



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

Selectboard Minutes
Date: April 13, 2021, 5:15 PM
Place: Remote Only, Zoom

REV:1

Selectboard Present: Walter Reitz, Jan Gaudio, John Spear
Others Present: Terri-Lynn Baines, John Fancy, Sarah, Lynne Canavan, Julia Obrien, Sandy Weisman, Maureen Spencer, Penelope Alley, Travis Fogg, Bob Surabian, Knox County Sherriff Tim Carroll, Catherine Bendheim, David Taylor, Sondra Wallace, Theo Pratt

I. Call to Order

Reitz called the meeting to order at 5:15

II. Executive Session 1 M.R.S.A.§405(6)(A) Personnel Matter

III. *Gaudio Moved and Spear seconded a motion to enter executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A.§405(6)(A) Personnel Matter.*

Motion passed 3-0.

The Board entered executive session at 5:16
The Board exited executive session at 5:47

Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to suspend the personnel policy and pay the employee out with Covid-19 his/ her regular pay without him/her having to use sick pay. April 7th, 8th, 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th.

Motion passed 3-0.

IV. Adjustments to Agenda

E-mail from Merle Rockwell dated 4-8-2021 added under correspondence.
Budget Correction to fix error found in budget spreadsheet formula added under old business.

V. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda

There was no public comment.

VI. Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Spear suggested adding a note to the minutes of April 6, stating this meeting was convened on April 6 since the meeting scheduled for April 5th was not able to be held because of a Spectrum Internet outage.

Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to approve the minutes of March 29, 2021 and April 6, 2021.

Motion passed 3-0.

VII. Department Heads

No business

VIII. New Business: NV- No Vote, RV- Requires Vote

a. Knox County Sheriff Tim Carroll

There have been many complaints of speeding, laying rubber and loud trucks, mainly in the Keag area. The Knox County Sheriff Department has made an effort to address these issues. Sheriff Carroll hopes the town has seen a difference. He also offered to talk with the Board about having dedicated hours in the Town.

There was a brief discussion on putting stop signs up in the Keag.

b. Snowplow Contract Jim Kalloch

There was a discussion on Kalloch's request of a 6% increase.

Gaudio had an unsigned snowplow contract for the 2020-2021 season with a different amount than the information Baines provided to the Board.

Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to table until we reconcile the differences in the contract price and price in the spreadsheet Baines sent out.

Motion passed 3-0.

c. A Program to Open Conditionally Restricted Shellfish Harvesting Area in Upper St. George River – John Fancy

Fancy discussed the problems of why the area is closed. Oxygen levels are lower, and bacteria is higher than it should be. The group is trying to get a handle on what is causing the pollution in this area. Fancy is requesting the town support the idea of the testing of the river. There will be no cost to the town the long-term goal is to open the river to local clambers and get the depuration diggers out of the river.

A discussion took place on accessing the areas that Fancy plans on testing. Fancy explained he would need to get permission from homeowners or homeowner associations before they go onto the land. Travis Fogg talked about the different places Georges River Shellfish Joint Board is testing. Fogg supports this program too. Fancy and Fogg discussed testing and areas to test.

Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to support the testing program John

Fancy just outlined to us with his understanding that any access over private land would be with permission of the owner.

Motion passed 3-0.

d. Rope at Demo Debris Facility

There was a short discussion about donations for the rope. Travis Fogg wanted to make sure the rope would not be used for fishing. The Board discussed with Fogg about getting the word out to area fisherman about the Fishing for Energy Program.

Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to authorize Baines to grant permission and negotiate the best arrangement for donations she can.

Motion passed 3-0.

e. Earth Day Clean Up – Theo Pratt, Conservation Group

The Conservation Group proposed a cleanup day on April 24th between 10 and 12. The Group will supply gloves and bags. Pratt asked for permission to set the event up on the library lawn.

There was a discussion on the town library's annual roadside clean up and if there would be a conflict. Alley has scheduled her group to do roadside cleanup on May 1, 2021. She did not feel this would be a conflict.

Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to approve the Earth Day clean up and to put it on the website and listserv.

Motion passed 3-0.

f. Request to Use RSU #13 Facility – Ash Point School

Because of covid rules for inside gatherings we need to know the capacity of the gym.

Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to authorize Baines to submit the Building use request form with the understanding we may not end up there.

A discussion took place on the estimate of people that might attend and if we might have to turn people away if there is not room.

Motion passed 3-0.

g. Request for an Address Causing a Road to be Named

Discussion on the name of the road. The name is in violation of the Town Ordinance.

Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to table the request.

Motion passed 3-0.

Baines will talk to Arthur Grierson and have the owners submit a new name.

h. Town Meeting Warrant

The Board walked through last year's articles and reviewed the Articles that would be placed on this year's warrant. Baines will prepare a draft

There was a discussion on holding one public hearing for the all the proposed Ordinances. There was a brief discussion on whether the Ordinances need to go to Town Counsel.

The Board Discussed borrowing money for the exhaust system and moving the item to debt service.

There was a discussion on putting ordinances in the warrant vs having them available at the town office. The Board favored having the Ordinances as attachments, not embedding them in the Warrant.

i. Town Attorney's Rate Increase

There was a discussion of the rate increase and if the Town was notified. Reitz will reach out tomorrow.

j. Shore and Harbor Planning Grant Program

Gaudio has investigated the grant and the Town would be eligible. The Town already has plans for a town landing project from Gartley and Dorskey. Gaudio is willing to put the grant application together. It is due May 3rd.

Old Business

a. Tennis/Basketball Courts Donations

Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion accept donations from the following people in the following amounts for the repair of the tennis and basketball courts. Arthur and Pennie Alley \$100, Thomaston Recycling \$250, Ed Modell & Merle Rockwell \$100, Lynne Fancher Cananvan \$50, Leslie and John Spear \$400, Sue Winters \$25, Jan and Christina Gaudio \$100, Catherine Bendheim \$250, Rich and Anne Norman \$100, Fifield Perry Families \$100, William and Cynthia Anderson \$100, William and Cynthia Anderson \$100, Andrew and Sondra Wallace \$100, Jeremy Alley \$250, Karen and Brian Smith \$50, Charles Hartman \$100, John Koffel \$200, Paul DiMaggio \$500, Michael Sodano \$75, South Thomaston Lions Club \$250.

Spear also mention the First pledged \$500 and Machias Savings Bank has pledged \$1000. Cheryl Waterman has volunteered her time and tractor. The Knox County Airport has donated fill.

Motion passed 3-0.

e. Town Administrator Retirement

Reitz has had his question answered. Baines may set an account up.

f. Approve Audit - Sign Representation Letter

Gaudio moved and Spear seconded a motion to accept the audit and sign the representation letter.

There was a discussion concerning why the audit was so delayed this year.

There was a discussion on the Island Road project.

Motion passed 3-0.

g. Cover Town Report

Alley submitted a historical map of South Thomaston. At the time of the map, South Thomaston included what is now known as Owls Head.

Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to use the map as the cover for the annual town report.

Motion passed 3-0.

VIII. Correspondence

Letter from Chad Harris

The Board discussed the letter received. The Board will forward the letter to the Spruce Head Island Road project engineer.

A discussion took place on the June 1st public hearing.

E-mail from John Koffel

The Board discussed the email received.

There was a lengthy discussion on what type of package will be available to review concerning the Island Road Project at the June 1st meeting.

Koffel requested the Selectboard vote on taking borings. A short discussion on borings followed.

Email from Merle Rockwell

The Board decided this would be better answered after the meeting concerning Gilford Butler tomorrow.

IX. Budget Correction

Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to add \$5,529 to

Building and Grounds for a budget total of \$89,762.

Motion passed 3-0.

IX. Department Head Reports

The Board reviewed the reports.

X, Warrants Review and Approval

Reitz will sign the warrants in the office.

XI. Schedule Future Meetings

Meetings are scheduled out to July 13, 2021

XII. Adjourn

Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to adjourn at 9:01

Motion passed 3-0.

Approved 4-17-2021