

**THOMASTON BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, May 12, 2026**

Present: Finance Board Members Luke Freimuth, Chairman; Jack DeOliveira, George Seabourne and Adam Silverman.

Also Present: Rich Sileo, First Selectman; Tracy Decker, Finance Director; Attallah Roundtree, Business Manager-Board of Education

- 1. Call to Order:** 7:00PM
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance:** Recited by all.
- 3. Quorum Confirmation:** The presence of quorum was confirmed.
- 4. Approve or Amend Minutes:** March 24, 2026, Special Budget Meeting and April 14, 2026, Special Meeting

MOTION made by G. Seabourne, Seconded by A. Silverman to APPROVE the Board of Finance Minutes from the March 24, 2026, Special Budget Meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION made by A. Silverman, Seconded by G. Seabourne to APPROVE the Board of Finance Minutes from the April 11, 2026, Special Meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Old Business:

- a) Update: Snow and Ice budget overrun.
T. Decker, Finance Director, states that as previously discussed, the Salt Sheds were topped off, and the final bills came to \$73,646. Total including materials and overtime. Discussion ensued. No action necessary.

6. New Business

- a) Discuss/Approve Tax Collectors Suspense List.
Board of Finance members reviewed the Tax Collectors Suspense List. Chairman Freimuth points out that much of the list is deceased, bankruptcies or have simply aged out. Finance Director Decker clarified that these accounts had not aged out, but are uncollectable.

MOTION made by G. Seabourne, Seconded by A. Silverman to APPROVE the Tax Collectors Suspense List for the Fiscal year 2025-2026 in the Amount of \$16,144.19. Motion passed unanimously.

b) Discuss/Approve: Remaining Street Light Repair.

First Selectman Sileo updated the BoF on the remaining Street Light Repairs, stating the Town is going to spend all of the \$20,00.00 in the budget. He also indicated they would need about \$7200.00 to finish; but that he recommends waiting for the next fiscal year. Discussion ensued. No action is required.

c) Discuss/Approve: Board of Education Request to Reappropriate Capital Project Funds.

Attallah Roundtree Business Manager for Thomaston Public Schools asked the BoF to repurpose excess capital funds for seven projects, six of which are safety issues at Center School. The total being \$125,483.66. G. Seabourne asked if we were spending this amount on a school we may not be utilizing. First Selectman Sileo pointed out these are items we need to repair as the school is going to be in for at least 2 to 3 more years. Discussion ensued.

Chair Freimuth indicates he would entertain a motion to reallocate unspent capital expenditures of \$125,483.66 to the new listing of capital needs which includes Center School Improvements:

TCS Cupola	\$21,450.00
TCS Auditorium Roof Repair	\$89,850.00
TCS Auditorium Roof Repair	\$422.66
TCS Repairs to Facia	\$1512.00
TCS Repair the sidewalk on Clay Street	\$8,135.00
District Technology-Chromebooks	\$4114.00

G. Seabourne asked if these projects have been bid out. A. Roundtree indicated these are bid prices, and she would forward those bids to Tracy asap.

Chair Freimuth says I did not hear a motion and in discussion he believes it would be prudent for the BoF to have those quotes before bid allocation. A. Silverman asked if three quotes were sought as that is the standard procedure for any amount over \$10,000.00. A. Roundtree states she will seek additional quotes for the TCS Cupola and TCS Auditorium Roof Projects.

MOTION made by L. Freimuth, Seconded by J. DeOliviera to REALLOCATE from Unspent and Unneeded Capital Expenditures of \$144,067.00 an amount of \$8135.00 for the purpose of repairing the sidewalk on Clay Street outside Thomaston Center School. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION made by G. Seabourne, Seconded by J. DeOliviera to TABLE the remainder of the Board of Education's request to Reallocate Unspent Capital Expenditures for the next Regular Board of Finance Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

d) Discuss/Approve: Nystroms Dam EAP Update.

First Selectman Sileo begins by apologizing for acting on the Nystroms Dam

Emergency Action Plan without having a budget or bringing it before the BoF. He states he did get three bids for this. Tighe and Bond coming in the lowest at \$4,100.00. The DEEP reached out with concern because the plan had not been updated in many years. The Dam has since been replaced.

G. Seabourne asks if there are any remaining contingency funds. T. Decker affirms that there are funds remaining.

MOTION made by G. Seabourne to APPROVE Tighe and Bond to Create an Emergency Action Plan for Nystrom’s Dam and to pay them \$4100.00.

Chair Freimuth requests Discussion.

Asking First Selectman Sileo what an Emergency Action Plan is. R. Sileo says its a “who do you call in the event of an emergency” who to mobilize, vendors for specific items. It is a Necessary Compliance with the DEEP.

Chair Freimuth entertained a Second to the Motion. A. Silverman Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

e) Update regarding Organizational Realignment

First Selectman Sileo pointed out Glen Clarks' retirement. He states he would like to combine the Highway Superintendent with the WPCA Superintendent into one roll.

He also states he is looking to add a position tentatively called a Reporting Coordinator, which would take over day-to-day reporting and project coordinating. And possibly research and writing grants. This is a process that must garner approval from the WPCA, Board of Selectmen, and go to the town for a vote. He further states he cannot fully discuss personnel negotiations outside of Executive Session, and he says the town isn't there yet. He further clarifies this will not be a savings. However, if the town is to hire an outside Highway Superintendent we would pay a lot more.

This is just for informational purposes at this point.

f) Update regarding Municipal Solid Waste RFP.

During the Open Bid process there were 3 companies asking questions. However, the town received just one bid, from CWPM their number came back significantly higher than expected. T. Decker said next year's budget includes a 3% increase; their bid is much higher than 3%. First Selectman Sileo said he must go back through the RFP.

Discussion ensued.

7. First Selectman’s Report

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans, of which there are 3; the WPCA is up to date regularly. Public Works and the Transfer Station have not been kept up to date regularly. The town sought quotes, and the price was roughly \$16,000.00. The plans for those two departments had not been done for so long; the DEEP is requiring an Engineer to sign off on

the plans. Selectman Sileo reached out to Weston and Sampson and will send them the work that has been done on the Plans by Bert Galpin, WPCA Superintendent. Awaiting final price from Weston and Sampson.

School Feasibility Study Selectman Sileo will send each of the BoF members and BoE the link to download the PDF which is over 100 pages. The link is time sensitive.

Old Northfield Road Remediation Plan.

The town submitted the remediation plan for that area; the state came back and said the town must remediate an equal length of riverbed in town. This is not in the plan or engineering. Chair Freimuth asks if this is in addition to the Old Northfield stream. First Selectman Sileo affirms. There is a spot down behind the WPCA and Transfer Station of that same tributary that is covered in invasive species. The town is proposing cleaning up and replanting native species. Selectman Sileo is meeting with the state next Friday and pending the outcome of that meeting; the town will own Tighe and Bond an additional \$9000.00 for the engineering. Then the work will have to go out to RFP.

Still an existing issue on Old Northfield Road of a collapsing box culvert; which needs to be engineered. Selectman Sileo would like to get this work done at the same time the other work is being done.

Elm Street Design

Reviewing with Tighe and Bond next week; then it will go to Public Hearing. This is a full depth restoration of Elm Street which will tie in CT Water, WPCA and CT DOT to do their work in partnership, so it is done in layers.

- 8. Financial Director's Report:** T. Decker reports the funding from the State; The Supplemental Education Aid and the Pequot Money totaled \$261,988.00. She then deferred to First Selectman Sileo for clarification on how it can be spent. He explained that originally if a Town had passed the budget, they could not use these monies to offset the mill rate. That was later backtracked, but there are strings attached; the education budget must have increased more than the money received. Our education budget increase is more than the supplemental money received. Alternatively, the money can be turned over to the BoE, with a conversation about how that money is to be used. The BoE is currently in contract negotiations; once an agreement is reached, the contract is retroactive and those funds as well as any increases are not in the budget.
- A. Silverman asks if these funds can be used for the Reallocation of Capitol Project Funds for the Schools. Chair Freimuth said that is unnecessary as that money is already budgeted. Discussion ensued. Chair Freimuth states all of these Capitol items are not previously budgeted for; we are the BoF are suggesting the BoE take that one-time allocation to offset potential contract negotiation cost as well as the Capitol Expenditures. First Selectman Sileo asked the BoF to start a dialogue with the BoE on this matter. Chair Freimuth said he will reach out to the BoE and update the BoF.

Finance Director Decker further reports:

Taxes are at 100%.

There are a couple of budgets that will be over; Elections, Pensions-several retirements this year. Emergency management-repair to generator at the towers. Engineering is over because the timing of the MS4 Reporting didn't get finished last year, so the bills came in this year. She also states First Selectman Sileo had a department head meeting and asked them to go through their budgets and clean up any open P.O. they don't need and report back by June 12.

9. Member Comment

Chairman Freimuth gives a Grateful Thank You to Adam Silverman, Enjoy Rhode Island and Retirement.

10. Public Comment

None

11. Adjournment

MOTION made by A. Silverman, Seconded by G. Seabourne to ADJOURN the meeting at 8:14PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sara Walker
Recording Secretary