Town of Thomaston

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DRAFT

THOMASTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
VIA ZOOM MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026

Roll Call was taken. Selectman Beth Campbell and Selectman Mike Burr were in attendance. First Selectman Sileo was in attendance via zoom. Tracy Decker was also in attendance to run the zoom along with Deborah Bournival, Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman, 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 the minutes of the February 17, 2026 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carries unanimously.

Old Business/Discussion re: 2025 Grand List w/Jen O'Neil, Assessor:

Jen O'Neill, Assessor, in attendance for discussion of grand list. Shows changes in real estate, personal property and MV. Changes in grand list from the revaluation, it went up 36.13%. For residential, it is 71% of grand list and for commercial 9.8% of grand list. No questions from either selectman.

Old Business/Update re: Municipal Solid Waste Contracts:

First Selectman is working on RFP that will include collection, solid waste disposal and will plug in Murphy Road for recyclables. There will be an alternative location for recycling. Will have by end of week. No questions from selectmen at this time.

Old Business/Update re: Elm Street Project:

Had meeting with T&B who revised designs to ensure there is no greenway. Someone raised the fact that CT. Water will be working on a main on Elm. First Selectman Sileo had Tighe & Bond and CT Water work together to make sure all fits within the Tighe & Bond designs. Meeting with them this week for updates. No questions from selectmen at this time.

Old Business/Update re: Feasibility Study:

Working group met last week with DRA and looked through first draft of final report. Talked about things that needed to be included and they went back to work on. It will go back to working group for review to make sure it aligns to what the contract states and sent to BOS/BOF/BOE for review. BOE will then take info and look at options in there and overlay our educational goals on the options to make sure it supports our educational goals.

Selectman Burr – one comment – when it comes back to us this time can you make sure the BOE has rendered an opinion or decision on how they want to proceed because at last meeting they did not get done what needed to be done. First Selectman said, yes, we will not have another three-board meeting until that is done. He will distribute the final report in the interim. He will be the point of contact if there are any questions.

Old Business/Update re: Budget and Capital Plan:

BOE met last Thursday and made an additional cut of $75,000 and then approved their budget. BOE will present some of that info to BOF on Tuesday and BOF will then make decision to move forward as is and set up a public hearing. We did receive the OPM number and it was 2.64. We had a bit more to cut. Last time, the BOS didn't have the OPM number so we used a placeholder number. On the town side, we took $20,000 out of maintenance and repair line. We do have a reserve in the capital plan now so that some of those items will be able to be justified as "capital". Only change on town side. Total budget is increased by .86% (not approved by BOF yet) which comes in at .95 mils. No changes to capital plan that was approved by capital budget which comes in at.

Selectman Burr – one question – is that .95 mils based on this fiscal year? First Selectman said yes, this fiscal year we are in. What is the dollar amount (.86%)? First Selectman said $554,036. Selectman Burr said that is a good dollar number.

Old Business/Discussion-Approval re: Town Hall Evacuation Plan:

Selectman Burr motioned to table until the next regular meeting. Seconded by Selectman Campbell. Motion carries unanimously.

Old Business/Discussion-Approval re: Transfer Station Hours and Updates:

Dennis David was in attendance to present. We are at $2,134.01 in black which is really good. We have a good customer experience due to improvements made. Our traffic pattern is better. We consolidated areas. We are almost in OSHA compliance. Our bargain barn is really busy and we have a good set of employees working down there.

He has been working with Optimum for 6 months to get our internet bill down (approximately $220/month). He has been unable to reach anyone to help with this. We can save a lot of money if we can address this.

Renovations project – out of the $5,000 we allocated, we only used $3,374.20 and that has been used for weed remediation, stone, etc.

Big change he wants to make is to change hours from 10:00 to 2:00 p. Helps people find it more convenient to get there.

Selectman Burr made motion to adopt new hours for summer as presented. Motion seconded by Selectman Campbell. Motion carries unanimously.

First Selectman asks to amend the agenda to add discussion/approval of the purchasing of the UV system for the WPCA project and sludge. Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell. Motion carries unanimously.

New Business/Discussion-Approval of the Purchasing of the UV System and Sludge for WPCA:

Burt, all we are asking for is waive the three bids to purchase the equipment. For the UV system, we went out to three vendors for bids. Only two bid the project, the other refused to bid because they don't have anything that fits our needs. The other two are the only ones who are the only ones that make the vertical racks that would fit into the current channel and reduce our construction costs. As to the sludge thickeners, the size of our room is not big enough to go with anything other than vertical thickeners. There are only two vendors of vertical thickeners; one is the current piece of equipment we have which we absolutely hate and costs a lot to run and the other is BDP. If we change from vertical to a different style, it will end up costing us much more.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr to waive town policy on three vendors due to unavailability of a third vendor for the UV racks at the plant. Motion was seconded by Selectman Campbell. Motion carries unanimously.

Burt indicated that one is the Violia system at $245,000 and the other is a Glasco system at $200,000 and WPCA is leaning towards the Glasco system. They have not officially approved yet, however, and Selectman Burr said we will wait until the commission makes their approval.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr to go with the only vendor who fits the scope of the work for vertical sludge thickeners which is a BDP product. Motion was seconded by Selectman Campbell. Motion carries unanimously.

New Business/Discussion-Approval re: SWPPP for Public Works and Transfer Station:

SWPPP is a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan. We submit one for the WPCA which Bert has already done. We also need to submit one for Public Works and the transfer station which we were a bit late in getting done. The cost to have someone do this for the Town would have been $18,700, but Bert was willing to do this for us. It would only cost us $627.00 for the submission fee to DEEP.

New Business/Discussion-Approval re: EAP Update for Nystroms Dam:

We received an email from DEEP and we are required to submit an updated EAP. Last time we did this was when we had the "old" dam before improvements back in 2016 – we are required to do every two years, specifically for the dam. We have since rebuilt that dam. He put out to bid to three bidders – Tighe & Bond (engineers who did the original work) came back with proposal of $4,100 and Weston & Sampson came back with proposal of $6,100. His recommendation is to go with Tighe & Bond and have them update. Third bidder declined to bid.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr to waive the three-bid policy and approve Tighe & Bond for the EAP for Nystroms Dam. Seconded by Selectman Campbell. Discussion. Selectman Burr said that it bothers him that Litchfield town line goes right through the dam. Is it possible that Litchfield can pony up some money for the additional costs to upgrade as they are reaping the rewards at no additional cost. First Selectman Sileo states the dam is owned by the Town of Thomaston. Motion carries unanimously.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to rescind the prior motion made as there is a dollar limit to get three bids and these do not rise to that level. No need for a motion. Motion carries unanimously.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to approve Tighe & Bond to produce the EAP for Nystroms Pond dam. Motion carries unanimously.

New Business/Discussion-Approval re: Code of Ethics Policy:

First Selectman Sileo has reviewed policies for updating. Some are dated. The highlighted items are the changes/updates.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell as presented and amended. Motion carries unanimously.

New Business/Discussion re: White Collar Amendment:

Recently, First Selectman Sileo had to close the town hall on two Mondays due to winter snowstorms. Currently, the Town Hall is open Monday through Thursday, he thought it would be appropriate to make up the hours they were closed on a Friday when we are normally closed. White Collar union agreed with this. Signed by union rep already. Some people were still not happy with the town hall only being open 4 days a week so this would help accommodate those people. We need to add another line for union president signature (Jen O'Neil, Town of Thomaston, White Collar Union President).

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell approve the Thomaston Town Hall White Collar Agreement as amended with another signature line as presented. Motion carries unanimously.

First Selectman Sileo suggests to amend the agenda to add a snow day policy for those non-union members. Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to approve the snow day policy. Motion carries unanimously.

New Business/Discussion re: Grove Heights and Terrace Road – Accepting Town Roads:

First Selectman Sileo had some residents come in to speak to him about their road. These roads are not town accepted, however, we do plow it and there is actually a sewer storm system. His recommendation to accept these roads and send to town meeting approval. Selectman Burr asked if these fell through the cracks. First Selectman Sileo said that the town clerk has no records of these roads ever being accepted as town roads. Selectman Burr feels we should accept as not doing so causes a liability for the town.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr that we approve both Grove Heights and Terrace Roads as town roads subject to approval at town meeting. Motion carries unanimously.

New Business/Discussion re: DEEP Hazard Notice – Highway Garage:

First Selectman Sileo said we received a hazard notice from DEEP for some groundwater samples that go back 20+ years at the highway garage. DEEP has significantly lowered their threshold levels that creates a hazard notice. He has spoken to NVCOG to see what the best approach would be in response to this. He continues to work on this and will update when he has anything further.

Board/Commission Appointments/Resignations:

First Selectman Sileo wants to amend the agenda to add the reappointment of Gail Viltrakis to Housing Authority and the appointment of Karen Blasiewicz to the Historical Commission. Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to add this to the agenda. Motion carries unanimously.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to reappoint Gail Viltrakis to Housing Authority and appoint Karen Blasiewicz to the Historical Commission. Motion carries unanimously.

Tax Refunds:

At the request of the tax collector, Selectman Campbell made a motion to rescind a tax refund that was made during last month's meeting to ARI Fleet in the amount of $427.17 as it was a duplicate. Motion was seconded by Selectman Burr. 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 $319.05 to David Redente, vehicle traded in. 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 $2,397.73 to Porsche Leasing Ltd., vehicle sold December, 2024. 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 $628.43 to Plymouth Glass & Mirror, taxed in Danbury. 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 $596.29 to Plymouth Glass & Mirror, taxed in Danbury. Motion carries unanimously.

Communications/Update on Water Main Improvements on South Main Street:

Very close to finishing the water main project. Putting pressure on State to transition over.

Member Comments - none.

Public Comment (for those attendees present in the meeting room). No comments at this time as there were no attendees in room.

A motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 p.m. Motion carries unanimously.