



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

Selectboard Minutes

Date: June 3, 2021, 6:00 PM Place: Municipal Building

REV: 2

Selectboard Present: Walter Reitz, Jan Gaudio, John Spear

Others Present: Pennie Alley, Arthur Alley, Jeff Northgraves, Marcia Whitten, Moira Paddock, Erv Curtis, Catherine Bendheim, Sally Merchant, Gordon Connell, Bev St. Clair, Ed Modell, Merle Rockwell, Ryan and Camille Minikis, Barbara Reitz, Theo Pratt, Maureen Spencer, Henry Spencer, Chief Calderwood, Deputy Chief Elwell, Sandy Weisman, Barbara Reitz, Ervin Curtis, Arthur Alley, Bob and Sandy Zimmerman, Pat Dougherty, Denise Rzeznicwitz, Linda Palmer, Alana Brown

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

I. Call to order

Reitz called the meeting to order at 6:04

Chief Calderwood welcomed everyone. He pointed out the exits and asked that in the case of a fire call, do not move, sit still so the firemen may enter the building and get into their gear. He thanked everyone for complying with the mask mandate.

II. Adjustments to Agenda

Reitz added voting on the board returning to in person meetings.

Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to typically return to in person meetings.

Motion passed 3-0.

III. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda

Pennie Alley asked to speak on behalf of the People's United Methodist Church. The Church is having an indoor yard sale at 13 Chapel Street on June 5th, 9 am to 1 pm. There will be furniture, clothing, household items, sports equipment, baked goods, hotdogs, and crafts. All proceeds to benefit the People's United Methodist Church and Community Outreach Programs.

IV. Review of the fiscal year change voted by the Selectboard in December 2020.

In December 2020, the board voted to change the fiscal year from a calendar year to a more typical July 1 to June 30 year. The board had planned on presenting this at the town meeting as an advisory question, but Covid prevented this. To accomplish the change the board asked Dept Heads to prepare a six-month budget and a 1-year budget.

Reitz presented the budget numbers and compared the monthly amount of the 18-month budget to the previous year's amount of the monthly 12-month budget.

Spear spoke of the mil rate. The mil rate will be increased to raise money for an 18-month period. Moira Paddock said the Budget Committee has encouraged the board to change to a fiscal year for the last 10 years.

V. Discussion of the 18-month transitional budget and its impact and implications.

Reitz discussed Article 24, the tax levy limit.

VI. Review of the Selectboard recommendation that the Town approve two tax payment and billing dates- one on October 1, 2021, and one on April 1, 2022.

This will be the sole authority of the Town Meeting. There was a brief discussion on tax payments and the tax discount of 1.5%.

VII. Review of the three articles proposed as a result of the work and recommendations of the Butler School Futures Committee. These articles are included in the Town Meeting Warrant.

Article 10. To see if the Town will direct the Selectboard, at the recommendation of the Gilford Butler Futures Committee, to create a *Library and Community Center Facility Committee* to plan and fundraise for the construction of a new building, consisting of approximately 4,500 square feet, to house a Town owned library and community center.

Reitz read the article. Reitz stated that this is by and large 100% from a recommendation from the Gilford Butler School Futures Committee. There was a discussion on how much it would cost to tear down Gilford Butler School down. There was a discussion on what the proposed Committee could do. Some spoke in support of this article, and some spoke in opposition of this article. A dialog on the Gilford Butler Futures Committee report followed. There was a conversation on how long the process could take to plan, fund raise and build a new building.

Article 11. To see if the Town will approve the recommendation of the Gilford Butler Futures Committee that as soon as practical, and on a temporary basis, the Town library relocate to the existing Gilford Butler School building and that a classroom(s) be utilized for community space for a period up to five years.

This is also a recommendation of the Futures Committee. A number of people spoke in favor and a number spoke in opposition to this article. There was a discussion on construction costs, both building a new library/community center and renovating the Gilford Butler School. There was a conversation regarding tearing the building down. There was a discussion on the cost to put the library in the Gilford Butler School Building temporarily. Some feel the library is bringing the community feeling back to the Town. The question was raised if it is all or nothing. Could Gilford Butler stay and the Town also build a new building. Northgraves explained the committee had looked at that, but it would be too difficult to have two large projects. Alley explained the building will need an ADA bathroom and entrances. Nothing else is needed she stated. Alley explained the different ways the space would be used.

