



Town of Thomaston
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DRAFT

**THOMASTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2025**

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. In attendance were First Selectman Mone, Selectman Burr and Selectman Dunn. Deborah Bournival was available to take the minutes.

Pledge - Pledge was recited by all.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Dunn to amend the agenda to add under **"New Business – School Feasibility Study re: Facility Usage and Regionalization Potentials"** (after New Business – Payroll Check Request Policy". Motion carries unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Dunn to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2025 regular meeting as presented. Motion carries unanimously.

New Business/Discussions re: Possible Acquisition of Town Property – Dug Road:

Atty. Steve Turner was in attendance along with members of the Thomaston Fish & Game to present and discuss.

Atty. Turner indicates that the Fish & Game Club is interested in purchasing all open space land available off of Dug Road that borders the Fish & Game property, specifically three parcels. The first two pieces of property (74 and 81 Dug Road) were acquired from Diversified Industries; one parcel was originally 112 acres and the other 44 acres. However, a revised map was drafted and recorded showing 99 acres and 44 acres for an approximate total of 143 acres. The other parcel was acquired from Julian Pinette in 1992 for a total of approximately 1.99 acres.

Atty. Turner is proposing that the Town and the Club agree to have the property appraised to get an estimate of value. The Club would pay for the cost of such appraisal. Atty. Turner reached out to Atty. Mike Rybak, town attorney, for his direction on this. He indicated it a good idea for the

BOS to begin these discussions and suggested that Rob Jerram would be a good choice to appraise the property.

Selectman Burr said as Dug Road is not a town-accepted road (paper road only), who is responsible.

First Selectman Mone asked about the type of activities the Fish & Game Club would like to conduct on this property. Possible uses like rifle shooting/hunting, archery, etc. First Selectman Mone said he may have an issue with this as it might be too close to other properties and the cemetery.

Selectman Dunn wanted to know what the town's interests were in this property years ago and have we exhausted all the possibilities of usage (at one time, there was discussion of an agricultural community garden. Nothing was ever developed). Also, what about many years from now when the Fish & Game is no longer in existence – what then. Are there covenants?

First Selectman Mone said this will always remain open space, but if purchased, this property will be put back on the tax rolls. Fish & Game will be paying the taxes.

Selectman Burr would like to see further discussions on this matter before anything decided. This will also have to go before the Conservation Commission/P&Z and ultimately be approved at a town meeting.

A motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Dunn to approve the concept of this project. Motion carries unanimously.

New Business/Contractor Award re: Pleasant View Driveway Aprons:

Glenn Clark was in attendance to present.

Glenn asked for quotes on a job on Pleasant View Road. It would involve excavating, grading, compacting and paving of various aprons (5) on Pleasant View where there have been drainage issues. He was only able to secure two bids; one from D.M Hock Enterprises LLC and the other from S&S Asphalt Paving. Glenn requested one from Cocchiola and Deziel Paving, however, no one got back to him.

Motion was made by Selectman Dunn and seconded by Selectman Burr to waive the three-bid rule. Discussion ensued. Selectman Dunn said in the event we are not comfortable with waiving the three-bid rule and Glenn goes out for that third bid, the dollar amounts have already become public. How will a third party be able to bid? Can we table this? Motion was rescinded.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Dunn to table this item for a future special meeting. Motion carries unanimously.

First Selectman Mone said the funds are already in place for this that would come from capital and town-aid road money.

New Business/Approval of Payroll Check Request Policy:

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Dunn to approve of the Payroll Check Request Policy as presented by HR Director. Motion carries unanimously.

New Business/BOF-BOE Feasibility Study:

Rich Sileo, Board of Finance Chairman, was in attendance to present. Also in attendance was Ruth Ann Fainer, BOF Chairman.

Back a month ago, an RFP was sent out inviting interested parties to submit bids to assess and provide recommendations on the facility usage and regionalization potentials of the Thomaston Public Schools. The selected firm would assess and provide recommendations on the educational and operational efficiency of the schools using four criteria:

1. Retaining current facilities;
2. Reducing the total number of facilities;
3. Operational shared services;
4. Comprehensive regionalization potential.

Only two companies submitted RFPs. One was DRA with an initial bid of \$97,000 and the other company was SLAM who came in at \$200,000. After the RFPs were reviewed, BOF/BOE realized that there needs to be a census and demographic study included. At this point, low bidder was DRA. DRA chose to add the demographic study into its original RFP bringing the total to \$111,000 and SLAM chose not to change their overall price. Both BOF and BOE met with each company separately and chose DRA as the low bidder and most qualified vendor to do the study.

Rich said we need to have this study before next year's budget cycle. Selectman Burr asked if there were immediate issues that needed to be addressed before that. Rich said no as we have already taken care of them through this budget cycle.

It was asked how this was going to be paid for. The BOF has already decided it would come out of the undesignated fund balance.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Dunn to approve an appropriation of not to exceed \$111,000 to the vendor DRA for a school feasibility study pending approval at a town meeting. Motion carries unanimously.

Old Business – none.

Board/Commission Appointments/Resignations:

The Board received a letter of resignation from Wayne Kamens indicating he will be resigning from the Ambulance Commission, effective immediately.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Dunn to accept the resignation of Wayne Kamens from Ambulance Commission, with regrets. Motion carries unanimously.

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Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Dunn to appoint Lynn Wilson to the Cemetery Committee replacing Kris Nelson who termed out and has moved out of town. Motion carries unanimously.

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Motion was made by Selectman Dunn and seconded by Selectman Burr to reappoint Mike Flaherty to the Ambulance Commission with a term expiring July 30, 2028. Motion carries unanimously.

Tax Refunds:

A motion was made by Selectman Dunn and seconded by Selectman Burr to approve the tax refund submitted by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$9.45 to Julie Anne Hood, vehicle junked February, 2025. Motion carries unanimously.

A motion was made by Selectman Dunn and seconded by Selectman Burr to approve the tax refund submitted by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$16.01 to Cody McClave, vehicle junked July, 2025. Motion carries unanimously.

A motion was made by Selectman Dunn and seconded by Selectman Burr to approve the tax refund submitted by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$142.17 to Todd Hillebrecht. Motion carries unanimously.

A motion was made by Selectman Dunn and seconded by Selectman Burr to approve the tax refund submitted by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$5.39 to Julie Anne Hood, vehicle sold May, 2025. Motion carries unanimously.

A motion was made by Selectman Dunn and seconded by Selectman Burr to approve the tax refund submitted by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$14.87 to Joanne Raspanti, donated vehicle July, 2025. Motion carries unanimously.

A motion was made by Selectman Dunn and seconded by Selectman Burr to approve the tax refund submitted by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$5.39 to James Conlon, vehicle sold May, 2025. Motion carries unanimously.

A motion was made by Selectman Dunn and seconded by Selectman Burr to approve the tax refund submitted by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$261.04 to BMW Financial Services, vehicle sold May, 2024. Motion carries unanimously.

A motion was made by Selectman Dunn and seconded by Selectman Burr to approve the tax refund submitted by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$160.22 to Elvira Dauti, vehicle totaled January, 2024. Motion carries unanimously.

A motion was made by Selectman Dunn and seconded by Selectman Burr to approve the tax refund submitted by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$330.12 to Enterprise FM Trust, vehicle sold March, 2024. Motion carries unanimously.

A motion was made by Selectman Dunn and seconded by Selectman Burr to approve the tax refund submitted by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$371.67 to Enterprise FM Trust, vehicle sold September 5, 2023. Motion carries unanimously.

Communications:

The Board received two letters from Cassie Gorman, Tax Collector. One which listed taxpayers who had overpayment balances ranging from -\$0.01 to -\$4.99 and in order to reconcile these accounts, adjustments equal to the overpayment amounts have been made in a total amount of \$79.72. The other letter listed taxpayers who have balances totaling \$1,487.86, all related to bills from the 2017 grand list or earlier. To reconcile these accounts, adjustments have been made to zero out the balances by applying credits equal to their respective overpayments. These adjustments are all in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes.

Selectman Dunn asked Glenn about the replacements for the three employees who will be retiring this year. Glenn said these are union positions and Vinni Carey, HR Director, is working on the postings of these positions.

Public Comment – none.

A motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Dunn to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Motion carries unanimously.