

**SELECT BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN MEETING ARTICLES
MAY 5, 2021 MINUTES**

Present: Chair Peter Lammert, Vice-Chair Bill Hahn, Zel Bowman-Laberge, Diane Giese, Sandy Moore, Town Clerk Melissa Stevens, and Town Manager Kara George.

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. remotely on Zoom.

ACTION: Bill Hahn made a motion, seconded by Sandy Moore to enter into Public Hearing. VOTE: 5-0

ARTICLE 2: To elect by secret ballot the following offices:

- **A Date was set for a candidate's night for the Select Board Seat. To be held in person on Monday, May, 17th 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room at the Thomaston Town Office, located at 13 Valley Street.**
- **No questions**

ARTICLE 3: Shall the Town vote to appropriate and authorize the Thomaston Select Board to borrow on behalf of the Town, a principal amount not to exceed One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) through the issuance of general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Thomaston, which may be callable bonds or notes, the proceeds to be used for the purpose of financing replacement of two six-foot diameter culverts where upper Beechwood Street crosses the East Branch of the Oyster River (the "Project") with funds to come from the Culvert Replacement Reserve annually until the Project is paid off in full. Further, to authorize the municipal officers to accept any state and federal grants, which are hereby appropriated for the Project, and to take all actions and execute all documents, contracts, or agreements necessary or convenient to issue the bonds or notes of the Town and to accomplish the Project.

- **No questions**

ARTICLE 4: Shall the Town vote to put all non-real estate/personal property tax revenues in to the Unassigned Fund Balance (surplus), and authorize the Select Board to accept any additional revenue or funds and expend any other revenue from the State, Federal, local and private sources for the support of the Town that may be used to reduce the amount required to be raised by taxation, and to vote to appropriate \$35,000.00 from the MEPERS Retirement Account, and \$22,400 from the Computer Reserve, a total of \$57,400.00, and apply these funds to the FY 2022 tax commitment as a reduction in the amount to be raised from taxation?

- **No questions**

ARTICLE 5: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$740,203 for GENERAL GOVERNMENT for the 2021/2022 Fiscal Year?

- **No questions**

ARTICLE 6: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$109,389 for maintenance and operation of MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS for the 2021/2022 fiscal year?

- **No questions**

ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$585,688 for the POLICE DEPARTMENT for the 2021/2022 fiscal year?

- **No questions**

ARTICLE 8: Shall the Town vote to hire, raise and appropriate \$81,610 for an additional Patrol Officer for the POLICE DEPARTMENT?

- **No questions**

ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$225,017 for PROTECTION AND PUBLIC SAFETY for the 2021/2022 fiscal year?

- **No questions**

ARTICLE 10: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$169,181 for the FIRE DEPARTMENT for the 2021/2022 fiscal year?

- **No questions**

ARTICLE 11: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$729,589 for PUBLIC WORKS for the 2021/2022 fiscal year?

- **No questions**

ARTICLE 12: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$360,402 for the AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT for the 2021/2022 fiscal year?

- **No questions**

ARTICLE 13: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$255,621 for the TRANSFER STATION for the 2021/2022 fiscal year?

- **No questions**

ARTICLE 14: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$8,750 for GENERAL ASSISTANCE for the 2021/2022 fiscal year?

- **No questions**

ARTICLE 15: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$148,256 for the RECREATION & LEISURE SERVICES for the 2021/2022 fiscal year?

- **No questions**

ARTICLE 16: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$15,660 for SOCIAL SERVICES & LOCAL AGENCIES for the 2021/2022 fiscal year?

- **No questions**

ARTICLE 17: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$240,141 for UNCLASSIFIED ACCOUNTS for the 2021/2022 fiscal year?

- **No questions**

ARTICLE 18: Shall the Town vote to consolidate the following RESERVE ACCOUNTS?

1. The Public Works Dump Truck, Backhoe, and Sand/Salt Shed Reserves to the **Public Works Equipment Reserve**
 2. **No questions**
 3. The Culvert Replacement and Drainage Reserves to the **Culvert Replacement Reserve**
 4. **No questions**
 5. The Recreation Center and Skate Park Reserves to the **Recreation Department Reserve**
- **No questions**

ARTICLE 19: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$442,956 for CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS & RESERVE ACCOUNTS for the 2021/2022 fiscal year?

Explanation:

<i>Police Cruiser Reserve</i>	<i>\$ 7,000</i>	<i>Public Works Equipment Reserve</i>	<i>\$30,000</i>
<i>Ambulance Reserve</i>	<i>\$25,000</i>	<i>Culvert Replacement Reserve</i>	<i>\$24,000</i>
<i>Fire Apparatus Reserve</i>	<i>\$30,000</i>	<i>Watts Block Building Reserve</i>	<i>\$ 8,000</i>
<i>Municipal Facilities Reserve</i>	<i>\$50,000</i>	<i>Computer Reserve</i>	<i>\$15,700</i>
<i>Academy Maintenance Reserve \$ 7,000</i>			

- **No questions**

ARTICLE 20: Shall the Town vote to permanently increase the property tax levy limit established for the Town of Thomaston by State Law in the event that the municipal budget approved under the preceding articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than that tax levy limit?

- **No questions**

ARTICLE 21: Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to expend funds from the (Non-TIF) Dragon Credit Enhancement Agreement (CEA) for economic development purposes that are consistent with the Dragon Tax Increment Financing District established in February 2002?

- **Question: How much is the budget for the Thomaston Green Task Force? Zel Bowman-Laberge replied that it depended on what the Task Force would need.**
- **No further questions**

ARTICLE 22: Shall the voters of Town of Thomaston amend the existing Dragon Cement Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District and Development Program by extending the term to 30 years and updating this TIF District and Development Program as described in the TIF Application on file at the Town Office?

- **No questions**

ARTICLE 23: Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into multi-year contracts (not to exceed three (3) years) for the lease or purchase of goods and services, when they deem it in the best financial interest of the Town?

- **Question: Would the dollar amount be capped? Further explanation given for clarity as to meaning of a multi-year contract.**
- **No further questions**

ARTICLE 24: Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board TO MOVE UP TO 10% OF UNEXPENDED BALANCES from various budget categories as they deem advisable to meet unanticipated expenses, emergencies, and to aid in the smooth transition of Town business?

- **No questions**

ARTICLE 25: Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board and Treasurer, on behalf of the Town, to apply for and accept grants, gifts, donations, and other funds or contributions, including trust funds, that may be given or left to the Town?

- **No questions**

ARTICLE 26: Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to dispose of tax acquired property in any manner which the Select Board deems in the best interest of the Town of Thomaston, except that the Select Board shall use the special sale process required by 36 M.R.S. § 943-C for qualifying homestead property if they choose to sell it to anyone other than the former owners.

- **No questions**

ARTICLE 27: Shall the Town vote to permit acceptance of PREPAID TAXES and to fix the dates of December 1, 2021 for the first payment and June 1, 2022 for the second payment, when the taxes shall become due and payable; and, to see if the Town will fix the rate of interest at 6% percent to be charged on taxes unpaid after said date for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

- **No questions**

ARTICLE 28: Shall the Town vote to set the interest rate of 2% to be paid by the Town on abated taxes pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. Section 506-A.

- **No questions**

ARTICLE 29: Shall an ordinance entitled "Section 104-Personnel Committee" be repealed?

- **No questions**

ARTICLE 30: Shall the Town vote to enact an ordinance to be added to *Chapter 1, Thomaston Government & Organization as Article XVIII, Section 118-Exemption of Eligible Active Duty Military Personnel from Motor Vehicle Excise Tax?*

- **No questions**

ARTICLE 31: Shall Chapter 7, Thomaston Land Use and Development Ordinance be amended by the additions of Permitted and Conditional Uses as proposed by the Thomaston Planning Board?

- **No questions**

ARTICLE 32: Shall Chapter 7, Thomaston Land Use and Development Ordinance be amended by the addition of ARTICLE VIII ENERGY SYSTEMS, Section 758 Solar Energy Systems as proposed by the Thomaston Planning Board?

- **No questions**

ARTICLE 33: Shall Chapter 10, Definitions be amended by the additions and deletions of definitions as proposed by the Thomaston Planning Board?

- **No questions**

ARTICLE 34: Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to enter into an Interlocal Agreement for the purpose of creating the Midcoast Internet Development Corporation?

- **No questions**

ACTION: Bill Hahn made a motion, seconded by Sandy Moore to adjourn at 6:43 p.m. VOTE: 5-0


Chairman Peter Lammert


Town Clerk Melissa Stevens