



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

Selectboard Minutes
Date: September 28, 2021, 6:00 PM

Selectboard Present: Jeff Northgraves, Walter Reitz, John Spear

Others Present: Terri-Lynn Baines, Ambulance Director Amy Drinkwater, Gus and Missy Robbins, Pennie Alley, Erv Curtis, Geoff Parker, Sondra Wallace, Ambulance Director Amy Drinkwater, Deputy Fire Chief David Elwell, Fire Chief Bryan Calderwood, Brad Choyt, Betty Thomas, Dorothy Meriwether, Maureen Spencer, Gabe Tumasulo, Sandy Weisman

Place: Municipal Building

REV 1

I. Call to Order

Spear called the meeting to order at 6:00.

II. Public Hearing

Adoption of the 2021-2022 General Assistance Ordinance Appendices A-H

Spear gave a short explanation *of the appendices.*

There was no public comment.

Spear closed the Public Hearing.

III. Public Hearing

Local Option Vote for the Sale of Beer, Wine and Spirits on Sunday

Shall this municipality authorize the State to issue licenses for the sale of liquor to be consumed on the premises of license establishments on Sundays?

Spear explained the reason for the referendum question that will be on the ballot for the November 2nd Election.

There was no public comment.

Spear closed the Public Hearing.

Northgraves moved and Reitz seconded a motion to adopted General Assistance Ordinance Appendices A-H for October 1, 2021- September 30 ,2022.

Motion passed 3-0.

IV. Adjustments to Agenda

Add to correspondence E-mail Sue Snow, Review of Water Testing from John Fancy, 2020 State Valuation

Fire Chief – New Truck prices

V. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda

Erv Curtis, Chair of the Planning Board, gave an update on the discussion the Planning Board has been having on the notification of abutters.

A discussion followed on having a process to notify abutters.

VI. Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Northgraves moved and Reitz seconded a motion to approve the minutes of September 7, 2021.
Motion passed 3-0.

VII. Old Business

a. Update Regarding Covid 19 Vaccination Incentive Program

The Town has received 22 applications to date.

Spear proposed the Town extend the Vaccination Incentive Program as it has been successful.

Northgraves moved and Reitz seconded a motion to extend the program to the 30th of November.

There was a discussion on where people can get vaccinated.

Motion passed 3-0.

b. Update CEO/LPI Recruitment Process

There have been no applicants.

The Board discussed advertising for an assessor's agent/CEO/LPI. They also discussed the rate of pay.

This will be put on the agenda of the October 12th meeting.

c. Update Audio Improvements in Community Room

Geoff Parker brought an estimate for the Board. Audio only estimated cost is \$4,527.00.

Visual estimated cost is \$6,585.

The Board and Parker discussed the various components and how the set up would operate.

There was a brief discussion on an Owl vs the proposed set up.

Parker will have a revised proposal with the Owl set up for the next meeting.

d. New Hire Gabby Baughman- Ambulance Driver

Baughman is currently taking an EMT Class. She would like to come on as a driver while she takes the EMT class. Baughman will be a licensed EMT by the beginning of the year.

Baughman tried to attend via zoom but was not able to get a good connection on her end.

Reitz moved and Northgraves seconded a motion to authorize Drinkwater to hire Gabby Baughman as an ambulance driver soon to be an EMT.

Motion passed 3-0.

e. Ambulance Billing Write Offs

There was a discussion on the Town's Ambulance Write-Off Policy.

Drinkwater discussed the reasons for the write-offs.

Northgraves moved and Reitz seconded a motion to approve the recommendation to write off \$25,994.86. \$6,264.12 for 2018, \$19,730.74 for 2019.

Motion passed 3-0.

f. Update EMS Regionalization

Drinkwater gave an update on the meeting she attended concerning regionalization. She attended the meeting with Waldoboro, Camden, Rockland, and Belfast Chiefs. Staffing was discussed for EMS and Fire. Response times were discussed. Cost sharing and Revenues were explored.

There was a conversation concerning the letter Selectboard send to Knox County Commissioners supporting the efforts of regionalization.

It was suggested St George, Owls Head, South Thomaston, and Thomaston meet to discuss regionalization.

A discussion followed on response times, staffing, communication, and budgets for regionalization.

g. Discuss Mowing of Thorndike Cemetery

Melissa and Gus Robbins own the property containing the cemetery.

The Selectboard discussed a stipend and the size of the Thorndike Cemetery.

Pennie Alley, the Cemetery Overseer recommended a stipend of \$1200. \$600 each per year.

Northgraves moved and Reitz seconded a motion to employ Missy and Gus Robbins for \$600 each, per year, as caretakes of the Thorndike Cemetery.

Motion passed 3-0.

h. Update Painting/Repairs to the Little Red School House

A representative from Lowes met with a representative from the South Thomaston Historical Society to discuss taking this project on as a Lowe's community project. The Board would have to approve the Lowe's donation, if Lowe's was to take this project on.

Alley has researched various sidings.

i. Update MIDC

Reitz will look into where we send money for the Axiom study now that we have received our ARPA funds. There was a discussion on giving money to sub recipients how to ensure they follow the proper procedures set forth by the ARPA guidelines.

j. Update Regarding Temporary Relocation to Gilford Butler School

A change of use application has been submitted to the Fire Marshall. No permit has been filed with the Town CEO.

The Mussel Ridge Society approached Alley about renting a classroom or space in the basement to store items. The Board and Alley discussed what it would involve. The Board requested the Mussel Ridge Society write up a proposal and bring it to the Board.

Discussion/update on the Historical Society/Little School House lease.

k. Review NRPA Permit from DEP for Island Road Project and Discuss Next Steps

The permit was accepted as submitted.

Next steps: Easements and proceed with final plans and project manual to send out to bid.

Bid process: November/December issue. Hoping to have bids back by the end of 2021.

Complete project in the fall of next year.

There was a conversation on cost reductions, bid timeline, easements and the paving of Island Road from the bridge forward next year.

l. Discuss Use of ARP Funds Including Process to Transfer Funds to Sub-Recipients and Expenditure Approval Requirements

The Board agrees according to Article #31 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant the Board has Town approval spend ARPA funds.

m. Update Skate Board Park Maintenance

Recommendation to pull up boards and inspect underneath.

Tony Hawk has grants to repair or build skateparks. Reitz will google Tony Hawk and see what he finds for information.

n. Amend Appointment Term Date of Brad Choyt to RSU 13 Board

Reitz moved and Northgraves seconded a motion to amend Choyt's appointment to end at the next annual town meeting.

Motion passed 3-0.

Choyt gave a brief report. He has attended two RSU 13 Selectboard meetings and has been appointed to the Curriculum Committee and the Student Engagement Task Force.

VIII. New Business

a. Consider Appointments to the Library/Community Center Facility Planning Committee

Baines read the names of residents interested in being appointed.

The Board discussed the applicant's Bio's and if they support the mission.

Reitz made a motion to appoint Erv Curtis, Anne Just, Sandy Weisman, Gabriel Tomasulo, Moira Paddock and Maureen Spencer and to find more information on the other applicants.

There was more discussion on the applicants.

Reitz withdrew his motion.

*Reitz moved and Northgraves seconded a motion appoint **Sandy Weisman** to the Library/Community Center Facility Planning Committee and to the Fundraising Sub-Committee.*

Motion passed 3-0.

*Reitz moved and Northgraves seconded a motion appoint **Gabe Tomasulo** to the Library/Community Center Facility Planning Committee and to the Facility Sub-Committee.*

Motion passed 3-0.

*Reitz moved and Northgraves seconded a motion to appoint **Anne Just** to the Library/Community Center Facility Planning committee and to the Facility Sub-Committee.*

Motion passed 3-0.

*Reitz moved and Northgraves seconded a motion to nominate **Moira Paddock** to the Library/Community Center Facility Planning Committee and to the Facility Sub-Committee.*

A discussion followed.

Motion passed 2-1.

*Reitz moved and Northgraves seconded a motion to nominate **Maureen Spencer** to the Library/Community Center Facility Planning Committee and to the Fundraising Sub-Committee*

Motion passed 3-0.

Northgraves moved and Spear seconded a motion to appoint Pennie Alley as an ex officio member of the Library/Community Center Facility Planning Committee.

Reitz moved to appoint Pennie Alley to the facility sub-committee but not the fundraising sub-committee.

There was no second.

The Board voted on the first motion.

Motion passed 2-1.

Northgraves will follow up with Erv Curtis, Baines will follow up with Marcia Turner.

b. Abatement Request

The Board felt that it needs more information to make this decision.

Reitz moved and Northgraves seconded a motion to table the abatement until the next meeting.

Motion passed 3-0.

c. Sign Municipal Officers Return Notices Posted for Public Hearing on the Local Option Vote

Reitz moved and Northgraves seconded a motion to execute the document.

Motion passed 3-0.

d. Replacement of Survey Pins Pleasant Point Right of Way Near Jasko Property

The Board discussed the pins and the cost of replacing them.

e. Fire Truck Prices

Chief Calderwood reported on buying a new fire truck. Right now, Towns cannot buy a new fire truck. Trucks are not being made, there is no man power, and no materials.

Chief Calderwood gave the Board an update on Fire Truck Maintenance/Repairs.

Repairs to the tank truck are estimated at \$10,000.

The 2003 Fire truck just had \$7000 in repairs.

The new Truck is next to go for maintenance.

Chief says he may not get air packs in order to pay for the maintenance.

f. Board Approval of Procurement of the Exhaust System

There was a discussion on the amount approved in the fire department budget for the exhaust system.

Only two companies in the State do exhaust systems. Chief Calderwood has estimates from both companies. He described both systems for the board. The system he prefers is still within the grant amount.

Northgraves moved and Spear seconded a motion to authorize the Chief and Town Administrator to purchase and have installed the Magna Grip Vehicle Exhaust System.

Motion passed 3-0.

g. Town Administrator's August Report and August Financials

IX. Correspondence

Preliminary State Valuation/State Valuation

So the Board may review the correspondence, this will be put on next agenda.

Email Sue Snow

There was a discussion on budgeting and systematically trimming trees/bushes.

Spear responded to Snow personally.

Review of Water testing Upper St. George River

Add to next agenda, Invite Theo Pratt and John Fancy

X. Warrants Review and Approval

The Board reviewed the warrant

XI. Review Items for Next Agenda

St George River Testing.

Abatement

Appointments to Library Committee

Little Red School House

Relocation of library

Audio

MDIC

XII. Schedule Future Meetings

Meetings are scheduled for November 16th and 30th.

Meetings were scheduled for December 14 and 28th.

XIII. Adjourn

Reitz moved and Northgraves seconded a motion to adjourn. 10:40

Motion passed 3-0.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86959202651?pwd=eC9aUnU3dnA1aElsNjBqZVNDMEhsdz09>

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