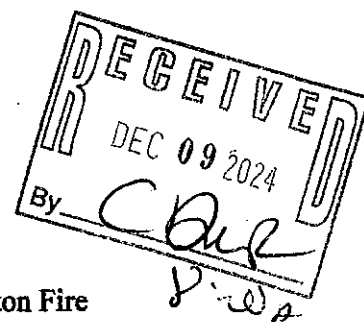


**Board of Fire Commissioners  
Town of Thomaston  
Thomaston Fire Department**



November 4, 2024

The monthly meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was held at the Thomaston Fire Station.

Attendance:	Commissioner Tim Quinn	Chief Glenn Clark
	Commissioner Jerry Scully	Asst. Chief John Albrecht
	Commissioner Robert Norton Jr	Fire Marshal Robert Norton Sr.
	Commissioner Allan Olivero	

1. The meeting was called to order at 1800 hours by Chairman Quinn
2. **Fire Marshals Report:**

Fire Marshal Norton submitted reports for the month of October. There were no notable fire calls. Inspections are being worked on as owners respond to letters.
3. **Previous Month Minutes:**

A motion was made by Comm. Olivero and seconded by Comm. Scully to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve them as presented. Motion Passed.
4. **Bills:**

There was no financial report or bills available at the meeting.
5. **Report of the Chiefs:**
  - a. Air compressor is in and wired. Waiting air quality test before it can be used to fill bottles
  - b. Tac 3 went to assist in Berlin at the Hawthorne Fire.
  - c. Utility 3 is out of service; the check engine light came on and was not running properly. They would like to investigate putting in capital to replace this vehicle.
  - d. Open house went ok.
  - e. There is no storage space left in the fire station. They would like a new storage container for out back. The cost is approximately \$4300. See New Business
  - f. FEMA grant for PPE was denied.
  - g. FFII class is finishing up, Due to the fire danger all State and Regional School can not do live burns in class A buildings.
  - h. The old compressor has not value other than replacement parts for a department that has similar or the same one. It was decided to reach out to Cheshire who has 3 of them to see if they would like it for parts.
  - i. A new toolbox was purchased.

- j. **Training:** 11/11 Search and Rescue/Forcible Entry, 11/18 May Days, 11/25 Lost and Disorientated, 12/2 Accountability System, 12/9 Radio Communications, 12/16 CPR
6. **Report of Secretary/Treasurer:** No report
7. **Report of Special Committees:** Comm. Olivero reported on the following activities. 11/16 Food and Toy Drive, 12/13 Members Christmas Party, 12/15 Santa Run, 6/28/2025 will be the town's anniversary parade. The department voted to participate in it with St. Peter's Drum Corp. The anniversary committee will be placing banner holders on the light poles that will be there for our future use after the anniversary events.
8. **Old Business:** None.
9. **New Business:**
  - a. A motion was made by Comm Scully and seconded by Comm Olivero that is Comm Oldham can find money in the budget that we approve up to \$4500 to purchase another storage container for out back. Motion passed.
  - b. A motion was made by Comm Olivero and seconded by Comm Norton to approve the Members Christmas Party. Motion passed. An additional motion was made by Comm Scully and seconded by Comm Norton to approve up to \$800 towards the Christmas Party. Motion passed.
  - c. A letter was submitted to the commission from Captain's Bevel, Provonost, and Lieutenant Riely regarding smoking in and in front of the station. After a discussion a motion was made by Comm Scully and seconded by Comm Olivero that effective immediately smoking is banned anywhere inside the building or in the front of the building in public view. The only allowable smoking area will be in the rear of the fire station 20 feet away from the back door. A memo will be drafted from the commission and posted. Motion passed.
10. **Report of Commissioners:** None
11. **Other Business:** None
12. **Executive Session:** None
13. There being no further business, a motion was made by Comm Norton and seconded by Comm Olivero to adjourn the meeting at 1839 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

*Robert V. Norton Jr.*

Robert Norton Jr.  
Filling in for Commission Secretary

27 October 2024

To the Thomaston Board of Fire Commissioners:

For the purposes of health and safety and to maintain a professional image, this letter is to request that the Board *immediately* implement a ban on smoking and vaping *inside and in front* of the Firehouse.

Smoking is a leading cause of many *preventable* cancers, heart disease, pulmonary issues, and a myriad of other health conditions. We have installed Plymovents and new structural turnout gear washing equipment to limit exposure to carcinogens and other contaminants from the equipment that we use to protect ourselves and the lives and property of the people we serve, yet, we still allow members to smoke inside of the Apparatus Bay, which not only endangers the members that partake in the consumption of tobacco and vaping products, but also poses a risk to bystanders through second-hand smoke, as it is free to travel throughout the entire Apparatus Bay, further increasing the risk of preventable contamination to our equipment.

We have a duty to maintain and preserve the multi-million dollars' worth of equipment that the town has entrusted to us. More importantly, we have a duty to provide the highest standard of readiness to respond to emergencies, and enabling the use of performance-reducing substances within the premises degrades the health of our members, and therefore, our ability to effectively respond when called upon.

It is said that the Thomaston Volunteer Fire Department is a home for all members to be welcomed, yet we have received numerous complaints about the foul odor caused by smoking inside of the firehouse, which makes some of our membership feel uncomfortable, and is a contradiction of our values within this organization.

Though we are a volunteer department, we still have a professional image to maintain in the eyes of the public and our counterparts in Emergency Services. A group of Firefighters smoking inside and immediately outside of the facility in full view of the public connotes a negative image of our department. When members of the public, our mutual aid partners, or other guests enter our home, they should not be subjected to the odor or haze of tobacco smoke or vape clouds.

For the health and safety of our members, guests, and the people we serve, and to preserve our image as a professional organization, we request that this ban be implemented *immediately* upon receipt of this letter at the next scheduled Commissioners' meeting.

Submitted on behalf of the Officers of the Thomaston Volunteer Fire Department by:

Captain Matthew Pronovost

Captain Matthew Belval

Lieutenant Adam Rieley

Thomaston Fire Dept.

# Memo

**To:** All Department Members  
**From:** Board of Fire Commissioners  
**Date:** 11/04/2024  
**Re:** Smoking Policy at the Thomaston Fire Department

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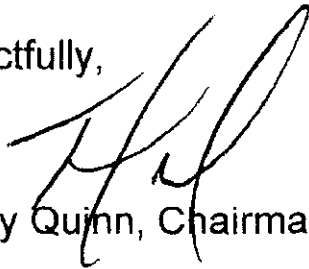
At the November 4, 2024 Commissioners Meeting there was a discussion on a smoking policy for the grounds of the Thomaston Fire Department.

Effective immediately smoking is banned from inside or in front of the building.

The only allowable smoking area will be in the rear of the building 20' from the back door.

We appreciate your anticipated compliance to the policy as we all want to promote a healthy atmosphere for our members and guests.

Respectfully,



Timothy Quinn, Chairman of the Board