

DRAFT

**THOMASTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
VIA ZOOM MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2026**

Call to Order & Roll Call:

The meeting was called to order by First Selectman Sileo at 6:02 p.m. First Selectman Sileo, Selectman Burr and Selectman Campbell were attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance – by all in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

First Selectman Sileo wanted to make a correction to the agenda. The June 30th meeting was actually cancelled due to lack of quorum so there was no meeting, only June 16th.

Also, Selectman Burr wanted to make a few corrections. Under **Board/Commission Appointments/Resignations**, Anthony Kepler's last name was misspelled in the first paragraph, but was correct in the second paragraph. In addition, in the first, third and fifth paragraphs where it states "First Selectman Sileo needs to amend the agenda to add the resignation of Anthony Kepler from the BOE (first paragraph), to add the resignation of Hillary Combs from the Greenway Committee (third paragraph) and to add the appointment of Jim Campbell to the BOF (fifth paragraph), there wasn't actually a motion made by First Selectman Sileo, only a "motion seconded by Selectman Burr". There needs to be that motion made by First Selectman Sileo in each of the three paragraphs.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by First Selectman Sileo to approve the meeting minutes of the regular meeting of June 16, 2026 as amended. Motion carries 2-0 with Selectman Campbell abstaining as she was not in attendance.

New Business/High Street Extension Drainage:

We have recently had some additional challenges up in this area with several residents bringing us their issues and concerns. The work we did a couple of years ago was limited to a certain area. The drainage is very deep in the ground with a very large pipe. This work is outside of our Public Works capability. We looked at some options. One of those options is to work with a company called Savvy and Sons. They have a unique approach to this in which they can reconstruct a pipe in order to be able to make repairs to the existing pipe without having to completely remove the current structure. This would be a more cost-

effective solution. We would first need to do camera work. They estimate the cost of this to be between \$5,000 and \$10,000 to do the camera work. The aging infrastructure extends from 355 to 449 High Street Extension. We have identified problems from 355 High Street Extension to 380 High Street Extension. We would like to camera the whole length to understand the full scope. This will not be a small project.

Selectman Burr asked a few questions. Based on the proposal we received, it states \$5,000 - \$10,000 for 1,000 square feet. Also, we will need pressurized water in order to jet the pipe, do we have fire hydrants? It says customer will provide the water supply. It also states \$2,000 minimum charge for 4 hours port-to-port. What does this mean? First Selectman Sileo said that is actually their travel time. The proposal does not include traffic control. Does the town absorb the cost. First Selectman Sileo said no. Also, disposal cost for non-hazard material? We will take the non-hazard material.

Selectman Burr asked if Atty. Rybak has reviewed this yet. First Selectman Sileo said he has not sent to Atty. Rybak yet, but will as we just received this proposal today. He wanted to bring to the Board's attention first.

New Business/Nystrom's Park Communication Tower:

Selectman Burr started he had this conversation awhile back with Ed Mone. Due to the lack cell service at Nystrom's, he was wondering if any communications companies would be interested in renting space on the tower. His primary concern is if there were ever an emergency in the park, no one would be able to call 911 for help. Secondly, we can make some good revenue from it. We do that with the Chapel Street tower and have a company that manages the revenue stream for us.

Selectman Sileo said we will have to come back to this. Chief Madden does not have an issue with it either from a public safety aspect.

New Business/Walnut Hill Tree Removal Request:

We received a request from the owner of property on Walnut Hill Road to remove a large Hickory tree in his front yard at his expense. He cites the tree has become so large that he feels it is now a danger to his house and also cites that branches fall and other debris in his yard making it hard to clean up. The tree is actually within the Town's setback.

Selectman Burr said he reviewed the request while First Selectman Sileo was on vacation. He did go up to look at it and it is a beautiful, hardy tree. However, we do not take down lives trees and we don't want to set a precedent. First Selectman Sileo said this does not follow any criteria that we normally use and we should really follow our current guidelines. It would be a different case if the tree were dying or became a safety issue.

First Selectman Sileo said this is in the purview of the tree warden and/or Highway Superintendent, both of which we don't have right now. We can table this discussion until we have a certified tree arborist takes a look at. First Selectman Sileo said Truelove Tree Service is in town doing some work so he will follow up with them.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to table until the next regular meeting. Motion carries unanimously.

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Motion made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to amend the agenda and move the item under **Communications/Letter from Robert Norton, Sr. – Fire Marshal Retirement** up under **New Business** as last item. Motion carries unanimously.

Robert Norton, Sr., who has served for over 45 years as our fire marshal is looking to retire. He has verbally notified the fire commission.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to accept the Notice of Retirement of Robert Norton, Sr. as Fire Marshal effective as of the August 3rd. Motion carries unanimously.

First Selectman Sileo will send a thank you note.

Old Business/Waterbury Water Main:

First Selectman Sileo sent a follow-up communication to Joe Geary who works for the Mayor and they are still looking at options to fix the pipe. As it relates to the other two water events, New England Railroad Museum has submitted two separate claims to the insurance carrier for the City of Waterbury for processing.

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Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to amend the agenda and move the item under **Old Business/Judson Street Drainage** ahead of **Old Business/Job Description - Public Services Superintendent.** Motion carries unanimously.

Old Business/Judson Street Drainage:

There is a drainage pipe that runs through the property of 70 Judson Street. The pipe is in tough shape and is collapsing in some areas. Before we started the rehabilitation of the web area some years ago to manage the water coming down from Crystal Lake, a decision was put forth by Atty. Rybak that that particular pipe was not part of our infrastructure and we had no responsibility. He reviewed again and stated there is no evidence that the town

put that pipe in, however, when we did the web project, we did connect it to the infrastructure that was there so we do share some responsibility. Ultimately, it is up to this Board to decide how to proceed.

We should evaluate some solutions. Whether we abandon that pipe and use the infrastructure that is currently there, which is an option but need an engineer to look at. It is possible we cap that pipe off where we attached it. If that doesn't work, we can route to another location as well. We will have one of our engineering firms bid it out. We would have to draft an RFP. We do not have an on-call contract with the engineers. First Selectman Sileo does not need a motion for this. He will just draft the RFP and come back to the Board when completed.

Old Business/Job Description – Public Services Superintendent:

We have reviewed this description a few times already. Board of Selectmen have to give final approval of all job descriptions. The town meeting has already approved the creation of this role. First Selectman Sileo did take out all of the reporting responsibilities and shifted those to the reporting coordinator.

Motion was made by Selectman Campbell and seconded by Selectman Burr to approve of the job description for the Public Works Superintendent as presented. Motion carries unanimously.

What happens if we go down this path and find it is all very expensive. Selectman Burr has concerns on the budget impact.

Old Business/Job Description – Public Services Administrative Assistant:

Selectman Campbell asked who funds this position, the Town or WPCA. There will be one Administrative Assistant who will do work for both Public Works and WPCA. How do we split costs. What is budgeted for this fiscal year in the WPCA budget will be paid out. The remainder will be paid from the Town's side. What was budgeted for the Highway Superintendent will pay for part of the public services superintendent and the addition for some services of the public services assistant and reporting coordinator. Selectman Campbell asked if the administrative assistant for public works was full-time. First Selectman Sileo said no, it was a 12-hour a week position and she has since resigned.

Selectman Burr was there any consideration given to the split of time for the superintendent to balance duties for WPCA and Highway? What do you perceive as a percentage to give this position? The admin for public works was entering PO's and other duties, the WPCA admin does that in addition to collections, phone calls, etc. There is a limited scope for someone who is only there for a limited amount of time in a day.

We have a fixed budget. Selectman Burr said we should have timed it better with the development of our town's budget.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to approve the job description of the Public Services Administrative Assistant as presented. Motion carries unanimously.

Old Business/Job Description – Reporting Coordinator:

We have an engineering firm that does these reports for us. The MS4 requires a PE signoff. With some of the other reports, we can duplicate and do ourselves. The WPCA, for example, have been doing the SWPP reports all along. The Highway Department and Transfer Station have not been doing all along and now we are behind. There is a laundry list of items that have not been done. This person will proactively apply for grants.

Motion was made by Selectman Campbell and seconded by Selectman Burr to approve the job description of the Reporting Coordinator as presented. Motion carries unanimously.

Old Business/Old Northfield Road Remediation Engineering:

First Selectman Sileo presented Amendment #2 – Off-Site Mitigation Services from Tighe & Bond for Old Northfield Road Stream Stabilization Project. The total cost for this piece is \$10,000. He is bringing to Board of Selectmen first to approve and then onto the Board of Finance to approve.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to approve the Old Northfield Road Stream Stabilization Project (Amendment #2) for off-site mitigation services from Tighe & Bond as presented, subject to the Board of Finance approval. Motion carries unanimously.

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Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to move an item from **Communications/NVCOG re: Environmental Assessment and Design of Sections of the Greenway Trail** to Old Business. Motion carries unanimously.

We are missing about \$200,000 to do the Greenway project without Elm Street. This project no longer includes Elm Street. This is due to escalation of costs and the federal government has backed out of some funding as well. NVCOG submitted a rec trails grant for us and should have heard back on in April.

In the meantime, we do have an open BAN note which we have to start paying back and have since done. We can wait for the trails grant to come in. NVCOG has already gone through the RFP process for the entire greenway and have selected a vendor which we can

use. Their process for open RFP, dealing with several vendors was sufficient for us in selecting the same vendor. Selectman Burr wanted to know if this has been vetted through our town attorney. Amanda Burch will be taking the lead on the project. He would rather get an opinion on this first. Is there a town policy stating what we can waive when it comes to selecting a vendor. We don't know if we can waive this.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to table this NVCOG re: Environmental Assessment and Design of Sections of the Greenway Trail item until the next regular meeting. Motion carries unanimously.

Board/Commission Appointments/Resignations:

Selectman Burr indicated that he spoke to the RTC chairman and he was good with the reappointment of Jeremy Weid.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to reappoint Jeremy Weid to the Ambulance Commission for another term. Motion carries unanimously.

There is an opening on the Greenway Committee. It is an open democratic seat, but James Forker was recommended by the DTC to be considered by the RTC because he is a Republican.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to appoint James Forker to the Greenway Committee. Motion carries unanimously.

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 \$45.44 to Herbert West, wrong assessment. With all in favor, 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 \$168.80 to Ian Bethin, vehicle was totaled April, 2025. With all in favor, 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 \$27.48 to Garin Miller, wrong assessment. With all in favor, 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 \$65.84 to Laurette Leclair, wrong assessment. With all in favor, 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 \$263.15 to Ari fleet Lt., vehicle sold November, 2024. With all in favor, 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 \$22.04 to Troy Ackermann, wrong assessment. With all in favor, 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 \$32.92 to Evelyn Thier, wrong assessment. With all in favor, 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 \$27.21 to Mark Mitchell, wrong assessment. With all in favor, 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 \$62.58 to Laurence Chenaille, wrong assessment. With all in favor, 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 \$47.34 to Allyn Manning, wrong assessment. With all in favor, motion carries unanimously.

Communications:

Letter from Tax Collector re: Retain Overpayments of Amounts under \$5.00 and Refunds Applications for Veteran Exemptions. No action required. Just informing us of her actions based on the ordinance.

Also, refunds for veteran's exemptions.

Member Comment:

Selectman Burr wanted to know if we can look into a policy about dogs in the town hall complex.

Public Comment – there were no comments from those in the room.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. Motion carries unanimously.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to rescind the previous motion to adjourn as the First Selectman did not ask if those online had any comments to make. Motion carries unanimously.

There were no comments from those online.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m. Motion carries unanimously.