



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

Selectboard Minutes  
Date: April 27, 2021, 5:00 PM  
Place: Remote Only, Zoom

**REV:1**

**Selectboard Present:** Walter Reitz, John Spear, Jan Gaudio

**Others Present:** Debra Hall, Terri Baines, Sandy Weisman, Clifford Dacso, Sally Merchant, Matt Siegel, Jeff Northgraves, Pennie Alley, Maureen Spencer, Merle Rockwell, Ed Modell, Steve Betts, Sondra Wallace, Catherine Bendheim

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

**I. Call to Order**

*Reitz called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm*

**II. Broadband Coalition/Mid-coast Broadband-Clifford Dacso**

Debra Hall introduced herself and Matt Siegel. They represent Rockport and Camden on the Mid-coast Broadband Coalition. Clifford Dacso, who represents South Thomaston, explained a little about the Mid-coast Broadband Coalition and the need for low-cost high-capacity internet. Hall/Siegel gave a brief history of the Coalition and its guiding principles, which are basically:

- Access to internet would be available to everyone in the catchment area with "fiber to the home".
- More than one service provider would provide internet access on the coalition's network.
- More competitive prices.
- Faster upload and download speed.

Hall/Siegel discussed the proposed interlocal agreement that they stated Camden, Rockport and Thomaston would be voting on at their June 2021 town meetings. They urged South Thomaston to consider joining the Coalition and ratifying the interlocal agreement. They indicated nine municipalities in Knox and Waldo Counties have expressed some level of interest.

Hall discussed the revenue model.

There was a discussion on cost of hanging fiber on CMP poles and fees that need to be paid to CMP every year.

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There was more discussion on revenue. Hall/Siegel stated funding would be used to start the

project, then municipal loans, or revenue bonds would be issued. Municipal American Rescue Plan Funds could be used. The coalition hopes to receive some of the ARP money Knox County will receive. The ongoing operation revenue stream will be leases to internet providers to use the network.

There was a discussion on a draft of the proposed interlocal agreement and when this interlocal agreement might be considered by Town Meeting for the town of South Thomaston. The difficulties on putting it on the June Town Meeting due to covid restrictions and late date were also discussed.

The initial investment would be \$5,000 for the Town to participate in the Axiom Technology study.

### **III. Ad Hoc Technology Committee**

**This item was not considered.**

### **IV. Adjustments to Agenda**

There were two adjustments to the agenda.

1. Consider paying the employee out with covid two extra days not approved at the last meeting.

*Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to suspend personnel policy rules and pay the employee for April 20th and April 21<sup>st</sup>.*

**Motion passed 3-0.**

2. Letter from Timothy Poulin, Bureau of Liquor Licensing and Lottery Operations, under correspondence.

### **V. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda**

*There was no public comment.*

### **VI. Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes**

*Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to approve the revision 1 minutes of April 13, 2021 and revision 1 minutes of April 14, 2021.*

**Motion passed 3-0.**

### **VII. Department Heads**

Pennie Alley Cemetery Overseer

**Forest Hill Cemetery** -The cemetery needs the fence repaired. Last repairs were done in 2014 at a cost of \$1500. Tom's Fence will send Alley an estimate for the repairs.

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**Village Cemetery**- Wilson has agreed to start mowing the section that will be developed at no cost to the Town in exchange for not mowing Thorndike Cemetery.

**Thorndike Cemetery** - The owners of the property that surrounds the cemetery are willing to take on the mowing of the cemetery. Alley would like to compensate them for taking on the responsibility of the cemetery.

Discussion on compensation to the property owners for mowing Thorndike. Baines will investigate this with our insurance company.

## **VIII. New Business:**

*Reitz moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to accept with regret Ralph Demmon's resignation as ACO.*

**Motion passed 3-0**

*Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to appoint William Demmons as Interim ACO.*

**Motion 3-0.**

## **IX. Old Business**

### **a. Tennis/Basketball Courts Donations**

\$4500 in donations in hand. This doesn't include pledges from Machias Savings and The Historical Society. When those donations are received it will bring the total to \$6500.

Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a Motion to accept donations from Ann Sawyer \$100, Robert and Rhonda Nordstrom \$100, Janice McLennan \$100, Gayle Gallant \$200, Walter Reitz \$100, The First \$500, Joe Godfrey \$250 and Patrick and Kathleen Florence \$50.

Motion passed 3-0.

### **b. Snowplow Contract**

There was a discussion on adding language to make it clear if the State pulled out the deal the Town has with them to plow Rt 131, the Town would no longer be responsible for paying for the plowing of Rt. 131.

Next there was a brief discussion on attachments to the contract and breaking the costs out into more detail.

*Gaudio moved and Spear seconded a motion to table this until next meeting.*

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**Motion passed 3-0.**

**c. Town Warrant**

It was recommended this be a Draft Warrant.

It was also recommended to remove Ash Point Community School and replace with location to be determined. When location is determined also add the address in the warrant.

**1. Gilford Butler School Articles**

**Article 10, 11, 12**

Spear moved to add immediately after Article 12, the Selectboard recommends \$10,000.

Gaudio seconded the motion.

A discussion on supporting the temporary move of the library to Gilford Butler School and how much to fund it with. There was a brief discussion on the language of the article.

Spear withdrew his motion and Gaudio withdrew his second. If funding will be recommended and if so, what amount will be discussed at the meeting to be scheduled with the Budget Committee.

**2. Tax Levy Limit Article**

Article 24 - discussion on increasing or exceeding the property tax levy limit.

After a brief discussion the Board agrees to use the article that will vote to exceed the property tax levy limit.

**3. Debt Service Article**

Article 23 - discussion on wording and loan terms.

**4. Other**

Building and Grounds have different recommendations from the Selectboard and Budget committee. This can be revisited at the Budget/Committee Selectboard meeting

**d. Review of Proposed Ordinances**

A Public Hearing is scheduled for May 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm to review the Ordinances/Amendments the Town will be voting on at the annual town meeting.

Spear recommends that as a new ordinance, the Solar farm Ordinance should our attorney for review.

**e. Request for an Address Causing a Road to be Named**

There was a discussion on the three names the property owners proposed.

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*Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to accept the 911 Addressing Officer's recommendation of Fathom Road.*

**Motion passed 3-0.**

**f. Read out of The Budget**

Reitz gave an overall view of the FY 21-22 budget and discussed the change from a calendar year to a fiscal year.

**g. Town Attorney Rate Increase**

Notice of the increase was sent to the town office in January but was not forwarded to the board. There was a discussion on the rate. The current rate is \$195, up from \$175.

**VIII. Correspondence**

Local Option Vote Determination for the sale of beer, wine and spirits.

The Board discussed the letter received from Timothy Poulin. The Board discussed putting the questions to the voters and let the Town decide The voting needs to be held during a referendum election.

**IX. Warrants Review and Approval**

*The Board approved the warrants.*

**X. Schedule Future Meetings**

Schedule Selectboard/Budget Committee Meeting  
Tentatively set for May 6<sup>th</sup> at 6.

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

*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 7:51 pm.*

*The Board exited executive session at 8:04 pm*

**XI. Adjourn**

*Gaudio moved and Spear seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:05*

**Motion passed 3-0.**

**Selectboard approved May 11, 2021**