



Town of Thomaston

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DRAFT

THOMASTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING VIA ZOOM MEETING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026

Roll Call was taken. Beth Campbell, Selectman; Mike Burr, Selectman and Rich Sileo, First Selectman were all in attendance. Deborah Bournival, Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman, was in attendance to take the minutes. Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge was recited by all present.

Approval of minutes – Selectman Burr made motion and Selectman Campbell seconded the motion to approve of the January 20, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carries unanimously.

Old Business/LUT End of Year and Bylaws Updates:

Beth Schaffer, Chairman for Light Up Thomaston, was in attendance to present.

Beth said they began the year with roughly \$36,300, added approximately \$10,000 from sponsors and such and spent approximately \$3,000 on lights, Santa gifts, sponsor letters and trees for the festival of trees. Vendors costs were about \$12,335, ending with a balance of \$27,809.06.

Rich asked about the bylaws updates. Beth said they edited them a bit, mostly minor changes in the language.

Selectman Burr asked a question relating to a paragraph within the by-laws. Under **Article III – Elected Officers and Executive Committee and Duties**, the paragraph, “**Acting Treasurer***” shows an asterisk which refers to another paragraph later in the bylaws that states, “***BOS Treasurer**”. That paragraph states that the **Boad of Selectmen’s Treasurer will act as the committee’s treasurer. All income and expenses must be submitted to the BOS for approval by way of presentation of the annual budget to the BOS in September.** Selectman Burr wanted to clarify that the Board of Selectmen does not have their own Treasurer, but that the Town’s Finance Director, Tracy Decker, will assist the committee’s Treasurer when needed. This should be clarified in the bylaws. Beth wanted to know if it was possible to

correct that now and have the BOS approve tonight. First Selectman Sileo said that she would have to bring to the LUT committee to make the changes and accept the updated bylaws and then make motion to bring back to the BOS for approval. Their next meeting is in April.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to add to the agenda under **“Old Business/Amendment to Ordinance to Add a Vice-Chairperson”** and put this after the “Murphy Road Recycling Contract. Motion carries unanimously.

Old Business/Revised Fee Schedule for P&Z & IWWC:

Selectman Burr asked Tony if he went back to the individual boards (P&Z and IWWC) for their approval on the fees and he indicated they did.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to approve the Planning & Zoning fee schedule for 2026 as presented and send to town meeting on February 11, 2026 for approval. Motion carries unanimously. ***This motion was later amended by Selectmen Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to also include the approval of the fee schedule of Inland Wetlands as presented and send forth to town meeting on February 11, 2026 for approval. Motion carries unanimously.***

Old Business/Murphy Road Recycling Contract:

First Selectman Sileo said this contract has already been previewed by both our town attorneys and our insurance carrier with redlines and modifications. We now need to send onto BOF for approval before we send to town meeting.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to approve to send to BOF for consideration and then move onto town meeting for February 11, 2026. Discussion.

Selectman Burr indicated that discussions about this service/contract have been going on since Ed was here months ago. Ed vetted out companies and went out to bid and narrowed down to Murphy Road as most cost effective. Are we recommending that the BOF approve what we already vetted? Selectman Sileo said that is correct. Selectman Burr asked what if BOF doesn't approve – does that mean we would have to go back out to bid. Doesn't term start now? First Selectman Sileo said the term starts FY July 1, 2026. The delay with this is due to the ordinance having outdated language, etc. that we need to fix first. Motion carries unanimously.

Old Business/Addition of Vice Chairperson for EDC:

First Selectman Sileo said this came through the EDC a few months ago. The language was drafted by our town attorney and this is the formalization of what is going to town meeting. Selectman Burr said that the BOS had already taken this up at the December 16th meeting at which time we made a motion to amend the ordinance under **Section 10-50. Officers; quorum; compensation** and add **“Vice Chairperson”**. We approved, but never sent on to town meeting.

Selectman Burr made motion and Selectman Campbell seconded the motion to approve ordinance changes to **Article XI - Economic Development Commission** as originally approved at our BOS meeting on December 16, 2025 and send to town meeting for approval. Motion carries unanimously.

New Business/Hillside Cemetery Truck Purchase:

Julie Ingham, member of the Cemetery Committee, was in attendance to present as Jamie Wilson was out of town. She shared the email that Jamie sent her about the truck replacement. The Hillside Cemetery Committee is looking to replace its 2003 dump truck as repair costs and down times have increased over the past few years. The committee met and discussed the replacement realizing that for the actual miles put on the truck per year or lack thereof, it wouldn't make sense to purchase a brand new gas-powered one, but a used one for no more than \$45,000. The funds to purchase would come directly from their own funds. They would then sell the old one and put the proceeds back into their account.

First Selectman Sileo said he has instructed other boards and commissions who are set up like this committee that if a purchase needs to be made that is over \$20,000, they would have to just keep the BOS and BOF in the loop. This committee doesn't have to report to us as they have their own funds with which to make the purchase. We don't have a formal policy on approving purchases that come out of their own funds, but will eventually draft one. Julie said they have a good committee and their funds are solid, unlike many other cemetery organizations that are in trouble and have very little or no funds. No motion needed here.

New Business/Solid Waste Ordinance:

First Selectman Sileo realizes that the solid waste contract hinges on the solid waste ordinance which has been outdated for some time. Many things in ordinance no longer apply to today. The corrections that will be made will bring us up to date.

Motion was made by Selectman Campbell and seconded by Selectman Burr to approve the updated solid waste ordinance as presented and send to town meeting February 11, 2026. Motion carries unanimously.

New Business/Reduction in Assessment Due to Damaged Building or Personal Property:

This came to us through our Assessor, Jen O'Neil. She brought to our attention a Connecticut statute (12-64a) that provides reduction in assessment due to damaged building or personal property. It requires Assessors to prorate the assessment of certain demolished buildings from the date the land grading is completed (as determined by the building official) to the end of the assessment year. She is recommending to the BOS to reevaluate the personal property for Pattie's Place, American Nails, U.S. Graphics, Chattem Beach and Mom's Place and reduce it starting January 27 (the day of fire). She is also recommending an adjustment to the real estate of the building located at 79 Main Street which is owned by Brian Dayton, William Dayton and Sandra Dunn. It would require a demo permit for the building itself and have a date associated with it.

Selectman Burr made a motion to accept the recommendation made by the Assessor and allow her to prorate the assessment due to the damage of personal property of the five businesses located within the building at 79 Main Street effective January 27, 2026. Motion carries unanimously.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to follow the recommendation of the Assessor that, at the appropriate date, approve the reduction in assessment due to the damage of building at 79 Main Street. Motion carries unanimously.

New Business/Establishment of Special Revenue Fund to Assist with Main Street Fire:

We have all been scrambling here in town to find the best ways to assist those who were involved in the fire. We have a great many people and businesses in this town who wanted to help in some way. The town was looking into how we could assist those employees who were displaced due to the fire.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to discuss the establishment of a special revenue fund to receive and distribute donations to employees of businesses damaged by fire. Discussion ensued.

Selectman Burr said that many people approached him about what they can do to help those affected by fire. There have been fundraisers already set up by businesses as well as a Go-Fund Me by another individual. The Town should not be involved in creating a special account, but encourage people who want to give to do so, but do their due diligence first. They should be able to choose whom to give to whether it be one or all five businesses, the employees of the business or businesses or an owner.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by First Selectman Sileo to table the establishment of a special revenue fund until such point when we have more information. Selectman Campbell abstains.

There are a lot of good intentions out there to help, even with out-of-town groups. We just need to take a step back and do our homework.

New Business/Warning of Special Town Meeting:

Motion was made by Selectman Campbell and seconded by Selectman Burr to read the Warning of Special Town meeting into record as follows, that:

The electors and those persons eligible to vote in town meetings of the Town of Thomaston, Connecticut, are hereby WARNED AND NOTIFIED that a Special Town Meeting will be held in in the Lena Morton Art Gallery, Town Hall, 158 Main Street, Thomaston, Connecticut, on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. for the following purposes:

ITEM 1. As recommended by the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance, to consider and act on a Resolution:

(a) To appropriate \$5,410,000 for various improvements, repairs, modifications, replacements and upgrades to, and equipment for, the Town's wastewater treatment facility, including, but not limited to, improvements and upgrades to flow meters, pumps, UV disinfection system, sequencing batch reactor (SBR) controls, and sludge building;

(b) To finance said appropriation by issuing the Town's bonds, notes, temporary notes, loans, interim funding obligations and/or project loan obligations in an amount not to exceed \$5,410,000;

(c) To authorize the First Selectman and Treasurer to issue the bonds, notes, temporary notes, loans, interim funding obligations and/or project loan obligations;

(d) To take actions under applicable Internal Revenue Service regulations to allow the Town to issue the bonds, notes, temporary notes or loans on a tax-exempt basis; and

(e) To authorize the First Selectman to execute agreements for the project; and to authorize other Town boards and officials to take all other actions necessary to complete the project and issue the bonds, notes, temporary notes, loans, interim funding obligations and/or project loan obligations to finance the appropriation.

ITEM 2. As recommended by the Board of Finance, to consider and act on an appropriation of \$170,500 from Fund Balance to pay Tighe & Bond for engineering of the Elm Street improvement project, and to authorize the First Selectman and Board of Selectmen to take all actions and execute all documents necessary or convenient for that purpose.

ITEM 3. Pursuant to Chapter 154, "Fees", of the Code of the Town of Thomaston, and as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission, to consider and act on proposed amendments to the Planning and Zoning Fee Schedule and the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Fee Schedule, and to authorize those Commissions to take administrative actions necessary or convenient to implement the revised fee schedules.

ITEM 4. To consider and act on a proposed SOLID WASTE ORDINANCE, amending Chapter 235, "Solid Waste", of the Code of the Town of Thomaston.

ITEM 5. To consider and act on a proposed ORDINANCE permitting a TAX EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN DISABLED VETERANS AND THEIR SURVIVING SPOUSES, amending Chapter 247, "Taxation", of the Code of the Town of Thomaston.

ITEM 6. To consider and act on a proposed ordinance authorizing the Economic Development Commission to elect a Vice-Chairperson of that Commission, amending Chapter 10, "Boards, Commissions, and Committees", Article XI, "Economic Development Commission", of the Code of the Town of Thomaston.

ITEM 7. To consider and act on a proposed Municipal Acceptable Recyclables Materials Services Agreement between Murphy Road Recycling, LLC, and the Town of Thomaston, and to authorize the First Selectman and Board of Selectmen to take all actions and execute all documents necessary or convenient for that Agreement.

Copies of the full text of the Resolutions are on file and available for inspection at the Office of the Town Clerk.

Discussion ensued.

Selectman Burr asked if the dollar amount listed in this Warning had changed since our last meeting because he remembers the number being something like \$5,282,000. First Selectman Sileo took a moment to check and said it was not an intentional change. That original number was correct, but First Selectman Sileo said he believes this newer number includes all the service fees that deal with bonding.

Motion carries unanimously.

Board/Commission Appointments/Resignations – none.

Tax Refunds:

Motion was made by Selectman Campbell and seconded by Selectman Burr to approve a tax refund submitted by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$427.17 to ARI Fleet Lt. Ltd. Motion carries unanimously.

Communications – none.

Member Comment:

Selectman Burr wanted to thank First Selectman Sileo for a job well done especially with what has happened in town last week (fire) and winter storms. Selectman Campbell agrees.

Public Comment:

(those in the room)

Jack Sheedy of Harwinton, freelance journalist for Hearst Media Group newspapers. Question – with the fund the town is looking to set up, are you looking to consolidate all the funds that have already been collected through the Go Fund Me, etc. First Selectman Sileo said the idea was to set up a separate vehicle for those that wanted to donate separate from the Go Fund Me and others.

Tony Adili commented that all members of the BOS should state who makes the motion when making them.

(those on zoom)

Cindy Delong from 58 Grove Street. I have a suggestion for those who have set up fundraisers and Go Fund Me. Maybe they could list an address and/or a post office box for people who would like to send a personal check for any or all the business. This way they can just pop a check in the mail.

Eileen Mone from Woodruff Avenue - will you have cameras at meetings in future so those on zoom can see everyone at the meeting? We have one now, but it is only angled towards us. I will work on it.

A motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Motion carries unanimously.