

DRAFT

**THOMASTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
VIA ZOOM MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2026**

Call to Order & Roll Call:

The meeting was called to order by First Selectman Sileo at 6:04 p.m. First Selectman Sileo, Selectman Burr and Selectman Campbell were attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance – by all in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

Selectman Burr said he has one correction to make. Under Approval of Minutes, the last sentence in the first paragraph should have read, “It should have said “...motion carries 2-1 with Selectman Burr **voting** No, not **noting** No.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to approve the meeting minutes of the regular meeting of August 4, 2026 as amended. Motion carries unanimously.

New Business/Executive Session-Discussion of Strategy and Negotiations with Respect to Pending Litigation – Graham v. Town of Thomaston, Docket No. LLI-CV-26-6043430-S:

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to go into executive session at 6:06 p.m. inviting in First Selectman Sileo, Selectman Campbell, Selectman Burr and Tracy Decker, Finance Director. All invited moved to the other room down the hall for executive session. All others stayed in Meeting Room 1.

Motion was made by Selectman Campbell and seconded by Selectman Burr to come out of executive session at 6:15 p.m. Motion carries unanimously.

Motion made by Selectman Burr that:

The Board of Selectmen approve and authorize the First Selectman to execute the Settlement Agreement and Mutual Release between the Town of Thomaston and Susan Graham, resolving the pending litigation captioned *Graham v. Town of Thomaston*, Docket No. LLI-CV-26-6043430-S, substantially in the form presented to the Board, and to take all

actions necessary to effectuate the settlement, including approval of a Withdrawal of the Civil Action.

Seconded by First Selectman Sileo. Motion carries 2-0 with Selectman Campbell abstaining.

New Business/Discussion re: Alcohol on Town Property Policy:

First Selectman Sileo was recently at the library and witnessed an event in which those attending were allowed to BYOB. There are currently policies on the books which state “no liquor”. However, the Opera House does serve liquor during shows, but Landmark Theatre holds that license. In addition, the Fire Department holds their annual carnival in which the town permits alcohol. The Fire Department uses their non-profit status to get a temporary license and have their own insurance.

Over the years, the town’s Planning & Zoning Department has granted a temporary liquor permit to the library. It has since expired. There was another permit, but it was never officially signed.

First Selectman Sileo spoke with Atty. Rybak who also suggested we speak with our insurance agent. Currently, many of those requesting permits are town entities, but some are non-profits. There is the possibility that Friends of the Library, as a separate non-profit, can secure the policy, but the town is always a party to whatever happens. There is less of a liability with BYOB as opposed to someone from the town serving it. First Selectman Sileo said the liability aspect is always placed on the town. We need a clear policy on this.

Discussion ensued. It looks like the approval for permits comes directly from the Planning & Zoning Commission based on the approval letter. Selectman Burr said it looks like Planning & Zoning has the final authority, based on general statutes and our ordinances, to issue a permit, not the Board of Selectmen. Tony Adili, Zoning Enforcement Officer for the Town, was online and commented that this is a template (as to the wording) and that is what he uses. Selectman Campbell said we don’t want to discourage ongoing events that benefit the library. It has been approved in the past by the former first selectman and we may not have the authority to override what the P&Z has already done.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by First Selectman Sileo to pause the BYOB at the library for the upcoming event until issue gets resolved. Motion carries 2-0, with Selectman Campbell abstaining.

Selectman Burr said he will withdraw his motion to pause the BYOB for the upcoming event. Seconded by First Selectman Sileo. Motion carries unanimously.

First Selectman Sileo will continue to research the relevant regulations and ordinances in an effort to draft suggestions for improved clarity.

Old Business/Discussion re: TVAC Agreement:

First Selectman Sileo brought before the Ambulance Commission and asked them for feedback and updates. According to Atty. Rybak, we are still operating under the old terms of the contract on a month-to-month basis until a new one is reviewed and accepted.

Old Business/Inform re: Waterbury Water Main:

First Selectman Sileo said the City of Waterbury is still gathering information and working on claims submitted by The Railroad Museum of New England.

Old Business/Inform re: Walnut Hill Tree Removal Request:

First Selectman Sileo had the arborist who works with the town doing tree trimming come take a look at the tree. It was determined that the tree is in great shape and should not be taken down. First Selectman Sileo sent a letter indicating this to the property owner, not the renter who initially sent the request. First Selectman Sileo indicated that based on the findings of the health of the tree, the tree will not be taken down. The owners said they really loved the tree and were happy it was staying.

Old Business/Discuss/Approve re: High Street Extension Camera Work:

Based on our last discussions, First Selectman Sileo went back to Atty. Rybak who had made some comments earlier. He brought to Savy & Sons who made some changes like clarification in the terms of things like road coverage, who was responsible for hauling away material (our Public Works crew will do), etc. We don't have another vendor for this simply because there is nobody who handles pipes this size. In the meantime, that area is getting worse. We put plates over the driveways and other areas in the yard where there are concerns of sinkage. The area where the pipe was replaced years ago is cracking and splitting. We pulled out some information and found we may still be within the two-year warranty window. He will reach out to the company to see if they can come take a look at and, based on the warranty, make the necessary repairs. He wants to move forward with this.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to waive the three-bid rule for this project based on the information provided. Motion carries unanimously.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to approve the proposal submitted by Savy & Sons to the Town of Thomaston. Motion carries unanimously. This does not have to go to the BOF as it is covered by the current budget.

Old Business/Discuss/Approve re: Nystrom's Communication Tower Cell Companies:

No update.

Old Business/Discuss/Approve re: Judson Street Drainage Pipe:

No update.

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 \$26.93 to Mario Signore, wrong assessment. 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 \$117.85 to Raymond Crannell, vehicle sold August, 2026. 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 \$43.53 to Paul & Julieanne Hood, wrong assessment. 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 \$57.14 to Paul & Julieanne Hood, wrong assessment. 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 \$21.20 to Edward Orban, vehicle sold May, 2026. Motion carries unanimously.

Communications:

First Selectman Sileo asked Atty. Rybak the way we approve and read into record tax refunds – if we can just bundle all and make one motion for all. He said this is not defensible. We need to continue doing each separately.

Also, we are trying to close out the town hall roof project. We received an update today from Atty. Rybak that the package of documents was delivered to both Atlantic Specialty Insurance and Young Developers and no responses have been received to date. Atty. Rybak will continue to watch additional litigation being filed against Atlantic Specialty Insurance and Young Developers. Neither have responded to any claims to date.

Member Comment:

Selectman Campbell wanted to know if there were any updates on the job postings.

For the Public Services Superintendent, we had one applicant. He also selected a hiring committee composed of Mike Madow, Joe Fainer, Tracy Decker and himself. The committee met once and drafted a series of 12 questions that will be used for the interview process. The interview will take place tomorrow at 6 p.m. We will then have a meeting after that to discuss thoughts and if we are at a comfort level that is acceptable to all committee members and possibly make a decision at that point. He has a draft contract for that position.

He has received two direct applications for the Reporting Coordinator position, but he has two other resumes sent to him separately. He will have to do some recruiting for this position to get the best person.

He has also met with the WPCA union rep to discuss the Public Services Administrative Assistant. There will be a meeting next week with our local reps.

Public Comment (in room) – none.

Public Comment (online) – none.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. Motion carries unanimously.