



Town of South Thomaston, Maine
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Selectboard:
Jan Gaudio
Walter Reitz
John Spear

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: August 11, 2020 Time: 6:00 PM Place: Municipal Building Rev.0

Select Board Members Present: Jan Gaudio, John Spear and Walter Reitz
Others: Town Administrator Casas, Library Director Pennie Alley, Casey Morrill, Jeff Northgraves, Andrew Stanicoff, Sandy Retzlaff, Sandra Wallace, Ruth Rinklin, Sheriff Tim Carroll. The following individuals last names are not known to me but were in attendance for some portion of the meeting: Randy, Ivan, Linda and John.

Note: A listing as present does not denote attendance for the entire meeting. This meeting was live streamed on YouTube and can be watched in full by subscribing to the South Thomaston YouTube channel.

I. Call to Order

Reitz called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

II. Adjustments to the Agenda

- There were two changes to the agenda. One was to add a discussion item of the Ordinance Review Committee charge/ policy under "department heads" and the other was to add a discussion about the skate park under "new business".

III. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda- None

IV. People Scorecard-

- There were two new hires considered for the Ambulance Department. One was Rohobot Carlson and the other Becca Pinero. *Both were approved by Spear moving and Gaudio seconding a motion to approve each. **Both passed 3-0.***
- The Board and those in attendance read over the John M. Nickerson Scholarship Award letter received by Town Clerk Chelsea Summers. All in attendance expressed their congratulations and appreciation for Chelsea in receiving this award and for all the hard work she does for the Town. Much applause was given.

V. Financial Review- Financials and the Treasurers Report were reviewed. The Board asked for inquiry into the Payroll deduction holiday suggested by President Trump and what the Town would do around that topic.

VI. South Thomaston Citizens requests and presentation-

- Merle Rockwell- Merle requested that there be a discussion about traffic and pedestrian safety on and around Island Rd on Spruce Head Island. There was much discussion about this topic in relation to roadside vegetation cut back, shoulder improvements, traffic law enforcement, speed bumps, signs, and how the state conducts traffic studies. The discussion included input from Rockwell, Rinklin, Carroll, Stanicoff, Morrill, the Board and Administrator.
- *Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion directing the Administrator to work with the Road Commissioner to identify and cut back roadside vegetation in trouble areas around Town, specifically around road corners to increase sight lines. **Motion passed 3-0.***
- *Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion authorizing the Chair to amend and sign a letter about speed and traffic around the Island, which would then be distributed to those who work at the Spruce Head Fishermans Co-Op, Atwoods Lobster and McCloons. **Motion passed 3-0.***
- Sandy Retzlaff had requested a discussion about the proposed South Thomaston Conservation Commission. Sandy gave an update on what the group had been working on. The Board gave an update on the Town process to create an ordinance for the Commission that would be submitted to the citizens for a vote at a future Town Meeting.

VII. Non resident requests and presentations- None

VIII. Department Head-

- NEW ITEM- Jeff Northgraves, Chair of the Town's Ordinance Review Committee, gave an update on the work ORC has been doing. He indicated that the Committee would like to be working on language for new ordinances, not necessarily just the existing ordinances. He related that if the language in their policy constraining them to just existing ordinances was struck, they could then work on new ordinance language properly.
- *Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to strike from the Ordinance Review Policy language that constrained the Committee to only existing ordinances. **Motion passed 3-0.***
- Library Director Alley gave update on the Library book sale, community garden project, cemeteries, and recreation.
- Ambulance Director Amy Drinkwater gave her Ambulance Service update and reviewed her report with the Board.

IX. New Business-

A. Recognition of volunteers and donors for Town Office Beautification project. Guidance on acceptance of future donations in this regard.

- The Board reviewed and approved of the "Thank you" letter for the volunteers and donors. They also confirmed staff's ability to account for and deposit any donated funds for this project without their vote to accept the funds.

B. Discussion on potentially adopting Title 30A, Sec. 2528, Secret Ballot.

- The Board discussed adopting secret ballot voting and generally supported the concept.

C. Discussion on transitioning away from the Town operating, financially, on the calendar year to the fiscal year.

- The Board expressed their continued support to discuss and work towards transitioning to operating on the fiscal year (July 1-June 30).

D. Discussion on collecting taxes twice per year.

- The Board discussed and continued to generally support tax collection twice per year.

E. Review and potential signing of documents for Streetlight project

- The Board reviewed multiple documents related to the streetlight project. This included items from Machias Savings Bank, RealTerm Energy and Central Maine Power Co.
- *Gaudio moved and Reitz seconded a motion to approve the terms and agreement for a 5 year promisory note for a loan from Machias of \$38,000 and the purchase agreement with Central Maine Power, both contingent upon review from legal counsel. The motion further empowered the Board Chair to sign both documents for the Board after legal review if he deems the terms advisable. **Motion passed 2-1 (Spear voting in the negative)***

F. Review and signing of revised 2020 Tax Commitment papers

- *Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to execute the Assessors Certificate of Assessment and Certificate of Commitment for the 2020 tax Commitment. **Motion passed 3-0.***

G. Island Rd Project Update

- The Administrator gave an update on the project.

H. MMA vote for Vice-President and Executive Committee members

- Board reviewed and discussed the candidates.
- *Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to approve the slate of MMA officers presented. **Motion passed 3-0.***

I. Review of Building Maintenance Priorities.

- A list of desired building maintenance priorities was provided to the Board. The item was tabled for discussion at this time.

J. AGENDA CHANGE- ADDED SKATE PARK DISCUSSION

- An update was given on the possibility of the Town receiving donated skate park equipment. The Board continued to express their support of receiving any and all usable skate park equipment.

X. Old Business-

- Personal Property tax reconciliation
 - *Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to draft and send out a letter reminding delinquent personal property tax payers of their payment and asking for voluntary payment. **Motion passed 3-0.***
- Board reviewed final Community Room policy revisions.

- Amended Stump Dump Policy was reviewed. No action was taken.
- Final action on remaining post Town Meeting appointments was tabled.

XI. Review Correspondence- none

XII. Reports and Administration

Reports were reviewed.

A. Minutes of July 7th and 22nd, 2020

- Meeting minutes were amended. *Reitz moved and Spear seconded a motion to approve the meeting minutes as amended. **Motion passed 3-0***

B. Schedule Future Meeting(s)

Next meetings were set for September 8th and 22nd as well as October 13th and 27th.

Adjournment

Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to adjourn at 9:25 pm.

Motion passed 3-0.