



Town of Thomaston

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DRAFT

THOMASTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2015

Roll Call:

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

First Selectman Mone, Selectman Mosimann and Selectman Barrett, Sr. 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:

Selectman Mosimann indicated that the minutes of January 20th should have had an adjournment time of 8:42 p.m. and not 7:49 p.m.

A motion was made by Selectman Mosimann to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2015 regular meeting as amended. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.

New Business/Presentation – CPACE Program/Green Bank:

Alexei Kovtchenko of the Connecticut Green Bank presented. Green Bank is a quasi-public agency which administers the statewide C-PACE program, presented.

This is an innovative financing structure that enables commercial, industrial and multi-family property owners to access financing, through third-party capital investors, for qualified energy upgrades and repay through a benefit assessment on their property tax. The owner repays over time through the Tax Collector's office. This assessment stays with the property regardless of ownership.

Municipalities must opt in to the C-PACE program with a written agreement, approved through their legislative body. Once agreed, the municipality will assess, collect, remit and assign benefit assessments to CEFIA (Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority). This is done through software that is compatible with QDS. Currently, there are 105 municipalities that are on board.

The way it works is the building owner submits an application and a project plan for the upgrades to C-PACE. Once approved, C-Pace will contact the municipality and a lien is placed on property, Owner receives the funding (100% upfront, with maximum 20-year financing) and the project begins. The owner then begins saving money on their energy bills. Owner then repays C-PACE loan through a benefit assessment charge on their tax bill. The municipality then remits assessment payment to CEFIA (Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority) where it goes right back to the capital investor to replenish the funds.

Discussion ensued. First Selectman Mone will have town attorney review for his comments and/or concerns. If this agreement gets the approval of the town attorney, we will take up at our next Board of Selectman meeting.

New Business – Grand List Presentation/Assessor:

Bob Dudek, the Town’s new Assessor presented.

Mr. Dudek introduced himself to all present. He handed out and presented the 2014 Grand List Summary which he explained was something that was done in New Britain where he previously worked as the assistant assessor.

According to the October 1, 2014 Grand List:

Gross Real Estate	=	\$500,004,266
Exemptions	=	\$ 51,404,924
Net Taxable	=	\$448,599,342
 Personal Property	 =	 \$ 64,744,948
Exemptions	=	\$ 29,013,732
Net Taxable	=	\$ 35,731,216
 Motor Vehicle	 =	 \$ 56,733,442
Exemptions	=	\$ 832,156
Net Taxable	=	\$ 55,901,286
 Grand List Totals	 =	 \$621,482,656
Gross	=	\$621,482,656
Exemptions	=	\$ 81,250,812
Net Taxable	=	\$540,231,844

Mr. Dudek also highlighted the “top ten” taxpayers in real estate and personal property.

New Business/New Town Policies:

Two new policies were given to the selectmen earlier today. One was Bi-Weekly Payroll and the other Direct Deposit. Both are set up similar to those we already have on file. Selectman Mosimann and Selectman Barrett, Sr. agreed that due to the fact they just received today, they would like to table to next meeting.

A motion was made by Selectman Mosimann to table this issue to the next regular meeting. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr, With all in favor, motion carries.

Old Business/2015-2016 Budget Discussions:

Fire Department – could not be here tonight.

Town Hall Building & Maintenance – Ken Hopkins presented.

Ken indicated that there are small increases in Salary line due to union contracts. Water/Sewer charges for both Town Hall and Opera House are increasing a bit, in addition to Contracted Repairs/Maintenance line, this based on quotes from CT. Water Company, WPCA, contracts with other contractors for services. Association Dues/Fees has increased a bit due to increase from State. Other lines items have held steady. Electricity and Heating Fuel are being held at current levels as we are still fine tuning the computer controls of the geothermal system and upgrading certain components.

Highway Department – Glenn Clark presented.

Glenn indicated that the **Tree Removal** budget has a sizable increase this year as they will need to remove 10 trees on High Street Extension. Town mechanic even designed and made a “bucket” to be attached to a truck in order to get to the top of the trees – total cost was \$400 to make.

The Snow and Ice Removal budget will remain at last year’s numbers. We will have to assess where we are with the Salt & Liquid Deicer as we go along in the season. This has already been a tough year.

The Highway Salary line shows an increase for one additional maintainer (full-time, makes approximately \$47,000 to \$48,000/yr.) and a part-time secretary (at about 19-20 hours week for \$15.00/hr.).

We also increased the Repairs & Maintenance line due to the age of our vehicles. Three to four of our trucks broke down during the latest winter storm events. We try to maintain them as best as we can – they are constantly washed to try and slow down the effects the salt has on them.

According to First Selectman Mone, the State-mandated increase in street sweepings (4 per year) is no longer being looked at. We will stay with the normal procedures. Also, Glenn must now add into his budget the cost of the MS4 reporting. Groundwater remediation is a separate budget.

Library Board – Deb Radosevich, Jim Kasniewski and Rita Ostrander presented.

Salary line indicates an increase in the Library Assistant from \$13.50/hour to \$14.00/hour and the Custodian from \$12.00/hour to \$12.50/hour. Heating oil has been adjusted down as requested. The cost of books has gone up. There are some other issues that need to be addressed. There are issues with the backflow preventer on the furnace and ceiling tiles in the community room need to be replaced. These are additional expenses that were not in the budget. First Selectman Mone suggests the Library use the existing \$6,000 in the normal budget line first, then ask the Capital Improvements for the remainder. Selectman Mosimann suggested that all items be clumped together for a sizable amount to bring before the Capital Improvements committee. She suggests the Library Board go before them and ask how they want it done.

Other budgets –

Elections – move along to BOF

Board of Finance – move along to BOF

Groundwater Remediation – down by approximately \$7,800 per a letter from town engineers, Weston & Sampson dated January 20, 2015.

Council of Governments – move along to BOF

CCM – move along to BOF

Central Naugatuck Valley Regional Action Council (CNVRAC) - a new line item for an organization that works on the prevention of substance abuse, addictions and harmful behaviors of our youth in the school system.

Recreation – there is a substantial increase in the Salary line for Marty as there will be a payout for his vacation time.

Town Hall Building & Maintenance – move along to BOF

Highway Department – **ON HOLD** until further notice.

Library – move along with understanding the Board will approach Capital Improvements Committee for repairs to Library.

Minibus – ON HOLD as we are currently having discussions with Plymouth to consolidate services on a weekly basis. If Connecticut DOT frees up the money that is given to the Greater Waterbury Transit District (GWTD) for the one-day Dial-A-Ride service, it would help costs and allow us to receive grants for a bus.

Fire – ON HOLD

Debt Service – move along to BOF

Fire Hydrants – move along to BOF

Street Lighting – move along to BOF

Fringe Benefits – move along to BOF

Pension – move along to BOF

Board/Commission Appointments/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 \$809.31 to Gary and Cheryl Roberts, Assessor deleted bill after first ½ paid. Motion was seconded by Selectman Mosimann. 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 \$1,089.95 to Corelogic Real Estate Tax Service, second installment was paid by attorney, refunding overpayment. Motion was seconded by Selectman Mosimann. 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 \$52.80 to Tillson Equipment Sales, reduced per Assessor. Motion was seconded by Selectman Mosimann. With all in favor, motion carries.

Communications – none.

Public Comment – none.

A motion was made by Selectman Mosimann to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.