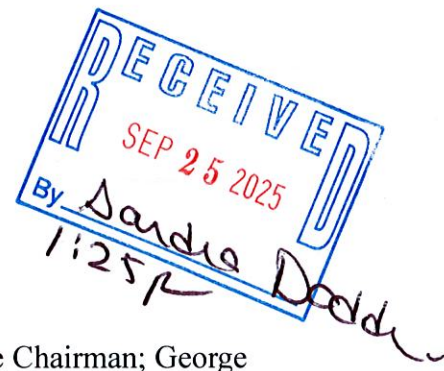


**THOMASTON BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2025**



Present: Finance Board Members Rich Sileo, Chairman; Mike Madow, Vice Chairman; George Seabourne, and Adam Silverman. Stephen Turner and Luke Freimuth were absent.

Other Attendees: Tracy Decker, Finance Director; Ed Mone, First Selectman; Bert Galpin, Supervisor, WPCA; Thomas Mueller, WPCA Chairman; Jeffrey Madden, Chief of Police; Amy Schumann, Library Director. Rebecca Skinner was available to take the minutes of the meeting.

- 1. Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Chairman R. Sileo.
- 2. Pledge:** Recited by all.
- 3. Approve or amend the minutes of July 8, 2025:** G. Seabourne moved, seconded by M. Madow, that the minutes of the July 8, 2025, Regular Meeting of the Board of Finance be approved as presented (motion carried 4-0).
- 4. New Business:**
 - a. **WPCA improvement project:** B. Galpin provided an update on the project including estimated cost comparisons from Tighe & Bond between a new masonry garage (\$3 million including engineering, contingency, and escalation) and a prefabricated metal building (\$1.8 million). Probable cost of sludge thickening, including brick repairs, is \$1.9 million. Probable cost of sludge dewatering, including brick repairs, is \$2.7 million.
B. Galpin also provided a cost analysis for sludge disposal.

B. Galpin said that smoke testing will begin next week. The chosen areas are older areas. He said average daily flow has not changed much over several years, but maximum daily flow has increased significantly especially during wet weather.

B. Galpin and the Board discussed the order and timing of steps in the project and how long the project might take. R. Sileo said that bonding capacity needs to be determined before the project proceeds. They also discussed what the project will provide regarding capacity for additional residential and industrial connections.

G. Seabourne commented that the Board consider scheduling a public hearing for residents to learn about the project and comment.

B. Galpin commented that in his opinion a prefab metal building will serve the town well and there is no need for the added expense of masonry building. M. Madow and A. Silberman suggested that the cost of a modular prefab building also be looked into.

Next steps are to gather all necessary information including bonding and costs over the entire project.

b. F25 Year-end Transfers

T. Decker presented a handout showing year-end overruns and recommendations for funding.

G. Seabourne moved, seconded by A. Silverman, that overruns less than \$2,000 be funded by Contingency. Motion carried (4-0).

G. Seabourne moved, seconded by A. Silverman, that overruns between \$2,001 and \$19,999 be funded by Contingency, Social Security, and Medical/life insurance. Motion carried (4-0).

M. Madow moved, seconded by G. Seabourne, that overruns more than \$20,000 be funded by Insurance, Medical/life insurance, Retiree Medical, and Fire Hydrants. Motion carried (4-0). A Town Meeting is also required by the end of October.

R. Sileo presented a bar chart showing Fund Balance use in fiscal years 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024, and 2024-2025. The chart includes total undesignated fund use, revenue variance, and expenditure variance.

c. Street Light Replacement

E. Mone said that replacement of streetlights continues as needed. An electrician must do the replacements. The remaining funds for this work are \$21,692.58. Our electrician estimated that they will need \$25,000 - \$30,000 to complete this fiscal year's replacements. After discussion, G. Seabourne moved, seconded by A. Silverman, that the electrician be instructed to not exceed \$20,000 for replacement of streetlights. Motion carried (4-0).

5. Old Business

a. Feasibility Study Update

R. Sileo reported that progress is being made on the feasibility study for education. Data are being collected with four on-line surveys, one for students, one for staff, one for residents and business, and one for parents. The first update meeting for the public will be during the third week of October, but a firm date has not been set.

6. Selectman's Report

E. Mone said the town needs to increase the salary for the tax collector position.

7. Financial Director's Report

T. Decker provided a table of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balance for the year ended June 30, 2025. It includes a net increase in fund balance of \$181,280 from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

8. Member comment

R. Sileo said he has done some work on setting up a video system for broadcasting and allowing public comment at Board of Finance meetings. In addition to equipment already available, it will be necessary to buy microphones and to decide on the platform, Zoom or YouTube.

G. Seabourne complimented Bert and Tom on their presentation.

9. Public Comment

Amy Schumann, Library Director, reported that the library will be spending \$25,401.25 from the Lucille Killiany Fund to prepare a strategic plan.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by G. Seabourne, seconded by A. Silverman, the September 9, 2025 meeting of the Thomaston Board of Finance was adjourned at 8:47 pm (motion carried 4-0).

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Skinner