

**BOARD OF FINANCE  
TOWN OF THOMASTON  
TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2009, 7:00 PM**

Members Present: John Scheppard, Kristin Mosimann O'Sullivan, Ed Mone, George Seabourne, David Colavechio

Others: Sal Santa Maria, via live feed from Nashville, Denis David, Rae Ann Walcott, Jamie Wilson, Glen Clark, Al Rossi, Tony Durso, Wayne Kamens, Frank Treglia, Tracy Simmon (Waterbury Rep) Mike Madow, Colette Norton, Steve Turner, Jim O'Neil, Sue Smith (Finance Director) Maura Martin (1<sup>st</sup> Selectman)

Chairman J. Scheppard called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Kristin, seconded by Ed to accept the minutes from 6/9/2009, as amended. Motion carries 5-0. Amendments as follows:

Add- Amend minutes from 5/12 to include the wording "subject to a town meeting" for the motion approving the \$97,688 sick pay account transfer to the Board of Education.

Under Financial Dir Report- include " additional overages for the 6/30 balances will be finalized once all accounts are final for the budget end"

A motion was made by George, seconded by Ed to move Rae Ann Walcott ahead on agenda for discussion on 2011 Property Revaluation. Motion carries 5-0.

Discussion of items that need to be dealt with regarding Thomaston's Physical Revaluation to be completed by 10/1/2011.

-There could be a shortage of reval companies because 08,09, 10 reval years can postpone until 2011.

-Rae Ann will be unable to complete Thomaston's reval on the 2 day schedule she has here. She will also be update Plymouth's assessment for that same year.

-She discussed the process, the money required and the impact to her staff.

-Rae Ann would like to begin the bid process and secure vendor so that the process can begin next Spring. Money is already set-aside for this purpose through Capital Improvements.

-The physical reval process is a time consuming and lengthy process.

Transfer Station Committee-A motion made by Ed, seconded by Dave to move transfer station committee ahead on agenda. Motion carries 5-0.

Sal and Dennis provided update for the committee. The scale price was negotiated down to \$19,900-doesn't include concrete pad or transportation. Most other costs being donated. There was a discussion of all the money that was being requested, which included permit fees, the card reader, engineering costs, and application fees. There was a discussion of the cost models

and proposed revenue. Transfer committee requested that the Board of Finance approve \$19,900 for the scale and \$5000.00 start up fees. No motion was entertained. Board felt too many issues remained outstanding and requested the committee update cost model with all salary costs, necessary certification training costs, money needed to upgrades and improvements for the next 5-7 years. Sue suggested they prepare a budget that included both revenue and expense numbers.

A motion was made by Dave, seconded by Ed to move the Fire Department up on the agenda to discuss the Underground Tank at the Fire House. Motion carries 5-0.

Jamie Wilson and Glen Clark discussed the chain of events regarding the underground tank overruns and the conditions found after the tank was uncovered.

Glen clarified that it would have cost \$14,255 to remove the tank and another \$15,000 to replace it with a new one.

A motion was made by George, seconded by Dave to approve a transfer from Contingency 0-001-10-142-570-805 to Account 0-001-90-908-610-956. Motion carries 5-0.

Discussion continued with the Fire department regarding an additional \$4000.00 needed for 08-09 budget. Most of overage is due to apparatus inspections and certification. A delivery of oil may change those final overages.

A motion was made by Ed, seconded by George to approve up to \$4000.00 for the fire department to clear their deficit until all accounts are final for 6/30/09.

#### Communications-None

Financial Director's Report.- Sue provided the board with preliminary 6/30 figures. Tax Collector shows a \$175,000 deficit in collections.

Excess special ed grant money(\$424,149.00) will be applied to the Special Ed Account deficit in the BOE budget.

Sue has to begin a manual process of adjusting the June 09 budget and July 10 budget for the seven days of payroll that must be divided and attributed to the correct budget years.

Sue discussed the overage in the police overtime budget of \$50,000 in 08/09. At one point, there were five officers out at the same time.

Sue also discussed issues with the gas inventory line and the need for better accounting methods to accurately report each departments use.

Public Works may end 08/09 with an \$11,000.00 deficit.

Selectman's Report- Maura provided update on social services and that office is open one day a week manned by Amanda Bunting.

Energy Program will be handled by New Opportunities in the Thomaston office.

Wayne Kames was appointed as Municipal Agent as an advocate for the elderly. He will volunteer approximately 10 hours per month.

Maura has also established a social services committee that will help the BOS coordinate services.

Maura asked Board of Finance about any remaining issues regarding the volunteer pension. John and the Board discussed the concerns of life insurance being offered to all ACTIVE and INACTIVE volunteers.

Lastly, Maura discussed the property on 801 High Street Ext that the town now owns. Would like to go out to bid again and wanted the board's approval to accept a bid, even if it is much lower than value of property. Consensus from board was to bid again and take what we can get to rid town of any liability while we own the property.

#### New Business:

Curbside Garbage Pick-up-No update

Opera House Loan & Non-Profit Status – BOS and Opera House commission next week.

Outstanding loan is \$89,915 (6/30 prelim number)

WPCA Sinking Fund-Discussion of need for formal policy between BOF and WPCA regarding who pays for what and when and the need to establish guidelines for the amount that should be put in the sinking fund each year. Currently, they put 1% of budget in the sinking fund. John will talk with Rich Tingle about who should be involved in establishing the policy. It will be a joint effort between BOF and WPCA.

Capital Improvement Policy- Would like to finalize but need the Sinking Fund policy decided before this can happen.

Social Services – Impact & Study- This will be studied as the year progresses.

GASB45 Fund-Sue provided updated numbers. This unfunded liability now stands at just under \$19 million dollars.

Pension Reform- Board would like to see changes in Volunteer pension and during contract negotiations.

Sick-Pay Reserve Account-Fund could be dry by 2011. Either we start to fund this or recognize that these amounts will have to come from operating budgets.

#### Public Comment.

Tony Durso- Asked for clarification on who pays for what and when for WPCA. John discussed the need for the WPCA sinking fund policy to clarify exactly these issues.

Frank Treglia- Additional questions regarding the underground tank at Fire House.

Al Rossi- Commented that our board should insist that we have more thorough information on bid requests before approving money.

Motion made by Ed, seconded by Dave to adjourn meeting. Motion carries 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:00.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristin Mosimann O'Sullivan