



Town of South Thomaston, Maine
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Selectboard:
Jeff Northgraves
Walter Reitz
John Spear

Selectboard Minutes
Date: July 20, 2021, 5:00 PM
Place: Municipal Building

REV:1

Selectboard Present: Jeff Northgraves, John Spear, Walter Reitz
Others Present: Terri-Lynn Baines, Pennie Alley, Town Attorney Kristin Collins, Cliff Dacso, Anne Just, Theo Pratt, Sondra Wallace, Catherine Bendheim, Maureen Spencer, Lynn Canavan, Chief Calderwood, Deputy Chief Elwell, Kevin McCormick, Rob Duplisea

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

- I. **Call to Order**
Spear called the meeting to order at 5:01.
- II. **Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(E) Re: Midcoast Internet Development Corporation.**
Reitz moved and Northgraves seconded a motion to enter executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(E) to discuss with our attorney the rights and duties of the Selectboard.
Motion passed 3-0.
The Board entered executive session at 5:02
The Board exited executive session at 6:06
- III. **Call to Order Public Hearing**
Spear called the Public Hearing to order at 6:11
- IV. **Public Hearing**
Adoption of 2020-2021 General Assistance Ordinance Appendices A-H.
Spear explained the use of General Assistance in the Town.
He asked for comments from the public and the selectboard. There were no comments.
- V. **Adjourn Public Hearing**
Spear closed the public hearing at 6:14.
Reitz moved and Northgraves seconded a motion to amend appendices A-H to the General Assistance Ordinance in accordance with the amounts depicted on the 2020-2021 GA Maximums Schedule as prepared by the Maine Municipal Association in September 2020. Appendices will be effective July 20, 2021, to September 30, 2021.
Motion passed 3-0
- VI. **Adjustments to Agenda**
Spear moved to take up a. under New Business out of order.
Fire Chief Calderwood asked to add discussion of Fire Truck under Department Heads.
- VII. **Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda**
There were no comments.
- VIII. **Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes**

Northgraves moved and Reitz seconded a motion to accept revision 1 of the June 29th meeting minutes and revision 1 of the July 6th meeting minutes.

Motion passed 3-0.

Northgraves moved to accept revision 0 of the June 15th meeting minutes.

Spear indicated he was not ready to approve the minutes.

Northgraves withdrew his motion.

IX. Department Heads

Fire Chief – Winding Way- Road access for Emergency Vehicles

Chief Calderwood has sent a letter to the homeowners on Winding Way requesting they address the issue of insufficient clearance to allow emergency vehicle to easily and safely traverse the road.

Fire Truck

The injector to the fuel pump failed on the tank truck. There has been no luck in finding a replacement or doing a rebuild due to the age of the truck.

Our mutual aid towns are aware the tank truck is out of commission.

There was a brief conversation on the cost of purchasing a new fire truck and replacing the utility truck. Also discussed was the possibility of regionalization and the Town going to having only three trucks. Chief Calderwood gave an overview of the different fire trucks, the Town owns and their individual uses.

The Selectboard suggested Chief Calderwood investigate options for a loaner.

The Chief will present a report from the truck committee on April 10th.

The Fire Department discovered when using the fire department boat during a training exercise in the Keag river, that the forward gear was not working. The boat is at J & H Marine.

June Reports

Reitz reported Ambulance Director Drinkwater will be attending a meeting where Regionalization will be discussed. He suggested Drinkwater attend a selectboard meeting to report to the board on the regionalization meeting.

X. New Business:

a. Tax Commitment for 18 Month Period January 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022

Rob Duplisea and Kevin McCormick introduced themselves. McCormick is the Town's assessor's agent and Duplisea is the owner of RJD Appraisals.

Duplisea explained the municipal tax rate calculation form line by line.

He discussed minimum and maximum tax rates and overlay.

Duplisea presented two options for a mil rate. The first municipal tax rate calculation rate form resulted in a mil rate of 23.75. On the second municipal tax rate calculation rate form the revenue line was increased by \$25,000 which resulted in a mil rate of 23.65.

Surplus/Undesignated funds were discussed. Northgraves suggested using \$25,000 from undesignated funds.

After a brief discussion the Board agreed to use \$25,000 more from undesignated funds, this increased line 13, other revenues to \$1,027,488 and also to increase the anticipated state municipal revenue sharing \$25,000 to \$215,000. This decreases the overlay to \$12,131.94. The resulting mil rate would be 23.55. It was noted that this rate was for an 18 month period and was only a modest increase over 2020 on a monthly basis.

Northgraves moved and Reitz seconded a motion to increase line 12 Anticipated State Revenue Sharing by \$25,000 to \$215,000. Increase line 13 other revenues from undesignated surplus an addition \$25,000 for a mil rate of 23.55.

Motion passed 3-0.

b. Ad Hoc Technology Committee Mission Statement

Northgraves moved and Reitz seconded a motion to table until the Aug 10th meeting.

Motion passed 3-0.

c. Discussion on use of ARPA Funds

The Board discussed how the County might distribute the ARPA Funds. Spear suggested each of the selectboard members write down how they would like to see the money spent.

Donation Library – Kevin Gordon

Northgraves moved and Reitz seconded a motion to accept the \$100 donation from Kevin Gordon and send a thank you note.

Motion passed 3-0

d. Holiday Closure of Town Office for Christmas Day and New Year’s Day

There was a discussion on options.

To avoid two, four-day weekends, one person will keep the office open the Thursday before Christmas and New Year’s Day and choose an alternative day to take as their holiday.

e. Sign Local Road Assistance Program (LRAP) Certification Form

Northgraves moved and Reitz seconded a motion to execute the LRAP form.

Motion passed 3-0

f. Speed Limit Enforcement on Island Road

Reitz would like to see the sheriff department enforce the speed limit on the Island Road as they did last year with speed traps and the speed limit roadside sign.

Reitz moved and Northgraves seconded a motion to ask the Sheriff Department to repeat enforcement practice on Island Road between now and Labor day.

Motion passed 3-0.

g. Audio in Community Room

Baines reached out to Gusco and Geoff Parker. Parker came to the community room and will send in an estimate with his suggestions for improving audio in the community room. Gus suggested and owl or spider mics. He will provide costs for these items.

Reitz will work with Baines to look for solutions to improve this situation.

h. Remote Meeting Policy

Northgraves brought copies of his latest draft of the remote meeting policy.

Northgraves moved and Reitz seconded a motion to execute the Remote Participation Policy.

Motion passed 3-0.

XI. Old Business

a. Conservation Commission Appointments

Baines read the list of residents interested in being appointed to the Conservation Commission. Some sent in by email little blurbs on why they were interested in being appointed. Spear read these blurbs aloud.

Northgraves moved and Reitz seconded a motion to appoint Catherine Bendheim, Linda Garat, Theo Pratt, Leslie Spear, Henry Spencer, Andrew Stancioff and Sondra Wallace to the Conservation Commission.

Motion passed 3-0

There will be two, 1-year terms, two two-year terms and three 3- year terms.

Northgraves moved and Reitz seconded a motion to set terms as above. alphabetically by last name.

Motion passed 3-0

b. Northern Borders Update Regarding the Island Road Project

Norther Borders has recommended the project be re-scoped if the town has a funding shortfall that it cannot fill. The Town can use the existing grant to get to the point where the project is shovel ready then apply for a construction grant. If this is what is decided to do, Northern Borders would like to be notified by Dec 31st . The Town would not be using all the funds granted and the funds would need to be de-obligated.

In order to know the actual shortfall of the project the Board would need to have bids. Hendrich thought we could have some bids back, but companies are busy, and he is seeing projects going out to bid now and only one or no bids come back.

There was a discussion on sending out a bid package in November.

The DEP permit application has been submitted. Hedrich recommended holding off on the easements until after receiving the DEP permit.

There was a discussion on value engineering. Hendrich has make some revisions.

Baines will let Attorney Collins know the easements will be put on hold on recommendation of Hendrich.

c. Tennis/Basketball Court Update

Sandy Wesisman donated \$342.

Reitz moved and Northgraves seconded a motion to accept a donation from Sandy Weisman in the amount of \$342.

Motion passed 3-0

Spear gave an update on the tennis and basketball courts.

\$7092 in cash donations have been received. This meets our 50% match requirement.

Portable pickle ball nets are available. To get the combination to the lock on the storage bin where the nets are kept email Baines at terri@south Thomaston.me. Pickle ball lines are marked out.

The basketball court's cracks have been temporarily filled and the court is ready to use.

d. Library/Community Center Facilities Committee

There was a discussion on how the committee should look. Northgraves will take a stab at writing something up.

The Board has not solicited for members yet, but had some residents express interest in being on the committee.

e. Review Budget Committee Policy

Discussion on number of members. Go back to seven members instead of the current nine. Northgraves will redraft the policy. Baines will put this on August 10th meeting

f. Future Role of Ordinance Review Committee

The Ordinance Review Committee is down to three members. There was a discussion on whether to keep the committee or not.

Northgraves made and Reitz seconded a motion to change the Ad Hoc Ordinance Review Committee into a town standing committee.

There was a discussion on why it didn't have to go before the town to be approved. Northgraves will stay on as Chair.

Motion passed 3-0.

g. Skateboard Park Maintenance

Brief discussion on if it should be shut down and the groups that have maintained it.

h. Demo Debris Facility Brush Pile

Last Friday, July 16th the demo debris pile was burned. Spear researched the cost of shredding the debris pile and it seems prohibitive.

VIII. Correspondence

Correspondence concerning the Library/Community Center Facilities Committee from Bev St. Clair was previously discussed under Library/Community Center Facilities Committee. The email from Sharon Setz concerning mattress vouchers was discussed. Spear asked Setz to call him so he could discuss the matter with her, but she has not yet called.

IX. Warrants Review and Approval

The Board reviewed and signed the warrants.

X. Schedule Future Meetings

The Board affirmed the meetings of August 10th and 24th, September 7th and 28th.

XII. Adjourn

Reitz moved and Northgraves seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:53 pm

Motion passed 3-0.

Selectboard approved 8-10-2021