



Town of Thomaston

Selectman's Office

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DRAFT

**THOMASTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
VIA ZOOM MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026**

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge – was recited by all.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Selectman Campbell and seconded by Selectman Burr to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2025 regular meeting as presented. Motion carries unanimously.

Selectman Burr stated we should have done a roll call before anything else. First Selectman Sileo agreed and asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add **Roll Call** after the **Pledge**. Selectman Campbell made that motion and Selectman Burr seconded. Motion carries unanimously.

Roll Call: First Selectman Sileo, Selectman Burr and Selectman Campbell were in attendance. First Selectman Sileo conducted the zoom/livestream.

All materials related to tonight's meeting has been posted to the website with a few caveats.

First Selectman Sileo asked for a motion to change the agenda to put the **Old Business/Discussion/Possible Approval of WPCA Facility Capacity Project Funding** ahead of **Old Business/Discussion/Possible Approval of Veteran's Property Tax Exemption, Ordinance Amending Code Chapter 247 – Taxation**. Motion was made by Selectman Campbell and seconded by Selectman Burr. Motion carries unanimously.

Old Business/Discussion/Possible Approval of WPCA Facility Capacity Project Funding:

Both Bert Galpin, Superintendent of the WPCA, and Tom Mueller, Chairman of the WPCA, were in attendance at tonight's meeting to present.

We have had an engineering review of the facility. We received an executive report a few months ago to see where we are. We are currently under a moratorium for new connections based on items outlined in the

report. Between myself, Bert and Tom, we built out an investment plan for the project and sent it to bond counsel to see how we can bond this. This has been presented to and approved by Board of Finance to go to a town meeting for final approval. The result is about one-eighth of our mil rate (25-26 budget).

In the first year, we are not spending too much because we are finalizing engineering, getting bids, etc. But then, over the next 12-24 months, you see most of the costs coming in for the UV equipment and the sludge thickening equipment. Also, sludge haulers are increasing their rates for sludge removal. If we can thicken the sludge, we could save money on the hauling. First Selectman Sileo states we really need to lift the moratorium as it has an impact on economic development.

Selectman Burr questioned whether we have this backwards. Typically, doesn't it go to the Board of Selectmen first then to the Board of Finance for approval? First Selectman Sileo agrees, but stated we had to do this way due to the fact we were waiting for bond implications.

Selectman Burr also asked about impact to debt service. It does go up, but we are hoping to smooth out with potential use of D/S funds and premiums.

Selectman Burr asked Bert and Tom about the sinking fund we had in the 90's. Is it still available and won't we be able to utilize those funds? Tom said they have to keep a certain percentage based on the total budget, but they can be used.

The moratorium was extended to April 15th. Once money is in place, Tom said the moratorium can be lifted, but it is going to be some time for new builds. We have to take those who have been in the pipeline (open up 250 households).

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to approve the WPCA Facility Capacity Project funding and send to a town meeting in February. Motion carries unanimously.

Old Business/Discussion-Possible Approval of Veteran's Property Tax Exemption, Ordinance Amending Code Chapter 247 - Taxation:

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to approve of the Veteran's Property Tax Exemption, Ordinance Amending Code Chapter 247 – Taxation and send to town meeting in February. Motion carries unanimously.

New Business/Discussion/Possible Approval re: FACT Request for Use of the Crescent Gally:

Carol Pytel, president of the Board of Directors of FACT and Pat Piscopo, coordinator for Ten-2-One Artists, were in attendance to present.

The Town received a letter of understanding between the Town of Thomaston and FACT regarding the old firehouse (aka Crescent Gallery) in town hall. Over the past several years, there were a couple of attempts to use the space. In 2012, Pat Piscopo undertook a massive renovation with the FACT Board of Directors, artists and others, resulting in the space now known as the Crescent Gallery. The Gallery became the meeting place for the weekly painting group known as the Ten-2-One Artists because they met there to paint from 10 to 1 p.m. as well as other groups who want to use the space such as the car show, Light up the Town, voting, etc. all while providing visitors with an opportunity to see the wonderful artwork on

display. While the artists maintain the walls and clean up after their painting sessions, it is hoped that the town hall maintenance department will take care of the floors and clean the bathrooms. First Selectman Sileo will draft up something to this effect. As the gallery will be unlocked more than previously, it is hoped to have a way of monitoring when the room is being used by others.

The past agreement with the Town was that FACT would maintain the walls of the gallery with exhibits as an on-going fundraiser for FACT as any works sold generate a 20% commission given to FACT.

No need for a motion just management issue with town hall.

New Business/Discussion/Possible Approval re: Streetlight Request Tim Bobroske, Thomaston Valley Village:

Tim Bobroske, owner of Thomaston Valley Village, is in attendance to present.

First Selectman Sileo said he had a request for a streetlight in front of Thomaston Valley Village at the main entrance to the facility. Mr. Bobroske said that there was a light fixture on the pole that existed there before, but that it was removed about 20 years ago by the Town. However, Mr. Bobroske had Eversource install a new pole, which he paid for, for additional power to the complex during construction. He also paid for the flood lights on the other poles down the road from the entrance. He is asking that the Town put a light fixture back on that pole for added security for the residents in the complex. Mr. Bobroske proposes that Eversource move one of the three flood lights and move down to the entrance.

After discussions with Eversource, First Selectman Sileo determined the cost would be just under \$1,000 to do replace the fixture and light, but does not include the power consumption of that light. Selectman Sileo will have to check with Eversource on the consumption costs. First Selectman Sileo said he will follow up with Eversource to see what would be more cost effective.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to approve a streetlight at 198-200 Reynolds Bridge Road (entrance to TVV). Motion carries unanimously.

New Business/Reappointment of Daniela Ouellette to TAHD as Representative:

Motion was made by Selectman Campbell and seconded by Selectman Burr to reappoint Daniela Ouellette to the Torrington Area Health District board for another term. Motion carries unanimously.

New Business/Amend 2026 Meeting Schedule – Moving all Meetings to Meeting Room 1:

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to amend the yearly meeting schedule for 2026 to reflect all meetings will now be in Meeting Room 1. Motion carries unanimously.

Board/Commission Appointments/Reappointments:

A motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to approve the appointment of Patrick Hyres to the Planning & Zoning as a regular member. With all in favor, motion carries.

Tax Refunds:

A motion was made by Selectman Campbell and seconded by Selectman Burr to approve the tax refunds submitted by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$561.88 to Matthew Savoy, taxed in Waterbury. Motion carries unanimously.

A motion was made by Selectman Campbell and seconded by Selectman Burr to approve the tax refunds submitted by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$581.51 to Matthew Savoy, taxed in Waterbury. Motion carries unanimously.

A motion was made by Selectman Campbell and seconded by Selectman Burr to approve the tax refunds submitted by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$407.70 to Toyota Lease Trust, vehicle sold June, 2023. Motion carries unanimously.

A motion was made by Selectman Campbell and seconded by Selectman Burr to approve the tax refunds submitted by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$552.14 to Toyota Lease Trust, vehicle sold June, 2023. Motion carries unanimously.

A motion was made by Selectman Campbell and seconded by Selectman Burr to approve the tax refunds submitted by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$433.99 to Toyota Lease Trust, vehicle sold September, 2022. Motion carries unanimously.

A motion was made by Selectman Campbell and seconded by Selectman Burr to approve the tax refunds submitted by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$104.72 to Toyota Lease Trust, vehicle sold July, 2024. Motion carries unanimously.

A motion was made by Selectman Campbell and seconded by Selectman Burr to approve the tax refunds submitted by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$233.81 to ACAR Leasing, vehicle sold May, 2024. Motion carries unanimously.

A motion was made by Selectman Campbell and seconded by Selectman Burr to approve the tax refunds submitted by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$246.01 to ACAR Leasing, vehicle sold February, 2024. Motion carries unanimously.

A motion was made by Selectman Campbell and seconded by Selectman Burr to approve the tax refunds submitted by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$232.09 ACAR Leasing, vehicle sold June, 2024. Motion carries unanimously.

Communications – none.

Member Comment – none.

Public Comment (from those in the room) – none.

A motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. Motion carries unanimously.