



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

Selectboard Minutes
Date: October 26, 2021, 6:00 PM
Place: Municipal Building

Rev 1

Selectboard Present: Jeff Northgraves, Walter Reitz, John Spear

Others Present: Terri-Lynn Baines, Pennie Alley, Jan Gaudio, Betty Thomas, Maureen Spencer, Catherine Bendheim, Candace Smith, Geoff Parker, Chuck Hartman, Janet Hartman, Carol Dumont

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

I. Call to Order

Spear called the meeting to order at 6:00.

II. Adjustments to Agenda

LifeFlight request

Library Donation

Temporary easements for Island Road Project

Prep for meeting with Budget Committee scheduled for 10/27

County's ARPA fund

Clarification regarding Hopkins will- Historical Society

III. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda

Jan Gaudio asked for an update on the Island Road Project.

IV. Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Northgraves moved and Reitz seconded a motion to accept the minutes of October 12, 2021

Motion passed 3-0.

V. Old Business

a. Update Regarding Temporary Relocation to Gilford Butler School

Northgraves will check with Fire Marshall regarding the occupancy certificate.

Alley reported flooring has been installed in one room. Painting is nearing completion.

There was a discussion on moving the broadband line over to the Gilford Butler School.

b. Consider Appointment to Library/Community Center Facilities Planning Committee.

Candace Smith spoke on her interest in being appointed to the Library/Community Center Facilities Planning Committee.

The Board asked several questions of Smith. There was a discussion on the goal of the committee.

Northgraves moved and Reitz seconded a motion to appoint Candace Smith to the Library/Community Center Facilities Planning Committee.

Motion passed 3-0.

c. Update MIDC

Reitz gave an update.

There has been no response from MIDC to the letter from South Thomaston.

The feasibility study could take 4 to 6 weeks.

There was a brief discussion on what our technology committee is expected to be doing.

County ARPA Funds

There was a discussion on how the county is distributing ARPA funds regionally and how feds divvy up the ARPA monies.

There was a brief discussion regarding the grant application the Town of Rockport submitted to Knox County to upgrade broadband service in Rockport..

There was a discussion on South Thomaston being either unserved or underserved in regards to broadband.

Also discussed was the pivot made by MIDC to concentrate on underserved areas, not unserved areas.

d. Use of ARP Funds

Premium Pay

The Board discussed the amount the town received for ARP funds and what amounts and to whom funds have been committed to so far.

Spear supplied a spreadsheet with premium pay figures of .30 and .50 per hour worked during the recent state of emergency to be paid to current Town employees for discussion.

The Board discussed the two amounts and the altered amounts for stipend pay.

Northgraves authorized and Reitz seconded a motion to pay individuals at .50 with a minimum of \$ 50 and to pay the revised stipend numbers.

There was a discussion on revisiting this when the Town receives the next installment of ARP funds.

The total cost of the premium pay for town employees is around \$12,000.

Motion passed 3-0.

e. Update on the Little Red School House Lease

Representatives from historical society indicated the society had voted to support taking stewardship of the Little Red Schoolhouse and supporting the proposed amended lease.

The Board discussed briefly having a Special Town Meeting to accept the amended lease and also recording the lease at the registry of deeds.

They also discussed where and when to have the Special Town Meeting. No action was taken.

f. Update on Painting/Repairs to Little Red School House

Shingles can be stored in the Gilford Butler garage once they are delivered.

There was a discussion on where to dip and hang the shingles to dry.

Reitz addressed a question concerning the Hopkins will sent by email from Sue Snow. Restriction on not using the principal of the bequest Mr. Hopkins left to the Historical Society has lapsed.

Reitz explained the will and the recommendation of the Town Attorney not to turn the money over in a lump sum. The Selectboard is the trustee.

Reitz explained how the Historical Society can access the money.

g. Update Skate Board Park Maintenance

The Skate Board Park Maintenance is on hold until we find someone that can work on it.

h. Update Assessor's Agent/CEO/LPI Recruitment Process

We have zero applicants.

The Board had a short discussion on options.

i. Consider Abatement Request, 14 Sylvia's Way

The assessor's agent has recommended the abatement. It would lower the property value from \$441,600 to \$356,800.

The board discussed the abatement request.

Reitz moved and Northgraves seconded a motion to accept the recommendation of the assessor's agent.

Motion passed 2-1, Spear opposed

j. Island Road Project update.

The Town does not need any permanent easements, only three temporary construction easements.

Kristen Collins will work with the easement needed from Maine Coast Seafood and Spear will send letters to the two other property owners that need to sign off on the easements.

The current plan is to get the project out to bid shortly, have bids back in January for construction in 2022. There is still a projected shortfall of a least \$37,000.

VI. New Business

a. Review Proposed 2022 State Valuations

The Board discussed the 2022 State Valuation.

b. Sign 2021 Municipal Valuation Return

Reitz moved and Northgraves seconded a motion to approve the 2021 Municipal Valuation Return.

Motion passed 3-0.

c. EMA Director Request to Review EOP and Consider Appointment of Assistant

The Board reviewed the changes in the EOP with Betty Thomas EMA Director.

Contact information was updated.

Annex F was updated - Mass Care.

The EMA Ordinance was added.

Annex G1 Disease and Epidemic was added.

There was a discussion on having a certified Public Health Officer and on appointing a Assistant/liaison to the EMA Director.

Reitz moved and Spear seconded a motion to appoint Northgraves as liaison to the EMA Director.

Motion passed 3-0.

Northgraves moved and Reitz seconded a motion to accept and execute the revisions to the South Thomaston EOP.

Motion passed 3-0.

d. Consider Accepting Donation to the Fire Department

Northgraves moved and Reitz seconded a motion to accept a \$100 donation to the Fire Department from Linda Palmer.

e. Consider Accepting Donations to the Library

Northgraves moved and Reitz seconded a motion to accept a \$100 donation to the library from Elizabeth Lunt.

Motion passed 3-0.

Northgraves moved and Reitz seconded a motion to accept a \$100 donation to the library from Catherine Bendheim.

Motion passed 3-0.

f. Consider Personnel Policy Amendment for EPL

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

Motion passed 3-0.

VII. Correspondence

Penquist

The Board reviewed.

Maine Department of Transportation

The Board reviewed. Baines will post the letter on the Town website, send out on the listserv and post on the bulletin board.

Lifeflight

The Board briefly discussed the donation request from Lifeflight.

Baines will send the request to Ambulance Director Drinkwater and ask her opinion.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

VIII. Warrants Review and Approval

The Board signed the warrants.

IX. Review Items for Next Agenda

Schoolhouse Lease

Library relocation

Midcoast Internet

ARPA funds

Assessor's agent

EPL

Lifeflight

X. Schedule Future Meetings

November 16th cancelled.

January meetings scheduled.

January 4th and 18th

XI. Budget Committee meeting Prep

The Board reviewed important points they want to discuss with the Budget Committee at the meeting scheduled for 11/27.

XII. Adjourn:

Reitz moved and Northgraves seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:18

Motion passed 3-0.

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84355084788?pwd=Mlc2bFRKRURY1RldGU1OWlhWnl4QT09>
Passcode: 718317**

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