



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

Selectboard Minutes
Date: May 25, 2021, 6:00 PM
Place: Remote Only, Zoom and YouTube

REV: 1

Selectboard Present: Jan Gaudio, John Spear, Walter Reitz

Others Present: Terri-Lynn Baines, Maureen Spencer, Jeff Northgraves, Pennie Alley, Ambulance Director Amy Drinkwater, Linda Milton, Lane Sturtevant, Cliff Dacso, Melinda Kinney, Deputy Chief David Elwell, Matt Siegel, Sally Merchant, Melinda Kinney, Shelly Winchenbach, Theo Pratt

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.

II. Adjustments to Agenda

CEO/LPI search update add at end.

Acknowledgement to Terri, Amy, and other efforts regarding the FEMA fund.

Pennie Alley asked to be added under Department Heads.

III. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda

There was no Public Comment.

IV. Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Gaudio moved and Spear seconded a motion to approve the minutes of November 30, 2020, December 9, 2020, January 5, 2021.

Spear would like to amend the minutes of December 9, 2020, adding to both IV and V, The Board exited executive session at an unrecorded time.

The board approved the amendment.

Motion passed 3-0.

Spear moved and Reitz seconded a motion to approve rev 2 of the May 11, 2021 minutes.

Motion passed 3-0.

*Spear moved and Reitz seconded a motion to approve the **Selectboard Minutes** of May 13, 2021, revision 2.*

Motion passed 3-0.

V. Department Heads

Librarian- Pennie Alley

Alley said the Library is now open 3 days a week. The Library received a generous donation of 16 framed prints from Snow Prints Limited to be sold at the book sale and the flea market this summer. The proceeds are to benefit the library.

Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to accept the donation from Snow Prints Limited for the benefit of the library.

Spear withdrew the motion

Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to accept the donation of up to 50 prints from Snow Prints Limited for the benefit of the library.

Motion passed 3-0.

Cemetery Overseer- Pennie Alley

The property owners adjacent to the Thorndike Cemetery mowed the Cemetery. Alley reported they did a good job. She asked them to keep track of their expenses.

VI. New Business:

a. Spectrum

Shelley Winchenbach and Melinda Kinney attended the zoom meeting representing Spectrum. Kinney spoke of extending broadband services throughout Maine and throughout our community. According to Kinney, 1108 residents have access to Spectrum Internet. Spectrum offers direct fiber to any business. Spectrum is investing in networks and higher speeds to keep up with competition. Kinney said ARP money can be used to extend coverage to uncovered portions of the Town.

There was a discussion on the actual number of customers and upload and download speeds.

Kinney briefly commented on Government owned networks.

There was a question on getting fiber to businesses. Winchenbach explained fiber feeds the nodes within the Town and then there is coax to the home, but home-based business can have fiber to the home under a business plan.

There was a discussion on how Spectrum helps people that cannot afford the cost of internet. Kinney and Winchenbach explained the different programs they have available.

Kinney stated if you are not getting the services you signed up for let Spectrum know. We are local, we are here, we want to be part of the solution.

b. Change Order 1- Gartley & Dorsky

Gaudio moved and Spear seconded a motion to accept the change order number 1.

Of the additional costs most of this is the result of backtracking and revisions, but some is related to easement coordination.

Motion passed 3-0.

c. Accept a Donation for Cemetery Upkeep from Sandra Williams

Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to accept the \$100 donation from Sandra Williams for the cemetery.

Motion passed 3-0.

d. Lane Sturtevant – RSU #13 School Board Member

This is Sturtevant's first year as a School Board Member. She said it is interesting to see how the pandemic has impacted education. She would like more public comment from South Thomaston residents.

Working on the budget was an interesting learning curve participating remotely. Covid money has helped keep the RSU #13 budget status quo. Increases in the budget are coming from salaries and health insurance. Links and information regarding the budget are on the RSU #13 Website. South Thomaston's share increased in large part because we have an increase in students attending RSU #13. The number of students in other towns have stayed flat or decreased. Also, the Town's total valuation has increased.

There was a discussion on how much it costs to education a student from our town.

Sturtevant briefly discussed the pandemic effects on students, socially and educationally.

e. Hopkins and Rackliff Scholarships

There was a short discussion on funds available.

Spear moved and Reitz seconded a motion to award \$10,000 in scholarships from the Hopkins Scholarship Fund.

There was a brief discussion on the number of applicants

Motion passed 3-0.

f. Discuss ARP Fund Rules and Possible Uses

Spear started the discussion. He would like to talk with Ambulance Director Amy Drinkwater to see if there are people in Town that we could reach out to that have health related issues, or vaccination counseling if they are hesitant. We might be able do some ventilation work at the town office. Rockland District Nursing could use some funding. Another allowable use of ARP fund is premium pay for low wage workers that worked through the pandemic. Spear also suggested we may be able to recoup our ambulance revenue from last year. Gaudio would like to see the Town use \$5000 from the ARP funds for the Broadband study. Drinkwater kept getting kicked off the zoom meeting. Spear will draft an email to her asking her suggestions and priorities.

g. Town Meeting Prep Review

There was a short discussion on locations, the hangar at the airport or the Ash Point Community School. The Assistant Superintendent for RSU #13 had set a limit of 100 people at the school. Baines will call Peter Orne and Reitz will call Superintendent John McDonald to see if this limit can be increased. The Board will approve the Warrant at the June 1st public information meeting.

VII. Old Business

a. Town Warrant

Inter Local Agreement/Broadband

The Board discussed the agreement. Spear is willing to keep the door open, but has concerns about the local interlocal agreement. Gaudio would like to see the Axiom study done and would also like to keep the door open.

Review MMA Advice Regarding Amending Town Meeting Articles

There was a discussion on the allowing of amendments to warrant articles at the Town Meeting.

According to MMA legal substantive changes should not be allowed. Spear stated that he felt that the moderator should make

the decision as to what is substantive, or not, noting that the body could overrule his/her decision and that in his opinion the Selectboard should not be involved. The discussion then moved to what is substantive.

The Board discussed Articles 10 and 11 being the recommendation of the Committee and whether changes would or would not be substantive.

Rewrite Question for Solar Farm Ordinance

The Board agreed to the rewriting of Article 9 as recommended by Town counsel.

**Midcoast Internet Coalition Interlocal Agreement Article
Midcoast Internet Coalition Interlocal Axiom Study Article**

The Board agreed these two articles should be added to the Warrant.

The recommended date to prepay taxes to receive a 1.5 % discount will be changed to July 1st instead of June 1st.

b. Town Meeting Location

Previously discussed.

c. Finalize and Certify Ordinances for Town Meeting

Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to certify the June 2021 amendments to the South Thomaston Planning Board Ordinance.

Motion passed 3-0.

Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to certify the Ordinance to Re-establish the South Thomaston Conservation Commission

Motion passed 3-0

Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to certify the June 2021 amendments to the South Thomaston Road Naming Ordinance.

Motion passed 3-0.

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

Spear move a Gaudio seconded a motion to table to next agenda.

Motion passed 3-0.

e. Ambulance Billing – ComStar

There was a short discussion on sending the contract to Town Counsel or not.

Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to execute the contract immediately with an effective date of July 1, 2021.

Spear would like a hardship waiver form to be mailed with the bill right off the start to uninsured patients.

Motion passed 3-0.

f. Accept Tennis/Basketball Court Donations

Gaudio moved and Spear seconded a motion to accept the \$1000 donation from Machias Savings bank and the \$50 donation from Bruce and Martha Meyer.

This brings the total of donations to \$6,650.00

Motion passed 3-0.

VIII. Correspondence

IX. Warrants Review and Approval

Reitz will come into the office to sign.

X. Schedule Future Meetings

Gilford Butler School/ Budget Information Meeting
June 3rd 6:00 in fire truck bay.

XII. CEO/LPI

Reitz will call Corey Fortin to see if he is interested in the job.

XIII, Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A) Personnel Matters

Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion the Board enter Executive

Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A) Personnel Matters.

Motion passed 3-0.

The board entered executive session at 8:50.

The Board exited executive session at 8:56.

XIII. Adjourn

Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:58.

Motion passed 3-0.

Selectboard approved June 10, 2021