16 to December 2. CLT is the company hired to conduct the revaluations. There has been a 16% decrease in the valuation of property since 2006. The median decrease is 16% of valuation. Mr. Ambrose noted that commercial property increases in value at a greater rate than residential property. He reported that site surveys added 50 sheds, 10 garages and barns and several in-ground swimming pools as well as 100 unregistered motor vehicles. The increase in the Grand List is valued at \$4.6 million in real property and \$3.4 million in personal property for a total increase of \$8 million.

ii.) Ambulance purchase

David Bertnagel, Treasurer of the Thomaston Ambulance Commission; Chuck Lattimer, EMS vice president; and EMS Chief Michael Flaherty reported the following: A new ambulance will cost \$185,000. There is a balance of \$150,184 in the EMS Fund. Revenues to the department have increased 47% since the new billing company was hired. The call volume is up 12% this year.

On a motion by G. Seabourne, seconded by K. Mosimann O'Sullivan, it was voted to authorize the Ambulance Commission to purchase a new ambulance at a cost not to exceed \$187,500 to be financed with \$100,000 from the EMS Fund, and an additional \$80,000 to be borrowed from a financial institution or by Bond Anticipation Notes to be paid with EMS funds within 24 months. Vote: Unanimous

4. New Business: Ambulance cont'd

On a motion by S. Turner, seconded by K. Mosimann O'Sullivan, it was voted to allow the Thomaston Ambulance Commission to trade in a 2000 McCoy Miller Ambulance for \$14,250 to be deposited in the EMS Fund. Vote: Unanimous

iii.) Storm damage/communication system

Gas spill on Route 8

First Selectman Ed Mone reported that the state Dept of Energy and Environmental Protection has reported that the gas spill caused by a tanker accident on Route 8 will not contaminate the Thomaston water supply or ground water. However, the gas has seeped so deeply into the bedrock, it may find a channel and “crop up anywhere.”

Storm damage

Mr. Mone reported that Railroad St Extension was washed out and has been regarded. The hurricane caused damage to the following streets: Clay, Jackson, Broadview Heights, and Roy Road.

Representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency will assess the damage.

On a motion by K. Mosimann O’Sullivan, seconded by S. Turner, it was voted to add Year-end Transfers to the agenda. Vote: Unanimous

iv. Year –end Transfers

a. Finance Manager Tracy Decker reported that the year end Fund Balance is \$2.1 million, of which \$153,207 was used to balance the 2011-2012 Budget. The remaining \$2,017,469 in the Unreserved Fund Balance is 8.4% of the 2011-2012 Budget.

On a motion by G. Seabourne, seconded by K. Mosimann O’Sullivan, it was voted to transfer funds from Account#1-001-30-310-520-420 CRRRA tip fees of \$3,270.87 to cover the overrun in Acct. #1-001-30-302-530-610 Town Aid Road in the amount of \$1,086.40, Acct. #1-001-50-500-515-280 Recreation in the amount of \$1,702.52 and Acct. #1-001-50-504-510-250 Nystrom’s Park in the amount of \$481.95.

Vote: Unanimous

b. On a motion by G. Seabourne, seconded by K. Mosimann O’Sullivan, it was voted to transfer \$8,962.28 from Acct. #1-001-30-310-520-420 CRRRA Tip Fees to cover the overruns in Acct. #1-001-10-132-520-302 Pension in the amount of \$3,675.30 and Acct. #1-001-30-300-510-250 Public Works in the amount of \$5,286.98. Vote: Unanimous

5. Old Business

i.) WPCA web discussion

E. Mone reported that bond money authorized for the road project cannot be used for sewers in the High St. area because it was not in the bond authorization.

G. Seabourne noted that the WPCA needs to bring “hard numbers” for the cost of the project to the Finance Board. K. Mosimann O’Sullivan responded that the WPCA has been clear that they need money for 6 manholes to fix the collapsed pipe and procure an engineering report to assess the cost of rebuilding the WEB. The WPCA will be invited to the next Board of Finance meeting to discuss the projected cost of the project.

ii.) Road Bond Update

Mr. Mone reported that the Hurricane Irene has slowed the project.

6. Communications

A memo from School Business Manager Sue Laone reported that the lowest bid for the boilers at the high school was \$23,898. Ms. Laone noted the project should come in well under the \$35,000 approved by the Board of Finance.

7. Financial Director's Report: no report

8. Selectman's Report

Mr. Mone reported that storm water from Crystal Lake and Tracy St. has run down the hill causing damage to properties.

Chapel St building:

The communications system on Chapel St. is overrun with mice. The building needs to be replaced with a concrete building. Mr. Mone has received a quote of \$14,145 for the work. He will get 2 more quotes.

Bridge on lower Walnut Hill Road

Mr. Mone reported that the bridge on lower Walnut Hill Road needs to be rebuilt. On July 11, 2011 the Ct. Dept of Transportation informed the First Selectman that the town needs to take "corrective action" because the bridge is rated in "poor" condition by the state.

Police Dept.

Mr. Mone reported that the Police Dept will not waive the four hour rule and that he will put \$16,000 in the 2013 Budget to hire four part time police officers to control costs. K. Mosimann O'Sullivan cautioned that the Town will have to make up market losses in the pension fund. She noted that 1250 hours of work establishes eligibility for pension payments.

9. Member Comment

D. Colavecchio observed that if present trends continue the Town will not have the resources to pay for schools, pensions, and improvements to the Town's infrastructure. He proposed that the Town needs to develop a Thomaston 2020 Plan to look at how the Town will pay for essential services in the future.

G. Seabourne recommended that the Board meet with a labor attorney to discuss where we are going in the next round of negotiations. He noted that the Board of Finance needs to play a bigger role in setting the goals for the Town.

10. Public Comment

C. Yoos: Asked about the bidding process for property and liability insurance.

P. Yoos: Pleased to hear the Board is concerned about the future of the Town.

11. Adjournment

On a motion by S. Turner, seconded by G. Seabourne the meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

Marie Galbraith
Secretary, Thomaston Board of Finance