



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

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: Sept 8, 2020 Time: 6:00 PM Place: Municipal Building and YouTube

Select Board Members Present: Jan Gaudio, Walter Reitz and John Spear
Others: Town Administrator Casas, Library Director Pennie Alley, Addressing Officer Arthur Grierson, Sondra Wallace, Peter Obrien, William Torpe

Note: A listing as present does not denote attendance for the entire meeting.

I. Call to Order

Reitz called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Chair Reitz gave a statement on how the Board wished to conduct meetings under COVID. He expressed desire that all in attendance follow CDC guidelines on face coverings, including when talking, and proper physical distancing.

II. Adjustments to the Agenda-

Chair Reitz suggested adding an agenda item for reviewing action items from previous meetings. He further suggested that we log those items with references to who has this on their "to do" list. There was no objection.

III. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Public comment is as follows:

- Director Alley gave a report out on the Historical Societies "Community Picknick" celebrating South Thomaston Heritage Day. There was a discussion on the Town's responsibility on communicating community events.

IV. Meeting Minutes-

- Minutes of August 11th were reviewed and amended. *Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to approve the minutes as amended. **Motion passed 3-0***
- Minutes of September 1th were reviewed and amended. *Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to approve the minutes as amended. **Motion passed 3-0***
- Minutes of September 3th were reviewed and amended. *Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to approve the minutes as amended. **Motion passed 3-0***

V. Treasurers Report

- The town financials and the treasurers report were reviewed and discussed by the Board.
- Sondra Wallace was in attendance and she has indicated an interest in being appointed to the Budget Committee. She discussed with the Board her experience and desire to be on the Committee.
- *Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to appoint Sondra Wallace to the Budget Committee with a length of term coinciding with the remainder of member Alan Hall term.* Hall resigned recently. There was discussion on having Sondra speak with the Budget Committee Chair prior to the appointment. *Spear and Gaudio withdrew their motions respectively.*

VI. Resident Requests

- Mr. Obrien lives in South Thomaston and had his address changed as per the ordinances of the Town and other governmental requirements. Mr. Obrien discussed his issues around the address change and offered his perspective on why the change was not necessary. There was good discussion between Mr. Obrien, the Board, the Administrator and Addressing Officer Grierson, about the requirements the Town has and any flexibility that might exist for not changing addresses when they otherwise would.
- It was determined by the Board that they needed more information before making any decision. *Spear moved to table the item until next month to allow more time for review, Gaudio seconded. **Motion passed 3-0.***

VII. Department Head Presentations/ Reports

- Library Director and Cemetery Overseer Alley gave updates on the library and cemetery. There was no hard date on further phases of reopening the Library but the Director would continue to take appointment and consider options. There was discussion about the mowing at Village Cemetery and some damage to monuments. There was a request that Thorndike Cemetery not be moved for the remainder of the year because of the recent work done to fix monuments. The work done by volunteers and Joseph Ferrannini, owner of Gravestone Matters, needs to cure for stability.

VIII. New Business-

A. Accounts and Banking Policies

- There was discussion about policies related to monies donated to the Town under specific conditions and how the Town might better structure that process. With examples being monies donated by the public to various Departments for their general use. The accounts where this money is kept and how it is spent should have a policy. The Administrator will generate a very basic policy for Board review.

B. Streetlight Update

- The Administrator gave an update on the streetlight project.

C. Island Road Update

- The Administrator gave an update on the Island Rd project.

IX. Old Business

A. Review of Maintenance Priorities

- There was discussion about progress on building maintenance and what items were anticipated in the remainder of this year. There is still a desire by the Board to prioritize items that were listed for budget proposals in the coming year.

B. Appointments

- *Gaudio moved and Reitz seconded a motion to appoint Select Board member Spear to the Georges River Regional Shellfish Management Ordinance Board of Directors. **Motion passed 2-1 with Spear voting in the negative.***
- There was discussion of reappointing Pennie Alley as alternate member to the GRRSMO Board but Pennie reminded the Administrator that there had been a suggestion to ask Kearney Neagle, a member of the GRRSMO advisory committee, if she wanted to be the alternate. The Administrator will reach out to her and bring this item back to the Board.
- It was requested that the Administrator bring options on reorganizing the Budget Committee member appointments to bring them back onto a cycle of 1/3 of the members expiring every year. The Administrator will bring this item back to the Board.

C. Next Steps for Fiscal Year and other Special Town Meeting items

- There was continued discussion about proposing changes to the Town's financial year, collecting taxes twice per year, and changing Town meeting to June. The Board supported the following:
- Changing from the Calendar finance year (Jan-Dec) to the Fiscal financial year (July- June).
- Proposing tax collection on October 1st and April 1st, instead of once on October 1st.
- A bifurcated Town Meeting that would coincide with the annual June election, be split over two days, and allow for the secret ballot election for Select Board and School Board members. There would still be annual open Town Meeting but Select and School Board members would not be elected there.
- Generating an 18 month budget that would cover the additional six months to get the financial year aligned with others like the federal and state government and the school district.
- The wanted the Admin office to continue refining the cash flow analysis as this will help in crafting an 18 month budget.
- Schedule a public information meeting to discuss these items with the public.
- There was an action item for Chair Reitz to work on language for public communication. He would then send for review and wordsmithing.

X. Reports review and comment- Tabled

XI. Warrants Review and Approval- Tabled

XII. Schedule Future Meetings- Tabled

XIII. Adjournment

***After completion of Old Business, Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to table the remaining items and adjourn at 9:12 pm.
Motion passed 3-0.***