



Town of Thomaston

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DRAFT

THOMASTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2016

Roll Call:

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

First Selectman Mone, Selectman Barrett, Sr. and Selectman Perreault were present. Deborah Bournival, Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman, was available to take the minutes.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Selectman Perreault to approve the meeting minutes of the January 19, 2016 regular meeting as presented. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.

A motion was made by Selectman Perreault to move forward on the agenda to "New Business/Realterm LED Streetlight Presentation". Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.

New Business/Realterm Energy – LED Streetlights:

Paul Vessel, Associate Director/Business Development, presented.

RealTerm Energy Corporation is part of the RealTerm Global Company which operates a series of high quality asset and infrastructure platforms on three continents. RealTerm has worked with various other municipalities in neighboring states, but has not worked in Connecticut yet. They are one of the three providers through Connecticut Council of Municipalities (CCM). They, too, are trying to redefine the municipal street lighting market with LED lighting systems, service offerings and financing options to deliver energy savings as well as maintenance cost savings. They have worked in 85 New England communities converting over 100,000 fixtures.

Based on the information RealTerm received from the Town, which is approximately 451 street lights being converted over to LED's using a one-for-one replacement program, the Town should see annual energy consumption down 57% (usual range 50% to 70%), electricity costs down 53% and annual maintenance costs down by 95% utilizing the Leotek fixture brand. Once an investment grade audit is performed, along with a photometric analysis, RealTerm would be able to improve the efficiency levels and project costs associated with the upgrade.

There are two financing options to choose from. Regardless of the financing type, RealTerm delivers a full turn-key program to manage the entire project, including design, procurement, installation and final commissioning.

Option 1 - Design, Upgrade and Transfer Option (financed by Town) – this option is self-funding on the part of the Town. Based on the total number of lights, the LED conversion project costs would be \$145,327. In order to realize the LED conversion savings, the Town would have to purchase the lights from Eversource at a cost of \$113,086, which would make the total project cost of \$258,413. The Town would then reduce the \$258,413 by \$33,297 for the “Energize CT Incentive” credit, for a net project cost of \$225,116 with a payback of 4.3 years.

Option 2 - Energy Performance Contract Option (RealTerm Energy financed): - under this option, RealTerm finances 100% of the up-front project costs. In turn, both the Town and RealTerm share in the energy and maintenance savings generated over a fixed term or 10 years. Energy savings are guaranteed by RealTerm. Annual maintenance costs are included in this contract option. At the end of the term, operations revert back to the Town who then receives 100% of the savings for the remainder of the life cycle. Annual savings would be approximately \$21,870.

Steps involved in project are as follows:

- * Proposal – preliminary estimate costs & savings;
- * Letter of Intent – engagement to perform investment grade audit/photometric design;
- * Investment Grade Audit – full system review, GPS mapping, lighting designs, etc.
- * Energize CT Rebate Submission – RealTerm does this;
- * Select Financing Option – Town or RealTerm;
- * Contract Signing;
- * Order LED lighting;
- * Installation and Project Management;
- * Final Report/Binder;
- * Measurement/Verification

New Business/Presentation of Grand List by Assessor:

Bob Dudek presented the October 1, 2015 Grand List Summary. Discussion ensued. In a comparison between the October 1, 2014 Grand List (\$540,192,397) and the October 1, 2015 Grand List (\$546,138,523), there is an increase of \$5,906,679 in revenues or 1.09%. Bob indicated there have been some major issues with the Department of Motor Vehicles since the changes took place in their department. We will need to work through.

New Business/FY 2016-2017 Departmental Budget Reviews:

Assessor - there was a \$700 add on for overtime for the clerk in the event it is needed during reval. First Selectman Mone indicated that budgets need to reflect only those expenses that are absolutely necessary. First Selectman Mone suggested it be removed and, if it is needed at a future date, it can be requested then.

Town Hall Building/Maintenance – this budget has been pulled and will be discussed further at next BOS meeting.

Highway and Streets – Glenn has requested one maintainer replacement for a cost of \$48,610, which puts the crew to a bare minimum of manpower, and a part-time secretary for a cost of \$15,000. The secretary would be a needed help administratively in the office. There was discussion as to utilizing the Recreation Department employee, who is now on unemployment for the winter season. Both departments could share his time, making this a full-time position, expensed through both departments. First Selectman Mone is not in favor of the part-time secretary at a cost of \$15,000. The other selectmen recommended reducing to \$7,500 instead. This budget has been pulled and will be discussed further at next BOS meeting.

Social Services – First Selectman Mone suggested that a separate line item be added to reflect a town contribution of \$1,000 to the “Crisis Fund” in addition to what is given by outside donors. It was recommended, after discussions with the Finance Director, to apply this elsewhere.

Susan B. Anthony – letter received from Susan B. Anthony asked for a town contribution of \$3,000 this year. Board suggested reducing by \$1,000 for a total of \$2,000.

Board approved all departmental budgets, including those with adjustments. Will now be sent onto the Board of Finance for their review.

Old Business – none.

Board/Commission Appointment/Resignations – none.

Tax Refunds:

A motion was made by Selectman Barrett, Sr. to approve the tax refund submitted by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$1,419.52 to Marlin Leasing, duplicate billing. Motion was seconded by Selectman Perreault. With all in favor, motion carries.

A motion was made by Selectman Barrett, Sr. to approve the tax refund submitted by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$56.00 to Gregg & Christine Rahuba, check written for more than balance. Motion was seconded by Selectman Perreault. With all in favor, motion carries.

A motion was made by Selectman Barrett, Sr. to approve the tax refund submitted by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$363.20 to Paul Genest, Assessor pro-rated after bill was paid. Motion was seconded by Selectman Perreault. With all in favor, motion carries.

A motion was made by Selectman Barrett, Sr. to approve the tax refund submitted by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$778.20 to Navitas Lease Corp., duplicate billing, Assessor deleted after paid. Motion was seconded by Selectman Perreault. With all in favor, motion carries.

A motion was made by Selectman Barrett, Sr. to approve the tax refund submitted by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$1,655.40 to Ion Bank, Assessor reduced bill as Ion Bank paid original tax due. Motion was seconded by Selectman Perreault. With all in favor, motion carries.

Communications:

First Selectman Mone received a letter dated January 21, 2016 from a resident re: Meadowbrook Drive and icing issues. First Selectman Mone indicated that this road was never officially accepted by the Town at a town meeting. He has fielded this off to Jeremy in Land Use – he will take up with town attorney.

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First Selectman Mone received a letter dated January 27, 2016 re: sewer usage charge for residence at 44 Union Street. He handed this off to WPCA to handle. They will take up at their next regular meeting.

Public Comment:

Tim Bobroske commented on some issues he has with the Assessor's Office re: personal property valuation. Lois Schenkel spoke in his defense.

Lois Schenkel – is there a plan to clean out the drainage basins on Fenn Road? Glenn indicated it will go on the list for spring.

A motion was made by Selectman Perreault to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.