THOMASTON BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2025

Present: Finance Board Members Rich Sileo, Chairman; Luke Freimuth, George Seabourne, Adam Silverman, and Stephen Turner. Mike Madow, Vice Chairman, was absent.
Other Attendees: Tracy Decker, Finance Director; Ed Mone, First Selectman; Jeffrey Madden, Chief of Police; Lyssa Jennings, Economic Development Commission Chairperson; Amy Schumann, Library Director; Maryann Hyres, Library Board Chairperson; and the following members of the library board; Barbara Lee, Kate Sileo, Melanie Dobos; Bert Galpin, WPCA; Michael Rybak, Town Attorney. Rebecca Skinner was available to take the minutes of the meeting.

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman R. Sileo.

2. **Pledge:** Recited by all.

3. **Approve or amend the minutes of April 8 and April 16, 2025:** G. Seabourne moved, seconded by S. Turner, that the minutes of the April 8, 2025, Regular Meeting of the Board of Finance be approved as presented (motion carried 5-0). L. Freimuth moved, seconded by S. Turner, that the minutes of the April 16, 2025, Special Meeting of the Board of Finance be approved as presented (motion carried 5-0).

4. **New Business:**

   a. **WPCA valve replacement**
   B. Galpin reported on a burst valve in the WPCA system. The cost of a new valve is $4,000, but installing the new valve is costly due to difficulty accessing the area. After discussion, it was agreed to use funds remaining from bonded WPCA projects. L. Freimuth moved, seconded by A. Silverman, that funds from the capital fund not to exceed $50,000 be reappropriated to pay for replacement of the sludge waste valve (motion carried 5-0).

5. **Old Business:**

   a. **Special Fund Expenditure Approval Process**
   The Board of Finance and audience reviewed a table showing for the 14 Special Revenue Funds which various Boards, Commissions, or Town departments have oversight, expenditures, and cash/investment balances. Discussion followed regarding how involved the Board of Finance should be and when town meetings may be necessary to approve expenditures. M Rybak suggested that for certain funds, the responsible board or commission provide an annual spending plan and periodic

updates on expenditures. Communication is especially important for multiyear contracts, which do need to gain approval at a town meeting. Such reports can be written, not necessarily a presentation at a BOF meeting. It was noted that funding sources vary, including bequests, fees charged, and ticket sales. Based on this discussion, R. Sileo will draft a policy for review at the June regular meeting of the Board of Finance.

6. Selectman's Report

E. Mone said the advertising line in his budget has been exceeded due to the cost of placing ads for town meetings in the newspaper, and he expects it will be for the 2025-2026 budget also.

If the budget is defeated in the May 14 referendum, a town meeting will be scheduled for May 21 and a second referendum for May 28.

7. Financial Director's Report

T. Decker reported that because of a new requirement to prepay postage for tax bills, the postage line in this year's budget will be exceeded.

8. Member Comment

None.

9. Public Comment

None.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by L. Freimuth, seconded by A. Silverman, the May 13, 2025, meeting of the Board of Finance was adjourned at 7:54 pm (motion carried 5-0).

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Skinner