

**THOMASTON BOARD OF FINANCE  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, June 9, 2026**

**Present:** Finance Board Members Luke Freimuth, Chairman; George Seabourne, Stephen Turner, Mike Madow

**Also Present:** Rich Sileo, First Selectman; Tracy Decker, Finance Director; Police Chief Jeff Madden; WPCA Superintendent, Bert Glavin; Mary Beth Johnson via Zoom

- 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:** May 12, 2026, Regular Meeting

**MOTION made by G. Seabourne, Seconded by S. Turner to APPROVE the Board of Finance Minutes from the May 12, 2026, Regular Meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**

**5. New Business:**

- a) Discuss/Approve re: Request to allocate Nips funds for benches/trash cans- Mary Beth Johnson from the Thomaston Beautification Committee presented a request for 7 benches for Seth Thomas Park from the “Nips Funds”. She provided a quote for 7 Sterling Memorial 6’ Benches with 1 engraved board up to 40 characters, including blank spaces totaling \$7993.16. These will be the same make, style and color as the bench directly in front of Town Hall on Main Street. These are 7 of 15 recommended new benches; the Hotchkis Family will be providing an 8<sup>th</sup> memorial bench for Seth Thomas Park. Chair Freimuth asked what will be done with the existing benches from the park; M. Johnson indicated she is hoping to see them placed at the bus stops along South Main Street. Chair Freimuth also inquired as to the total of the “Nips Funds”; T. Decker responds \$45,908.00. Chair Freimuth asked about the guidelines for using the “Nips Funds”; the indication being there is no clear answer other than recycling or some manner of reducing solid waste. The Composite material the benches are made of and placing the benches near trash cans follows these guidelines.

**MOTION made by G. Seabourne, Seconded by S. Turner to ALLOCATE \$7993.16 from the Town of Thomaston Nips Funds for the purchases of 7 Sterling Memorial 6’ Benches from BARCO Products as presented in a quote this evening. Motion passes unanimously.**

R. Sileo then offers a requisition from the Recreation Department for 3 more trash/recycling bins for Nystroms Park. These are the same bins outside of Town Hall and around town. First Selectman Sileo reports they are just over \$1000 a piece; with shipping he requests a “not to exceed \$3500.”.

**MOTION made by S. Turner, Seconded by M. Madow to ALLOCATE an Amount Not-to-Exceed \$3500 from the Town of Thomaston Nips Funds for the purchase of 3 Trash/Recycling bins for Nystroms Park as per the request of the Recreation Department. Motion passed unanimously.**

- b) Discuss/Approve re: Transfer of capital funds for engineering services for Industrial Stormwater General Permit Registration Assistance.

First Selectman Sileo states the Town is required to submit a Stormwater General Permit Registration. Plan for the WPCA, Public Works Garage, and the Transfer Station. The WPCA has submitted a plan on a regular basis; the other two have not. Bert Galpin offered help. However once submitted, it was discovered they hadn’t been done in so long the format had changed, and they had to be Re-engineered. Weston and Sampson came back with \$15,600 to complete the two. First Selectman Sileo finished with this is a requirement. M. Madow asked if we are facing any fines, First Selectman Sileo said not yet.

T. Decker reports she went back through the capital projects that had been completed, which would normally go to unassigned capital and found funds that could be reallocated as follows.

Carter Road	\$3,618
Old Smith Road	\$6,506
Solar	\$3,890
Road Repair	<u>\$1,586</u>
	\$15,600

**MOTION made by S. Turner, Seconded by G. Seabourne to RE-ALLOCATE FUNDS from the:**

**Carter Road Project in the amount of \$3618.00,  
Old Smith Road Project in the amount of \$6,506.00  
Solar Panel Study Project in the amount of \$3,890.00, and  
Road Repair Project for \$1,586.00**

**For a total Amount of \$15,600.00 to pay Weston and Sampson for Stormwater General Permit Registration assistance. Motion passed unanimously.**

- c) Discuss/Approve re: Crew Leader and Mechanic Compensation  
First Selectman Sileo explains there are 2 open positions in Public Works one is for Maintainer one is for Mechanic. There is a good candidate for the Maintainer and have made an offer. There have been few candidates for Mechanic; and few to none with

Deisel or Air Brake experience. After doing some research utilizing CCM data for towns of similar size; Thomaston is offering about \$1.50 less an hour than average. First Selectman Sileo is asking the BoF to consider increasing the Mechanic pay scale, pending discussions with the union. Discussion ensued. The BoF states they will back the Board of Selectmen in a raise in pay scale however would like the Town to find a qualified candidate and then talk numbers. T. Decker states she will look into whether the town can post a job without a salary attached and create a posting accordingly. She further states that “farming” out mechanics duties is getting pricey. Crew Leader: First Selectman Sileo reports that though he is technically acting “highway Supervisor; the Crew Leader has been going above and beyond and doing a lot of tasks that a Superintendent would be doing. The Board of Selectmen had a discussion about possibly giving the Crew Leader extra pay for the time he has been acting as Highway Superintendent. First Selectman Sileo has an MOA drafted to utilize when having a discussion with the union. Discussion ensued. Chair Freimuth indicated when the time comes the BoF will support the BoS.

#### **6. Old Business:**

- a) Discuss/Approve re: Board of Education request to reappropriate capital project funds- Chair Freimuth states he had some communication with the BoE regarding their request and around the Supplemental Education Funds that the town is expected to receive and how the BoF would like to allocate some of those funds for some of their capital needs as well as expenses that are expected but not budgeted for. However, since Attallah Roundtree is on vacation; the BoF tables the matter for further discussion. G. Seabourne asked if any bids had come through for the BoE projects. T. Decker said only one for Chromebooks. Chair Freimuth states as a matter of reference; the communication was such that any overfunded capital projects are not necessarily allocated directly to the BoE. They are town overages and as such would go into the town's unallocated capital fund and to allocate funds at this level; meaning over \$20,000 requires three bids and a town vote. It is not something we want to do a a BoF meeting. However, with the supplemental funds as he understands it, in order to allocate those funds from the town to the BoE, there must be a town meeting. And within that allocation, they can designate those funds for capital improvements, and all the necessary requirements would be met. In addition to those requested funds there is about another \$100,000 that would go to the BoE that the BoF has requested they use to offset some other expenses not budgeted for as it relates to contract negotiations.

**MOTION made by G. Seabourne, Seconded by S. Turner to TABLE the Board of Education's request to reappropriated capital project funds for further discussion with the BoE and their Business Manager. Motion passed unanimously.**

- b) Discuss/Approve re: Municipal Solid Waste RFP-First Selectman Sileo begins with the town went out to bid on Municipal Solid Waste which is the collection and the disposal of

the solid waste. The town has tentatively contracted with Murphy Road for Recycling. First Selectman Sileo further states he wrote the RFP such that the bidders would have to provide prices on the collection and disposal of the solid waste and the delivery of the recyclables to Murphy Road, but also a backup for Murphy Road should they not be able to accept recyclables. He had conversations with 3 potential bidders who were asked to provide a sealed bid. Only CWPM came back with a bid. They are the towns current provider, and the town is happy with their service, however when the numbers came back there were significant increases which Tracy Decker and First Selectman Sileo were able to get the dumpster collection and the per ton rates down however there is still a sizeable gap of about \$89,000 from what was budgeted. Chair Freimuth asks to be walked through the theory behind the increase; the two significant being collection and transport and the condos. First Selectman Sileo says today we are paying \$101.48 a ton; \$101.76 was budgeted; they came in at \$120.00 which was negotiated down to \$105.00. The other piece is the condos. The condos previously had bins like other town residents; they were not one per unit. Many were shared. The toters were difficult for many residents to manage and so they were changed to dumpsters. CWPM never changed the billing from the bins to dumpsters; and so now have made the adjustment.

G. Seaboune asked were would this proposed money come from for this Fiscal Year? It's too much for Contingency, maybe that line in the capital budget that was open for things. The only other option is our surplus. Chair Freimuth says, depending on how the conversation goes with the BoE, then we do have contingency that would cover those funds. So, the discussion we need to have with the BoE is around whether or not the portion that we budgeted for around negotiating certain contracts would now be covered with these new supplemental funds instead of coming out of the town budget and if that is the case, that will free up that contingency that we were otherwise allocating.

Chair Freimuth reiterated this is the only bid that came back, T. Decker confirmed.

**MOTION made by S. Turner, Seconded by M. Madow to RECOMMEND CWPM'S Five-Year Contract Bid for the removal and disposal of the Town of Thomaston's Municipal Solid Waste; for Town Meeting Thursday June 18, 2026, at 6PM in the Lena Morton Gallery. Motion passed unanimously.**

- c) Discuss/Approve re: Organizational Realignment- First Selectman Sileo begins by refreshing the BoF of the planned position merge of Highway Superintendent with the WPCA Superintendent and creating a new position of Reporting Coordinator to help with all of our environmental reporting as well as project coordination and grant writing. The WPCA Commission has unanimously supported this idea; the Board of Selectmen has voted 2 to 1 in favor. It will now go to the Town Meeting for vote on June 18, 2026. He explains that it is written as such that either the BoS or the WPCA Commission can vote to return to the two Superintendents.

G. Seabourne asks how are we going to pay for this, its two separate budgets. First Selectman Sileo explains that the WPCA will continue to pay the same amount from their budget, and the town will pay the remainder. The Reporting Coordinators' pay will come

out of the town budget. S. Turner asks if this is a savings for the town, First Selectman Sileo says it is not a savings. Chair Freimuth elaborates that this gives a person to focus on compliance, reporting and grant writing for both sides.

**7. First Selectman's Report:** First Selectman Sileo informs the BoF there is a Public Information Meeting on Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 6PM in the Lena Morton Gallery on the Elm Street Project. For public input.

**8. Financial Director's Report:** T. Decker reports the town has finally gone over 100% on tax revenue. Charges for services is at 110% mostly due to road jobs the police department is doing. On the expenditure side there are no new departments expected to go over other than what has already been discussed. Watertown realized they had not billed K-9 services last year, so they sent two years' bills.

**9. Member Comment:**

None

**10. Public Comment:**

None

**11. Adjournment**

**MOTION made by G. Seabourne, Seconded by M. Madow to ADJOURN the meeting at 7:49PM. Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sara Walker  
Recording Secretary