

Thomaston Board of Finance  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
December 13, 2011

Present: D. Colavecchio, G. Seabourne, F.Treglia, M. Madow ( S. Turner and K. Mosimann O'Sullivan were at a Pension Committee Meeting and joined the Board of Finance meeting at 7:28 p.m.)

Also present: Town Attorney Mike Rybak, First Selectman Ed Mone, Selectmen Barrett and Perrault, Det. Sgt. Campbell, Tax Collector Duffy, Finance Director Tracy Decker, Residents and Press.

**1. Call to order**

D. Colavecchio called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance

**3. Minutes**

On a motion by G. Seabourne and seconded by F. Treglia, the meeting minutes from the 11/25/11 meeting were approved as presented. Vote: Treglia, Seabourne, Colavecchio in favor, Mike Madow abstained as he we not a member yet.

**4. Election of Officers**

George Seabourne made a motion to elect David Colavecchio to the position of Chairman, Kristin Mosimann O'Sullivan to the position of Vice Chairman, and Michael Madow to the position of Secretary. Seconded by Michael Madow. Vote: unanimous

**5. 2012 Meeting Schedule**

George Seabourne read the 2012 schedule aloud and made a motion to approve the schedule as presented. Seconded by Mike Madow. Vote: unanimous

**6. New Business**

- i.) Tax Collector Peg Duffy presented the current suspense list. The suspense list contains outstanding taxes that are deemed uncollectible. Approval of the suspense list does not absolve the debts. The suspense list presented was valued at \$47,035.30. G. Seabourne made a motion to approve the list as presented. Second by M. Madow. Vote: unanimous

Jeff Johnson from Quality Data Services gave a presentation on the company's online tax payment software. The system allows taxpayers to see and pay their bills online. The email function could save the town on postage costs. The system costs \$1800. Estimated postage savings in the first year are \$1600.

Mrs. Duffy also presented her budget for FY 12-13. It shows an increase of \$4800. \$3000 of which is attributed to a contractual bonus for her assistant who has become certified.

Steve Turner and Kristin Mosimann O'Sullivan joined the meeting at 7:28p.m.

- ii.) A Communications Committee update was presented by Police Detective Sgt Campbell. Sgt. Campbell updated the board on the need for a new system. He also discussed the scope of the project. The system is necessary regardless of regionalization in the future. Sgt. Campbell stated that the current system is from the 70's. Parts to keep the current system running are coming from e-bay, Craig's List, etc. Sgt. Campbell showed photographs of the system to the board and will report back to the BOF in a few months.
- iii.) First Selectman Mone showed the Board a letter from the State DOT stating that the Walnut Hill Bridge (Bridge # 05043) has no more than 5 years left. Selectman Mone presented an estimate for a technical assessment from Weston and Sampson showing a not to exceed price of \$2500. Mr. Mone and Mrs. Decker recommended the BOF take \$1601.56 from the Leigh Avenue retaining wall project and 854.57 from Highway-sidewalks for a total of \$2455.13. Motion by Steven Turner to proceed with the recommendations. Second by Mike Madow. Vote: unanimous.
- iv.) Chairman Colavecchio stated his desire to hire someone to take the meeting minutes. The lack of a volunteer on the Board to be the secretary combined with the complexity of issues being discussed makes it nearly impossible for a member to pay attention to details and take the minutes at the same time. Also, Chairman Colavecchio pointed out that other Boards like the Selectman, Education, Planning and Zoning etc. all have non members taking their minutes. Deb Bournival, Selectman admin assistant has agreed to a fee of \$60 per meeting. Years ago, The Board of Finance paid \$90 per meeting for such service. On a motion by KLMO and seconded by Steve Turner, the board recommended that \$600 be moved from Contingency ( 2-001-10-142-000-000 ) to Board of Finance ( 2-001-10-104-000-000 ) . Vote: Unanimous

**7. Old Business:** None

**8. Communications:**

Chairman Colavecchio stated that the Board had received word from Assessor Dave Ambrose that Pilot MME is going to be phased out in 2 years. The grant amount for Thomaston is \$315,229.

**9. Financial Directors Report**

Mrs. Decker passed out monthly statements and a copy of our annual audit report. The audit came back with a couple of minor recommendations. One recommendation is the need for better reports from the transfer station.

**10. Selectman's Report**

First Selectman Mone discussed the Police Department contract changes. New hires will now receive a 457B and no retiree medical insurance. Members of the BOF were thankful for the police officers cooperation and help in the matter. Mr. Mone also discussed that the inland wetlands and zoning enforcement officer's position will be combined into one position and that the cost of benefits would be offset by having one person fill the two positions.

**11. Member Comment: None**

**12. Public Comment: None**

**13. Adjournment:**

On a motion by Steve Turner, second by Frank Treglia it was voted unanimously to adjourn. Vote: Unanimous.

Submitted by Dave Colavecchio