

South Thomaston Select Board

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 6:00pm

Meeting Conducted Via Zoom and Broadcasted Live on YouTube

View Online: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iwv_GblrUs

Board Members Present:

- Chair Walter Reitz, Cheryl Waterman, and Jan Gaudio

Also Present:

- Town Administrator Owen Casas, Town Clerk Chelsea Summers, Library Director Pennie Alley, CEO/LPI/LHO Mo Dube-Fortin, EMA Director Betty Thomas, ACO Ralph Demmons, Fire Chief Bryan Calderwood, Ambulance Director Amy Drinkwater, Moderator Michael Mayo, Limor Marine, Wes Pratt, and Theo Pratt

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Reitz at 6:03pm.

II. Adjustments to the Agenda

None

III. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Pennie Alley suggested the Town reintroduce a newsletter as an avenue of communication with residents and requested the meeting minutes and agendas be relocated to the main page of the Town's website for easier access. After discussion, Select Board members agreed the requests were both reasonable and beneficial. Town Administration will seek guidance from veteran newsletter creators and plan to include a newsletter in 2020 August tax bill mailings.

IV. People Scorecard

- a. New Hires** – Limor Marine was recommended to the Select Board by Director Drinkwater as a potential hire for the Ambulance Department. Chair Reitz indicated a preference to postpone the hiring, citing Town policy and previously obtained legal advisement to meet with candidates prior to making a hiring decision. Board Member Waterman felt hiring Marine immediately was acceptable based on Director Drinkwater's record of providing worthy candidates coupled with current public health circumstances. Board Member Gaudio noted a meeting would be preferable but agreed with Board Member Waterman regarding the circumstances. ***Waterman moved that the Board approve the hiring of Marine. Gaudio seconded. No discussion. Motion passed 2-1. Reitz voted in opposition.***

(Note: Marine joined the meeting after the vote, was introduced, and welcomed aboard by the Chair, other Board members, and Department Heads)

- b. Recruitment in Process**

None

c. Service Anniversaries

May will mark the anniversary of Gerald Grierson's 38th year of service to the Town.

d. Awards and Recognition

None

V. Financial Review

a. Revenue vs Forecast/Budget

Decreased auto excise for the month of April 2020 was reported.

b. Spending vs Forecast/Budget

Increased EMS wages and expected FEMA reimbursement was reported.

c. Significant Planned Expenditures

The need of a TAN to cover May 2020 school expenses was reported.

d. Significant Unplanned Expenditures

None

VI. South Thomaston Citizen Requests and Presentations

None

VII. Non-Resident Requests and Presentations

None

VIII. Department Head Presentations

Ambulance Director Drinkwater reported a 25% reduction in calls for April.

Library Director Alley discussed plans to move forward on a community garden located at Gilford Butler School and holding the Annual Library Book Sale throughout the month of July 2020 with additional health precautions based on the Governor's orders.

Fire Chief Calderwood discussed reestablishing Fire Department trainings after June 1, 2020 with additional health precautions based on the Governor's orders.

IX. New Business

a. Update on Town Response to Coronavirus

An update was given regarding protective glass installation at the Town Office.

b. Review Plan to Reopen Town Office to the Public

A tentative reopen date of June 1, 2020 with added sanitation and health precautions based on the Governor's orders was discussed.

c. Discussion and Potential Setting of Town Meeting Date

Options for holding Annual Town Meeting as well as a Select Board meeting to reexamine the warrant were considered with decisions and dates to follow.

d. Review and Potential Approval of Conservation Commission Proposed Bylaws Charge

A concept of bylaws created by interested residents was briefly introduced.

e. Review and Potential Appointment of Conservation Commission Members

After discussing the proposed Commission and its duties, it was determined the legalities surrounding the creation of the Commission required further research.

f. Discussion and Guidance on Delinquent Dog Registrations

It was resolved that residents with delinquent dog registrations would be extended a 30-day grace period noticed by a postcard mailing.

- g. Accept Donation from Sandra Williams for Village Cemetery**
Waterman moved that the Board accept the cemetery donation. Gaudio seconded. No discussion. Motion passed 3-0.
- h. Schedule Ordinance Public Hearings (2020 Warrant Articles 6 & 7)**
It was decided that Ordinance Public Hearings would be noticed to take place at the joint meeting of the Select Board and Planning Board the evening of June 18th, 2020.
- i. Old Business**
None

X. Correspondence

- **Notice of Lease Amendment for Aquaculture (DMR)**
Receipt of the notice was acknowledged.
- **Information on RealTerm Streetlight Maintenance**
The optional maintenance agreement was discussed and found to be unnecessary.

XI. Reports and Administration - April

- a. Ambulance Director**
- b. Assessors' Agent**
- c. Code Enforcement Officer**
The CEO gave an update on the status of several open land use permits.
- d. EMA Director**
- e. Fire Department**
- f. Local Plumbing Inspector**
The LPI gave an update of intent to complete all secondary inspections required.
- g. Treasurer**
Updates were given on FEMA reimbursement and a submitted energy grant.
- h. Town Administrator**
The Town was informed by the DOT of its intent to pave Buttermilk Lane in June 2020. A brief discussion took place regarding presentation options of the Island Road Project to residents as well as developments to the Town Skate Park. Terri Baines expressed interest in joining the Budget Committee and Board Member Waterman responded with a desire to appoint Baines immediately.
Waterman moved that the Board appoint Terri Baines to the Budget Committee. Gaudio seconded. No discussion. Motion passed 3-0.
- i. Authorize Treasurer's Warrants**
Board Member Gaudio was given authority to sign warrants on behalf of the Board.
- j. Review Check Reconciliations for April 2020**
- k. Approve 2020 Select Board Minutes of March 4th, March 10th & April 14th**
Gaudio moved to accept 2020 Select Board Meeting Minutes from February 18th, March 4th, & March 10th with noted edits. Waterman seconded. No Discussion. Motion passed 3-0.
- l. Schedule Future Meetings**
The next 2020 Select Board Meetings were planned for the evenings of June 9th and July 7th.

XII. Adjournment

- *Waterman moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:32pm. Gaudio seconded. No Discussion. Motion passed 3-0.*