



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

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

REV. 3

Date: Sept 22, 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. There were many members of the public at the meeting but the following were known to have been in attendance: Pam and Adrian Hooydonk, Andrew Stancioff, James MacDonald, Lynne and Gerry Canavan, Travis Fogg, Kevin Gordon, Sharon Setz, Sue Snow, Mary Nolette.

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.

II. Adjustments to the Agenda-

It was suggested to add discussion on elections under new business, accept contributions and discussion about the Transfer Station under correspondence, add discussion with Fire Chief under Department Heads, and move Island Road Project update to immediately following Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes. There were no objections.

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

IV. Resident Requests- E911 Addressing. Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to table this item. Motion passed 3-0.

V. Meeting Minutes-

- Minutes of September 17th were reviewed and amended. *Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Motion passed 3-0*
- Minutes of September 8th were reviewed and amended. *Gaudio moved and Spear seconded a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Motion passed 3-0*

VI. Old Business - item A- Island Road project update

- *Spear moved and Reitz seconded a motion to table old business item A until 1 October, for a different date and possibly a different venue, where this matter can be discussed in a manner that protects the health and safety of the people in this room. Member*

*Spear called for the vote noting that a motion to table is not debatable. **Motion passed 2-1, Gaudio opposed.***

- *Spear moved and Reitz seconded a motion to recess the meeting until 7pm this evening. **Motion passed 3-0.***

VII. Department Head Presentation/ Reports-

- Library Director and Cemetery overseer Pennie Alley gave updates that the Library will work towards a “soft open” in October but will need to gauge the opening for any changes to maintain public health and wellness. The flag will be out at the Library when they are open. She informed the Board that she wanted to do a monument workshop at Village Cemetery, which would be in conjunction with the Maine Old Cemetery Association. Alley was looking for guidance and or support from the Board to do the workshop because she would need to apply for a grant through the Association. The Board voiced their support of her making application.
- Fire Chief Calderwood talked with the Board about doing fire pond maintenance and if the contractor doing the work could keep the material they removed by cleaning out the pond. The Board wanted to know more about the potential value of the material and any cost differential on the project depending on whether or not the contractor keeps the material. The Chief also confirmed his approval to conduct a live fire training exercise at 141 Spruce Head Rd in South Thomaston on Sunday, Oct 4th starting at approximately 8am. He had the Boards approval and will post a notice of the training.

VIII. New Business-

- A. **Abatements of Taxes-** *Gaudio moved and Spear seconded a motion to approve abatements for the following properties and amounts:*
- *Everbank Commercial Finance, personal property account number 72, in the amount of \$188.80.*
 - *O’Connell Family Revocable Trust, 23 Chapel St, in the amount of \$1,381.50.*
 - *Kathleen Leach, 6 Heron Cove, in the amount of \$1,760.65. **Motion passed 3-0.***
- B. **Ambulance Write Offs-** *The policy on writing off ambulance bills was discussed and the board felt the policy should have better explanations. There was discussion with Ambulance Director Drinkwater about the policy, billing and collections. Notes were given on the policy and Director Drinkwater will bring changes to the Board at a later date. Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to table this item. **Motion passed 3-0.***
- C. **Accept Donations to the Town-** *Gaudio moved and Spear seconded a motion to accept a \$250 donation to Thorndike Cemetery and \$500 in donations to the Ambulance Service, in the name of Steven Waterman, from the following donors: Robert & Jayne Bryant, Dianne Wall, Wanda Johnson, Knowlton Moving and Storage, Cheryl Waterman, Lucy Levenseler, Norman & Elaine Young and Jan & Christina Gaudio. **Motion passed 3-0.***

IX. Old Business-

A. **Appointments were taken out of order so that Mrs. Sondra Wallace could go home earlier. Appointments were as follows:**

- *Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to appoint Mrs. Sondra Wallace to the Budget Committee for a term expiring at the first Select Board meeting following Annual Town meeting of 2021. **Motion passed 3-0.***
- *Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to alter the appointment of Mrs. Kate Greene to the Budget Committee, now expiring at the first Select Board meeting following Annual Town meeting of 2021. **Motion passed 3-0.***
- *Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to alter the appointment of Mrs. Camille Minikis to the Budget Committee, now expiring at the first Select Board meeting following Annual Town meeting of 2023. **Motion passed 3-0.***
- *Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to accept the resignation of Mrs. Eileen Skarka from the Planning Board. **Motion passed, with regret, 3-0.***
- *Gaudio moved and Spear seconded a motion to appoint Mrs. Kearny Negal as alternate for Member Spear as member of the Georges River Regional Shellfish Management Ordinance (GRRSMO) Board with a term ending at the first meeting of the Select Board following Annual Town Meeting of 2021. **Motion passed 3-0.***

B. **Review and update of Maintenance Priorities**

- Maintenance of the Town Office building was discussed. The Administrator is working on improving the exterior lighting at the Town Office, raising the height of the well casing, and better understanding issues with the building gutters. He will be working on maintenance priorities for the 2021 budget.

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

- The Board discussed scheduling for meetings and how to present their items under consideration to the Town.
- *Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to authorize the Chair to approve a meeting plan and public notice for the October 22nd public hearing. **Motion passed 3-0.***

D. **Account and Banking Policy-**

- The draft account and banking policy considered by the Board was discussed and the Administrator will bring more information at a later date.

E. **Streetlight project-**

- The LED streetlight project was discussed and the Administrator gave an update.

F. **Delinquent Personal Property Taxes-**

- This item was discussed. Guidance on how the Board wanted to deal with the delinquencies was given and there would be further resolution at future meetings.

G. **New Item- Elections Prep and Ballot Drop Box-**

- The Administrator gave an update on the work done by the Clerk and Town staff to prepare for the November election and the installation of a drop box for absentee ballots.

X. **Reports review and comment-**

- The Administrator gave his report. There was discussion about whether or not Town staff should have a formal complaint form for residents communicating complaints. It

was determined that complaints should be generally recorded internally but that residents shouldn't have to fill out a form to log a complaint.

- There was discussion about the proposed Committee Application and the Board amended the wording of that document.
- An update on the Fishing for Energy program for the Stump Dump was given.
- The Administrator informed the Board of a request he received by Sandy Retzlaff to use the Town Pier as a location to collect trash from a coastline volunteer clean up on September 26th. Sandy further requested that the Town email listserv be used to communicate the clean up event to members of the community. *Gaudio moved and Spear seconded a motion to approve the use of the Town email listserv to promote a coastline volunteer clean up on September 26th. Motion passed 3-0.*

XI. Warrants Review and Approval- Completed

XII. Schedule Future Meetings- The Board discussed when to hold a meeting to discuss the Island Road project specifically. They determined to hold it October 1st in the Town Office Emergency Bay.

XIII. Adjournment

Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to table the remaining items and adjourn at 9:24 pm.

Motion passed 3-0.