

**THOMASTON BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2026**

Present: Finance Board Members Luke Freimuth, Chairman; Mike Madow, Vice-Chairman, Jim Campbell, Jack DeOliveira, Amber Pinette, New Member; Stephen Turner-7:11pm

Also Present: Rich Sileo, First Selectman; Tracy Decker, Finance Director; Police Chief Jeff Madden; Thomaston Fire Department Members-Glen Clark, Chief; Matt Pronovost, Asst. Chief; Spencer Cianciolo, 2nd Lieutenant; Nathan Vieira, Board of Education Chair

- 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:** September 22, 2026, Special Meeting

MOTION made by J. DeOliveira, Seconded by M. Madow to APPROVE the Board of Finance Minutes from the September 22, 2026, Special Meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION made by M. Madow, Seconded by J. Campbell to Amend the Agenda to MOVE New Business item b) Fire Department response and records management software ahead of item a). Use of Supplemental Education Aid funds. Motion passed unanimously.

5. New Business:

b) Discuss/Approve Fire Department response and records management software. Chief Glen Clark, Asst. Chief Matt Pronovost; and 2nd Lieutenant Spencer Cianciolo gave a presentation and slideshow on their administrative modernization and operational efficiency initiative. They explored a few operational software's to help with document and report management; stating much of their extensive paperwork is handwritten and or entered manually into separate reporting systems. They received three quotes which will be forwarded to Finance Director Decker and First Selectman Sileo. They have selected the Alpine RedAlert software for which they are seeking a promise from the BoF that the funding will be available to the Fire Department within next year's budget. They then presented a cost breakdown with explanation that payment is not due until July 2027. Which would be the next fiscal year.

The annual cost breakdown:

Alpine Red Alert	
Subscription	\$8995
Implementation	\$1000
CAD Integration	\$1095 a one-time cost, Covered by Grant funds
Year 1 Total	\$9995
Year 2 Total	\$8995

Discussion ensued.

Chair Freimuth asked if he is understanding correctly; the company is providing 6 months free. And then pay for one year from July to June.

Vice Chair Madow asked about backup and information storage.

S. Turner asks if they have held the price point.

J. Campbell asked if this covers equipment and safety inspections.

M. Madow asks if this system can do full inventory control.

J. DeOliveira asked if the information is proprietary.

~~MOTION made by M. Madow, to APPROVE that the Fire Department move forward with a contract with Alpine RedAlert to include the annual subscription amount as well as other expenditures that will be covered by grant funds in the Fiscal Year 27-28 budget, but with services to commence as soon as the Board of Selectmen approve the vendor and implementation is started. Not to exceed \$10,000.~~

Discussion:

J. Campbell asks if we are able to enter into a contract if they are expecting payment July 1st without having any guaranteed funding for that come July 1st. T. Decker says no, because the budget for the 27-28 budget is 0; the town has not voted on it yet.

T. Decker suggests Capital. Chair Freimuth agrees that allows for funding today so they FD can get started.

M. Madow RETRACTS THE ABOVE MOTION.

MOTION made by M. Madow, Seconded by S. Turner to APPROVE the Thomaston Volunteer Fire Department Entering into an Agreement with Alpine RedAlert for services to begin once implementation begins which will be after the Board of Selectmen Approves the Vendor and for payment to occur on July 1, or later in 2027. Payment not to exceed \$10,000. for the RedAlert System funded out of Capitol 26-27 Fiscal Year Budget. Motion passed unanimously.

a) Discuss/Approve: Use of Supplemental Education Aid Funds.

T. Decker explains last May the State let the Town know that it would receive two different grants. One is the Supplemental Town Aide for \$42,738.

The second is Supplemental Education Aid; the total will amount to \$219,250. of which the town has received half. The balance is expected at the end of October. Chair Freimuth says we are here to discuss how the funds will be applied.

N. Vieira states that in conversations with Interim Business Manager Ray Engle and Interim Superintendent Mark Winzler, they are focusing more on Special Education. T. Decker states that R. Engle says they had three additions to the budget that do not appear to be allocated, and they are requesting the full amount.

Discussion ensued.

Chair Freimuth states what I am hearing is they have at least \$219,000. in excess costs as it relates to special education and also not in the budget are the AFSCME increases which are forecasted to be \$160,000. So that is another \$380,000. In unbudgeted costs on top of the other overages from the prior year.

N. Vieira states they should have a number for last year by the end of day tomorrow. He goes further that the number will not include three items; the cost of the Interim Superintendent of Schools projected to be \$83,000. The cost of the Interim Business Manager projected to be \$83,000. and the costs for a payroll consultant dealing with payroll issues. These are just estimates.

Discussion ensued.

First Selectman Sileo points out that the Central Office is without a permanent Business Manager, Payroll and Human Resources, so those positions will need to be filled.

MOTION made by J. Campbell, Seconded by M. Madow to TABLE the Use of Supplemental Education Aid funds for future meetings once the BoF has had the chance to sit down and review the updated 26-27 Fiscal Year Budget with the Board of Education. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Old Business:

- a) Update on BOE budget overage-covered in discussions earlier at this meeting with N. Vieira, Board of Education Chair on Supplemental Funds.
T. Decker asks to update on audit. She says that following the Town Meeting First Selectman Sileo signed the contract with PKF O'Connor Davies. Information exchange has begun.

7. First Selectman's Report: None

8. Financial Director's Report:

- T. Decker reports that property taxes are at almost 56% collected.

She points out the earlier-mentioned grants.

Town received a \$5000 early voting grant used to offset some of the salaries under the election budget.

She goes on to point out that the Town Hall and Library have elevators or lifts which have copper phone lines. Frontier has raised their rates continually for several months. The town is looking to put into the Cellular Dialer system. So, they may run over their budget slightly.

September fuel usage is not on report due to software issues. Work in progress.

9. Member Comment:

M. Madow- Welcome Amber!

10. Public Comment:

Diane Labonte via Zoom. States she believes \$250,000 was earmarked for Special Education and cannot be used for anything else.

She also asks what the Town is doing with \$48,000 supplemental funds believing it was on the agenda and would have been allocated.

11. Adjournment

MOTION made by S. Turner, Seconded by A. Pinette to ADJOURN the meeting at 8:17PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sara Walker
Recording Secretary