

DRAFT

THOMASTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
VIA ZOOM MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2026

Call to Order & Roll Call:

The meeting was called to order by First Selectman Sileo at 6:01 p.m. First Selectman Sileo, Selectman Burr and Selectman Campbell were attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance – by all in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

Selectman Burr commented that under ***New Business/Discuss-Approve Education Budget Financial Review RFP*** of the September 15, 2026 minutes, the motion that was made ***to award PKF O'Connor Davies with the BOE Operational & Internal Controls Review, Phase I, for an amount of \$31,625*** should end with ***subject to town meeting approval.***

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to approve the meeting minutes of the regular meeting of September 15, 2026 as amended. Motion carries unanimously.

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Selectman Burr commented that under ***Approval of Minutes*** of the September 23, 2026 special meeting. ***we rescinded the motion*** that was made under ***New Business/Discuss-Approve Pension Calculation Requests*** of the September 15, 2026 meeting before we added the correct language that was recommended by the Retirement Committee.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to approve of the minutes of the September 23, 2026 special meeting as amended. Motion carries unanimously.

New Business/Rodenticides Presentation:

Cassandra McKenna was in attendance to present along with Holly Koset of Newtown Conservation Commission online. Cassandra gave a power-point presentation called the Dangers and Misuse of Rodenticides – Rodent Poison...Is Wildlife Poison.

Rodenticides, commonly referred to as rat poisons, contain highly toxic chemicals (FGAR's and SCAR's) which are harmful to the environment, non-target species, children and pets. They are not being used as intended. In 2025, CT passed state legislation restricting the use of SCAR's to licensed professionals for use in certain settings where rodent populations present an unacceptable risk to human health. In many cases, these poisons are applied as a "preventative" method. Continuous and intensive use of rodenticides has led to environmental pollution. Accumulation in the environment can cause anticoagulants to transfer along the food chain, potentially causing serious health consequences for wildlife and humans.

Rodenticides poison more than just rats and mice. Predators meant to control rodent populations are at risk, for example, owls, hawks, falcons, herons, foxes, weasels, skunks, snakes, etc. In a single year, one red-tailed hawk can eat 1,500 rodents and one barn owl can catch up to 2,000 mice. When attempting to reduce rodent populations, it's counterproductive to poison their natural predators.

Rodenticides are not effective for long-term rodent management. Let nature do its job as intended. In a healthy ecosystem, the natural predators of mice and rats will keep rodent populations in check. The inadvertent killing of predators with poison adds to rodent overpopulation issues.

The Pesticide Management Program through CT DEEP describes integrated pest management (IPM) as a common-sense approach to pest control in all environments from residential to municipal, commercial and campus settings, for both interior and exterior use. It is not necessary for a home IPM program to be complex to be successful. There are other ways of suppression and exclusion that are safer.

One town in Connecticut, Newtown, made history by being the first to ban first- and second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides on municipal properties by adopting a policy. Southbury was the second town to do so. Cassandra said they are doing these presentations to encourage other towns to adopt the same policy. She is asking Thomaston to consider said policy as well.

New Business/Discuss-Approve Light-Up Budget, Bylaws and Contracts:

Beth Schaffer was in attendance to present.

BUDGET - Beth shared the budget sheet. They had a starting balance of \$32,367.32 as of September 10th with an event total of \$19,800.00 which was rounded up. They would have \$12,567.32 as a balance after the event which doesn't include the 2026 sponsor

donations, car show and Festival of Trees. First Selectman Sileo asked if the \$19,800.00 was a **“not to exceed”** amount and she said that was correct.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to approve the LUT budget as presented with a not to exceed \$19,800.00 with the caveat that we don't throw candy or candy papers all over the downtown streets. Motion carries unanimously.

They have decided not to throw candy this year, but to come up with other solutions like having candy stations to hand out the candy. First Selectman Sileo said he had a conversation with Highway Superintendent, Bert Galpin about sweeping the streets before the event and just after the event, including bringing in some additional trash bins. Beth also indicated that they are working on other issues that deal with adult beverages.

BYLAWS -

The bylaws have gone through some revisions over the past year as they started out too wordy. We have now made them more streamlined and easier to follow. Selectman Campbell wanted to know how many members they do have in order to fulfill quorum. Selectman Burr asked how do you know if you have a quorum if you don't know how many members you have. Beth said they have seven voting members and quorum would be four members.

Selectman Burr said they need to have a structure that allows for a legal meeting. This information should be spelled out under **“Article III – Elected Officers and Executive Committee and Duties”**. It should start, “Light Up Thomaston shall consist of **five (5)** Elected Officers, **two (2)** Voting Members and **no limit on** Working Members with terms running one full fiscal year.” They can elect two voting members out of the group of working members. Selectman Campbell agrees as this helps protect them as a committee of the town.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to approve of the bylaws as amended. Motion carries unanimously.

CONTRACTS –

All vendor contracts were presented and reviewed with the BOS. Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to approve of the 12 vendor contracts for LUT as presented. Motion carries unanimously.

New Business/First Selectman Administrative Assistant Job Description:

This job description has gone through a heavy rewrite. Both Debbie and Rich modified two older job descriptions and came up with the one presented tonight. Debbie has been going through all of her responsibilities to create an outline. Some of the duties that Debbie has been doing have been removed and transferred to another department. The idea is to have someone by the end of this month and bring that person onboard to parallel Debbie for the last couple of weeks.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to approve the First Selectman's Administrative Assistant job description as presented. Motion carries unanimously

New Business/Dissolution of the POCD Steering Committee:

First Selectman Sileo said the POCD Steering Committee was put together for a singular purpose only and has no direct function otherwise. No longer needed.

Motion was made by Selectman Campbell and seconded by Selectman Burr to dissolve the POCD Steering Committee as its purpose has been completed. Motion carries unanimously.

New Business/DECD State Historic Preservation Office Survey and Planning Grant – Certified Resolution:

We would like to apply for a grant from DECD to draft our mission statement and the history of our downtown area. We have been working with SHPO to create a historic district in the downtown. We find out what area would make sense. We held an initial public hearing. We invited those that live in the area and business owners. Historical research includes homes, business and municipal buildings in the area. SHPO offers these grants, up to \$20,000, which is what we will ask for. We will put in the application and should that application be approved, there are many opportunities to use these funds. It is to produce a map of sorts.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell that:

Richard A. Sileo, First Selectman, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of this municipality a contract with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) for a State Historic Preservation Office Survey and Planning Grant for FY 2026.

Motion carries unanimously.

New Business/Bid Selection for Opera House, Phase 2a:

Selectman Burr presented the bids. Three companies bid on this project. They were John Canning out of Cheshire with a base bid of \$1,064,580; Conrad Schmitts with a base bid of \$614,863 out of Illinois and Evergreene out of Brooklyn, NY with a base bid of \$647,550. Olek was another company that did not bid. There is a spreadsheet with all the categories and numbers. We had selection criteria that we used in this process. All companies had questions which became part of the addendum.

Evergreene had the lowest hourly rate, Conrad Schmitt was the highest with Canning in between. Evergreene also included the bid bond with 5% retainage, had the lowest hourly rates, did sign and attach notarized copy of the bid bond and COI's. Also, length of time to complete project went from 18 to 26 weeks with Conrad Schmitt, 23 to 30 weeks for Canning and 26 to 29 weeks for Evergreene.

Schedule is a bit difficult to work with keeping in mind Landmark's 2026/2027 season. Evergreene has a good knowledge of the theater as they have already done work with eagle. They came out with 9.75 rating points overall.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to recommend approval of Evergreene Architectural Arts for Phase 2a. Motion carries unanimously.

Old Business/Certified Resolution for Small Cities Grant:

This is the resolution that is part of the \$2.5M that was granted to the Town for the Green Manor housing project through the State of Connecticut Department of Housing.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell that:

WHEREAS, Federal monies are available under the Connecticut Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program, administered by the State of Connecticut, Department of Housing pursuant to Public Law 93 -3 83, as amended; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 127c, and Part VI of Chapter 130 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Commissioner of Housing is authorized to disburse such Federal monies to local municipalities; and,

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Thomaston accept grant funding from the State for \$2,500,000.00 in order to undertake a Small Cities Community Development Program and to execute the associated Assistance Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

- 1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for State Assistance imposed by Part VI of Chapter 130 of The Connecticut General Statutes; and,**
- 2. That the acceptance by the Town of Thomaston in an amount not to exceed \$2,500,000.00 is hereby approved, and that the First Selectman of the Town of Thomaston is hereby authorized and directed to execute such other documents as may be required by the Commissioner, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance, to execute any amendments, rescissions, and revisions thereto and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of Thomaston.**

Certified a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Town of Thomaston at a meeting of its Board of Selectmen on October 6, 2026 and which has not been rescinded or modified in any way whatsoever.

Motion carries unanimously.

Old Business/Alcohol on Town Property – nothing more to report.

Old Business/TVAC Agreement – nothing more to report.

Old Business/Waterbury Water Main – sent a few reminders, but have not heard anything back.

Old Business/Nystrom's Communication Tower Cell Companies – nothing more to report, but may have a company in mind to reach out to.

Old Business/Judson Street Drainage – sent out reminder to Tighe & Bond as they were going to put together some ideas for Judson Street drainage pipe. Will get back to them.

Old Business/Education Budget – we approved the auditors at a recent town meeting to do the financial review and have a signed contract with them. We have a kickoff meeting with them on Thursday.

Board/Commission Appointments/Resignations:

We received a resignation letter from George Seabourne dated September 30th resigning from the Board of Finance, effective immediately. Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to accept the resignation of George Seabourne from the Board of Finance, effective immediately. Motion carries unanimously.

Selectman Burr requested that the First Selectman send a thank you letter for all his years of service.

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We received a resignation letter from George Seabourne dated September 30th resigning as a Justice of Peace, effective immediately. Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to accept the resignation of George Seabourne as Justice of Peace member, effective immediately. Motion carries unanimously.

We received a resignation letter from Veronica Leduc dated September 9th resigning from the WPCA commission. Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to accept the resignation of Veronica Leduc from the WPCA commission. Motion carries unanimously.

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Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to amend the agenda to add under **“Board/Commission Appointments/Resignations”** the appointment of David Shypinka/WPCA, the reappointment of Richard Chandon/WPCA and the reappointment of Becky Skinner/Historical Commission. Motion carries unanimously.

Motion was made by Selectman Campbell and seconded by Selectman Burr to appoint Amber Pinette to the Board of Finance (filling the vacancy left by the resignation of George Seabourne until November 16, 2027). Motion carries unanimously.

Motion was made by Selectman Campbell and seconded by Selectman Burr to reappoint Tom Duffany to the Historical Commission for a term ending September 30, 2030. Motion carries unanimously.

Motion was made by Selectman Campbell and seconded by Selectman Burr to appoint Patrick Hyres to the Economic Development Commission as of October 28, 2026. Motion carries unanimously.

Motion was made by Selectman Campbell and seconded by Selectman Burr to appoint Dave Shypinka to the WPCA Commission (filling the vacancy left by the resignation of Veronica Leduc for a term ending September 30, 2029). Motion carries unanimously.

Motion was made by Selectman Campbell and seconded by Selectman Burr to reappoint Becky Skinner to the Historical Commission for a term ending September 30, 2030. Motion carries unanimously.

Motion was made by Selectman Campbell and seconded by Selectman Burr to reappoint Richard Chandon to the WPCA Commission for a term ending September 30, 2029. 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 \$565.70 to Ally Financial, vehicle sold September, 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 \$391.15 to Ally Financial, vehicle sold March, 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 \$44.35 to Michael Costin. Motion carries unanimously.

Communications - none

Member Comment:

First Selectman Sileo has one candidate for the Reporting Coordinator position. He will be conducting the first-round of interviews on Thursday using an interview guide which he drafted. We also have had someone interested in the Public Works/Mechanic position who picked up their paperwork today.

Selectman Burr – heating strips on the roof before it snows. First Selectman Sileo said Joe Ouellette is working on it. Also, Selectman Burr wanted to know if there has been any enforcement on the new e-bike ordinance? First Selectman Sileo said it hasn't taken affect yet. We have to wait 15 days from Saturday as we had to post it in the paper. There was an assembly at the high school today and Det. Koval explained how the ordinance works.

Public Comment (in room) – none.

Public Comment (on-line) – none.

Motion was made by Selectman Burr and seconded by Selectman Campbell to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m. Motion carries unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Deborah Bournival
Administrative Assistant