



Town of Thomaston

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

VIA ZOOM MEETING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 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 6:03 p.m.

Pledge was recited by all present.

Approval of minutes – Selectman Burr made motion and Selectman Campbell seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2026 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carries unanimously.

Selectman Burr indicated that the minutes of the February 10, 2026 special meeting *in which a motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to read a resolution into record re: recommendation to appropriate \$5,410,000 for various improvements to the Town's WPCA facility* did have the final motion stating *"motion carries unanimously"*. That needs to be added.

Selectman Burr made a motion and Selectman Campbell seconded the motion to approve of the minutes of the special meeting of February 10, 2026 as amended. Motion carries unanimously.

Old Business/Discussion-Update re: MSW Contracts:

Selectman Sileo indicated that he was given two redlined contracts from the prior First Selectman for both recycling and MSW. The prior First Selectman instructed First Selectman Sileo to finish up the redlines, proceed with approval and then go out to bid for the collection services piece. Currently, CWPM does the collection for the town. I was under the assumption that there was an RFP for the disposal side, however, after looking at the minutes of October, 2025, there wasn't a sufficient number of bidders to get three bids so there was never an RFP.

He had a call with CWPM, our current hauler of trash and recycling, to update them on process and they were taken by surprise that they were not able to bid on full package. They would have liked to have bid on

scope of work. They also informed him that the two disposal contractors were the two disposal locations they bring waste to today. They also said they often have to find a secondary location to bring to if others are full. This gave him pause and wondered if we were headed down the right path.

First Selectman Sileo is uncomfortable unbundling these services and taking responsibility to unload somewhere else until he digs a bit deeper. He just wanted to update the BOS. He also reached out to Atty. Rybak. Murphy Road contract (recycling only) is not signed, but did go to town meeting and was approved. He sent him some documents to review and determine where we are. Atty. Rybak instructed First Selectman Sileo to wait until he comes back from vacation before he makes any further decision. CWPM will be willing to give us another one-year extension should we need it.

New Business/Discussion-Update-Possible Approval re: Town Hall Evacuation Policy:

First Selectman Sileo has been reviewing many of the town's internal policies and procedures that relate to town employees (Human Resources side) and the Town (Town side). I felt like this one was of more importance at this time as 1) it had the previous first selectman's contact information in it; and 2) it also had had a secondary evacuation route as the Center School for inclement weather which would be very difficult for us to accomplish as we would all have to be logged into the school's security system. We would like to make the Library the secondary refuge. This has also been reviewed with our Chief of Police as there is a piece in this policy where the dispatcher plays a role.

Selectman Burr had a couple of questions. Are the evacuation floor captains responsible for final walkthrough of their respective areas, even if there is the possibility of a fire? Do we want them to make that judgement call and feel like it is their responsibility to see if anyone is left in the building? We hope that when the fire alarm is sounded, people who are in the building will leave. Beth asked if Rich was covering both Level 1 and Level 5 himself. He indicated that it is shared between him and Debbie.

Selectman Burr also commented that the evacuation floor captain number to dial for Level 1 and 5 (First Selectman and Debbie) is "0" which when dialed does not go to either First Selectman or Debbie. Also, Level 1 should be listed as Firehouse Basement. Discussion about all the levels.

First Selectman Sileo will make the needed changes and bring back at next meeting.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to table the discussion of the Tall Hall Evacuation policy for update/possible approval at our next regular meeting. Motion carries unanimously.

New Business/Approval of Tax Incentive @ 82 South Main Street:

First Selectman Sileo said that Four Seasons submitted an application to the town by way of EDC in August, 2025, but somehow it was not brought forth for BOS approval. Selectman Burr said it looks like they met all the criteria.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell that the tax incentive for 82 South Main Street as recommended by EDC be approved, subject to approval at a town meeting. Motion carries unanimously.

New Business/Review of FY 26/27 Budgets:

We have now gone through the budgets on town side with bottom-up budgets. On the BOE side, we had our first workshop where we had a lot of discussion as to where we need to be. What we then did is somewhat different than what we did in past, we displayed the OPM analysis. Every year, we get a number from OPM which is based off an estimate of where they think the consumer index is and where it is going. That number has been around 2.7%. We haven't received an official number yet, but the goal was to use a representative number. One of the guiding principles behind this budget. The other was to look at historical information i.e. taxpayers will typically vote a budget in if there is an increase between 1-1.5% mil increase. The 2.7% is calculated by removing two elements out of the budget sheet; 1) capital and 2) debt service. When capital and debt service from the town side is removed, it brings us to 2.3%, which is pretty tight. Overall budget increase of just over 2%.

Selectman Burr asked if we had any indication of the grand list change yet. It went up 35.83%. The breakdown of increases is 44.74% for real estate, 1.29% for personal property and 2.74% for motor vehicle for a total of 35.83%. First Selectman Sileo said that information is available on the spreadsheet, but not as a percentage like others. He will put this on the BOS agenda for next month's meeting at which he will invite the Assessor. Selectman Burr thanked First Selectman Sileo for all his work on it beforehand.

Selectman Burr would like to discuss once we have the mil rate. First Selectman Sileo said the BOF has not seen this budget sheet yet. Selectman Burr did have some questions on the "highlighted" areas. The "Contingency" line (highlighted) is just a placeholder number right now. The "Education" line (highlighted) shows a number that the BOE has not fully approved yet. They have their next budget workshop scheduled in a week or so. The "Capital" line (highlighted) we will get to shortly. The "Operating Transfer/Seth Thomas" line (highlighted) really shouldn't be highlighted.

First Selectman Sileo said there are also some "boggies" in the budget, for example, Elections. This number, which has historically gone over budget, will see a primary for the gubernatorial race this year along with three referendums, one regular election cycle and three town meetings. Selectman Burr said a lot of this is really due to the fact that towns have been forced to have early voting. Is there a concerted effort to walk this back (early voting)? The majority in Hartford and the Governor needs to see this is pinching the municipalities budgets. First Selectman Sileo said he has spoken to both Rep. Piscopo and Sen. Martin about this. Selectman Burr asked if the Town was part of COST, but First Selectman Sileo said we are not, but are part of NVCOG and CCM which works on our behalf in Hartford. He will bring this up at his meeting at the COG on Friday.

Also, some questions on Recreation line. Selectman Burr asked where the propane expense line was in the budget and, after looking at other departments "Sewer & Water" lines, why Recreation was so high. First Selectman Sileo stated that it's because of the improvements that were made to Seth Thomas Park during its park revitalization. They have absorbed it into this line (i.e. irrigation system, sod and watering of grass in park, etc.).

Selectman Campbell had a question about "Fringe Benefits/Payment in Lieu of Health", is this contractual? First Selectman Sileo said, yes, it is contractual, but can fluctuate at times.

Selectman Burr is happy with the budget at this point. Bottom line looks good. We have done our due diligence as a board. It is now time to move it forward to BOF. We should try to encourage people to attend all BOF budget meetings so they know where we are headed before they vote on it.

First Selectman Sileo said the Capital Improvements Committee will meet next week and he will attend. He has encouraged all departments to put everything they feel they need into Capital so we can see where we are. Selectman Burr asked who did the "rankings" and First Selectman Sileo said it was both him and Tracy.

Selectman Burr said the town hall building roof (the 1990's portion) is already 36 years old and we shouldn't ignore or kick down the road. He noticed some areas while working on the Opera House portion that may be failing. First Selectman Sileo will look into.

Selectman Campbell wanted to know about the on-going feasibility study on the school buildings. Have there been any updates? First Selectman Sileo indicated he had no updates to report, but will email the company for update. BOE can't do any further work until they get that report.

Board/Commission Appointments/Resignations:

First Selectman Sileo said some of these appointments have been sitting on his desk for a bit as he wanted to have discussions with both the RTC and DTC about doing their due diligence when it comes to vetting new members.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to appoint Shanelle Duprey to Opera House Commission. Motion carries unanimously.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to reappoint Rich Chandon to the Inland Wetlands Watercourse Commission for another term. Motion carries unanimously

Motion was made by Selectman Campbell and seconded by Selectman Burr to reappoint William Guerrero to the Planning & Zoning Commission for another term. Motion carries unanimously. The Board said he has been a long-standing member of this board who has done good work for us.

Motion was made by Selectman Campbell and seconded by Selectman Burr to accept the resignation of Christine Yoos from the Zoning Board of Appeals. Motion carries unanimously.

Motion was made by Selectman Campbell and seconded by Selectman Burr to accept the resignation of Jennifer Delaney from the Library Board. Motion carries unanimously.

Motion was made by Selectman Campbell and seconded by Selectman Burr to accept the resignation of Mike Madow from the Economic Development Commission. Discussion. First Selectman Sileo wanted to take this opportunity to personally thank Mike for his many years serving the EDC. He did a fine job. Motion carries unanimously. We want to take this opportunity to thank Mike for his years of service to the EDC.

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 \$218.74 to Nissan Motor Acceptance Corp., vehicle sold April, 2025. Motion carries unanimously.

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 \$7,042.58 to Forge Multifamily Group LLC, overpayment by customer. Motion carries unanimously.

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 \$2,990.50 to Forge Multifamily Group LLC, overpayment by customer. Motion carries unanimously.

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 \$5,279.11 to Forge Multifamily Group LLC, overpayment by customer. Motion carries unanimously.

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 \$4,433.10 to Rocket Close Connecticut LLC, overpayment by escrow bank. Motion carries unanimously.

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., vehicle sold June, 2023. Motion carries unanimously.

Communications - We received notification from the DOT that they will be replacing the bridge over Rt. 222/Hill Road. Kickoff meeting in March.

Member Comments - none.

Public Comment (livestream):

(via Meeting Room 1) - There were no public comments from the room.

(via Zoom) - **Julie Ingham of 70 Elm Street** – thinks it would be nice to have a policy whereby the First Selectman sends a letter to all those who served the town, either as a volunteer or employee, thanking them for their service. First Selectman Sileo has already sent an email to each thanking them.

A motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m. Motion carries unanimously.