



**Town of Thomaston**  
**First Selectman's Office**  
**Town Hall**  
158 Main Street  
P.O. Box 136  
Thomaston, Connecticut 06787  
Phone: 860-283-4421 Fax: 860-283-1378

**DRAFT**

**THOMASTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 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.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Dunn to approve the minutes of both the August 19, 2025 regular meeting as presented. Motion carries unanimously.

**Old Business/Discussion re: Potential Town Meeting – Elm Street LOTCIP Project:**

Both Kevin Ellis, Transportation Engineer/NVCOG and Aaron Budris, Environmental Planning Director/NVCOG were in attendance to present.

Once fully completed, there will be a 44-mile multipurpose trail that follows the Naugatuck River through 11 communities from Derby to Torrington. This trail will provide recreation, provide an alternate mode of transportation, drive tourism and economic development. Several sections of the trail have already been constructed and are open to the public. Others are under construction or are in design and have construction funding in place (Derby, Ansonia, Seymour, Naugatuck, Waterbury, Watertown and Torrington).

Watertown has already received a DEEP trails grant to fully design the section of trail to Thomaston. The section of trail in Thomaston connecting Old Waterbury Road near WPCA plant to the new pedestrian bridge over Branch Brook is fully designed and will connect to Watertown portion. The Town applied for LOTCIP funding for construction and is awaiting approval by DOT pending the design by Watertown for this section. The section of trail between East Main Street and Watertown Road has been awarded design and construction funds under a federal grant.

The Elm Street project is a reconstruction project that will incorporate a piece of the greenway. It is being funded by Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP) funds. This project will improve existing sidewalks and pedestrian connectivity, enhance safety of crossing, address storm drainage and ponding issues, improve bicycle and pedestrian safety and better define on-street parking. The Town is only responsible for the design costs.

Tighe & Bond, engineers for the Town, conducted an informational meeting for residents in the Elm Street area recently. The residents were presented with two alternative options: Design Alternative 1 had full roadway reconstruction with new drainage system, raised bike path along southbound side of roadway, new sidewalks on both sides, maintaining grass strips for amenities such as streetlighting, landscaping, benches, etc. By maintaining sidewalks on both sides with raised bike path does not allow room for on-street parking between Maple Street and Park Street. Design Alternative 2 had a goal to maintain on-street parking while preserving facilities on both sides of the street. Modification from Alternative Option 1 was the greenway trail along the west side of Elm, on-street parking added between Goodwin Court and Park Street and grass strip eliminated on west side to allow for 10' of greenway trail. Only room for amenities on east side where grass strip was preserved.

From this meeting, it was determined to keep on-street parking. Elm Street residents were more in favor of Design Alternative 2 – they were just not in favor of the greenway. Selectman Burr asked what would happen if the greenway portion was taken out of the plan – would the town still get the money? Both Kevin and Aaron indicated that the Town would still get the funding, but at a reduced rate for a plan that would be reduced in size. It was suggested that both options be brought to a town meeting for all residents to decide. Selectman Burr would like to see updated cost of project from DOT for both options. Kevin said customarily it would not go up more than 20%. Lissa Jennings saw the economic benefits of other towns that took advantage of the greenway.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Dunn to move this reconstruction project to a town meeting vote Design Alternative Option 1 and Design Alternative Option 2 with the proper wording from our town attorney. Motion carries unanimously.

#### **Old Business/Potential Sites for Town's Municipal Waste and Recycling:**

First Selectman Mone indicated he may have found a third option/company to haul our solid waste and recycling to. However, he is still waiting for additional information. We will table further discussion until next regular meeting.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Dunn to table discussions until the next regularly scheduled BOS meeting. Motion carries unanimously.

#### **New Business/WPCA Improvement Study:**

Both Tom Mueller, Chairman of the WPCA, and Bert Galpin, Superintendent of the WPCA plant, were in attendance to present.

Chairman Mueller explained that a major upgrade to the plant took place over 25 years ago. It included Sequencing Batch Reactors or SBR's which are capable of nitrogen removal, post

equalization and UV disinfection. A chemical feed building was also added in 2018 to all the plant to remove phosphorous. He also explained that in order to develop the existing flow, loads and operating analysis, a review of the plant's Monthly Operating Reports (MOR's) was conducted for a three-year period from 2022 to 2024. Future flows at the plant were based upon a maximum of 500 future connections. A future peak hour flow of 4.0 million gallons a day was used as existing peak hour influent flows are not well characterized other than to understand that they have been in excess of 3.0 MGD on 8 occasions during the period of study. While maximum month flows are well in excess of design, the three-year average flows remain well below design. About 50% of the average flow comes from I/I.

In 2024, the flows at the Water Pollution Control facility potentially reached the 90% of the permitted flow threshold in its NPDES permit, which could potentially trigger a requirement for a facilities plan from the DEEP. There is a similar permit threshold for the plant's influent loads (which is lbs. per day of pollutant) that has been crossed already. Both of these thresholds are based on a 180-day rolling average.

Recommended reliability improvements include replacement of sludge pumps, water pumps and effluent flow meters in addition to purchasing spare part or components for needed repairs. The question is where do we store them until needed. – we may need to build another building to store them. With these recommended improvements, the total cost, according to Tighe & Bond, would be about \$4.5M at this time. This price does not include the cost of the garage or solids handling building upgrades.

There is also pressure from property owners to connect to the sewers from sources including proposed subdivisions of existing lots, unsewered lots within the Thomaston sanitary sewer service area and other areas of Town which may require sewer service due to septic systems that are in poor condition.

Selectman Burr asked about the moratorium that was recently put in place and due to end in November. First Selectman Mone also indicated that he and Tony met with Dave Kordis, State of Connecticut/DECD, who said there may be some affordable housing funds available to do the sanitary upgrades. Bert is also working with NVCOG to possibly get some additional funding.

Rich Sileo, Chairman of the Board of Finance, was in attendance at tonight's meeting and asked both Tom and Bert to attend the next Board of Finance meeting next week.

#### **New Business/Appointment of Interim Tax Collector:**

First Selectman Mone gave the selectmen a copy of CGS Section 12-137 – ***Appointment of Acting Tax Collectors*** - that was provided by Atty. Rybak. It states:

***When the tax collector of any town, city, borough, fire district or other municipality, by reason of illness or disability, becomes unable to discharge the duties of his office, the selectmen of the town, or a majority of them, or the governing body of any such municipality, may, by a writing signed by them or by the authorized officer of the governing body, as the case may be, appoint some suitable person as acting tax collector, who, upon being sworn and giving a bond satisfactory to the selectmen or such governing body, may***

***thereupon exercise all the duties and perform all the functions of such tax collector until such time as such tax collector is found by such selectmen or such governing body to have become able to discharge the duties of his office or until his successor is elected or appointed and has qualified.***

Selectman Burr states that the statute is too vague as it does not address the absence of the tax collector due to leaving or resigning, only illness and/or disability. Again, too vague. Discussion ensued.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Dunn to table further discussion of this matter to the next regular meeting once more clarification is obtained from Atty. Rybak. Motion carries unanimously.

#### **New Business/Transfer Station – Dissolve Committee and Appoint Volunteer Director:**

Discussion ensued that there is no longer a committee and hasn't been for some time. The committee has been defunct for some time now as the members have either passed away or have dropped off, leaving only one person remaining, Dennis David. The selectmen would like to know what the initial responsibilities were when formed many years ago.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Dunn to table this to the next regular meeting for further discussion. Motion carries unanimously.

#### **Board/Commission Appointments/Resignations:**

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Dunn to appoint Hillary Combs to fill a vacancy left by the resignation of Bert Galpin from the Greenway Committee. Motion carries unanimously.

#### **Tax Refunds:**

Due to the fact that our tax collector, Cassie Gorman, has resigned and has taken a position with another municipality, any tax refunds which were not signed already by her must now wait until that position has been filled.

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 \$135.19 to Melanie Tartaglia, vehicle sold June, 2025. Motion carries unanimously.

#### **Communications:**

A response letter to a previous complaint from a local restaurant owner was submitted and made a part of the record.

**Public Comment** – none.

A motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Dunn to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m. Motion carries unanimously.