



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

Selectboard Minutes
Date: January 18, 2022, 5:00 PM
Zoom Meeting

Rev 0

Selectboard Present: Jeff Northgraves, John Spear, Walter Reitz

Others Present: Terri-Lynn Baines, Pennie Alley, Andrew Hedrich, Fire Chief Bryan Calderwood, Maureen Spencer, Ed Modell, Bruce Colson, Merle Rockwell, EMA Director Betty Thomas, Deputy Fire Chief David Elwell, Lynne Canavan, Scott Johnson, Sondra Wallace, Chad Harris, Julia OBrien, John Koffell

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

I. Call to Order

Spear called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

II. Adjustments to Agenda

Email from George Hardt.

III. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda

There was no public comment.

IV. Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Walter moved and Northgraves seconded a motion to accept the minutes of January 4, 2022, and December 28, 2021.

Motion passed 3-0.

V. Old Business

a. Update Regarding Temporary Relocation of Library to Gilford Butler School

There were no updates.

b. Update Midcoast Internet Development Corporation

Reitz reported the Axiom study for the four core towns has been completed. In her email Debra Hall has committed to responding to the letter from the Selectboard.

c. Update on Transfer Station Renovation

Reitz gave an update on the Transfer Station renovation. The final documents reflect changes that have been made. The two previous plans are in the town office.

Next week the Transfer Station Board will meet to review the results of a walkthrough the Facilities Committee conducted.

The three Town Selectboards (South Thomaston, Thomaston, and Owls Head) and the Transfer Station Board plan to meet during the first week of February. Dates were discussed.

Reitz briefly discussed the town's assessment being higher this year.

Reitz talked briefly of the bid for the project.

Bruce Colson, Chair of the Transfer Station Cooperation discussed the bid contract, financing, and timing of the renovation.

d. Consider changes to the Personnel Policy – EPL and Health Insurance

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

Motion passed 3-0.

e. Discussion of Funds Available for New Fire Trucks

Reitz added a ten-year payback spreadsheet to the information from last meeting.

There was a brief discussion on what a timeline to purchase and receive a new truck would look like.

There was a discussion on putting the purchase of a new fire truck on the Town Warrant and what the timeline to do this might look like.

VI. New Business

a. Consider Chief Calderwood’s Request to Use Donation Monies to Purchase Cold Water Suits

The Board briefly discussed purchasing suits and the cost.

Northgraves moved and Reitz seconded a motion to authorize the Chief to spend up to \$1500 from the funds that have been donated to the Fire Department to purchase two wet suits.

Motion passed 3-0.

b. Review Island Road Bids with Andrew Hedrich

Gartley & Dorsky received 2 Bids for the Island Road Project. Bids were received from Hagar and JBI.

Hagar’s bid was \$333,976 and JBI’s bid was \$566,430.

Hedrich explained some of the differences between the Hagar and JBI bids. He recommended adding a 10% contingency to the bid the Town accepted. Hedrich thought a wild card might be the asphalt escalator.

There was a discussion on the difference in the two bids and a bid bond.

Reitz moved and Northgraves seconded a motion issue a letter of intent to Hagar for the Island Road Project.

Motion passed 3-0.

c. Consider EMA Director Thomas’ Stipend Increase Request

The EMA’s current stipend \$2185. Thomas explained her reasons for requesting an increase in her stipend. She is requesting a \$5000 yearly stipend.

There was a brief discussion on what other Towns pay for their EMA Directors and what the EMA Directors do.

The Board will take this up in executive session at the next meeting.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

d. Consider EMA Director Thomas’ Emergency Alert System Proposal

Thomas explained what the DialMyCalls Alert System is and how it works.

This is a voluntary program that will send a text message out to cell phones to alert the residents of a dangerous situation/condition.

5000 texts or calls for \$250.

Discussion on how this could dovetail with what the Knox County has or might do.

There was a discussion on who would write and send the texts.

The Board discussed trying DialMyCalls risk free to see how it is received in the town and how many participants the program might get.

Northgraves moved and Reitz seconded a motion to authorize the EMA Director to try the system and see how many folks we get to take it.

Motion passed 3-0.

e. Consider EMA Director Thomas’ Request For a Covid Policy

The Board discussed that they could meet through zoom and make decisions regarding meetings and other aspects affected by covid.

f. Review End of the Year Financials

Baines answered questions about the Exhaust System and Excise Revenue.

VII. Correspondence

The email Ted Maher sent will be sent to the CEO.

The email received from George Hardt was reviewed. Spear will speak with Jim Kalloch regarding the complaint.

VIII. Warrants Review and Approval

Reitz and Northgraves will come into the office to sign the Warrants.

IX. Review Items for Next Agenda

EMA Stipend request

X. Schedule Future Meetings

April 6 conflict with Budget Committee

The Board decided to keep April 6 as the date for the Joint meeting with the Library/Facilities Committee, the Selectboard and Town Attorney Kristin Collins.

XI. Adjourn

Reitz moved and Northgraves seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:00 pm.

Motion passed 3-0.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89949298365?pwd=RmJxd3BmOG93c3Y4Uk4zNXBpNWM3UT09>

Meeting ID: 899 4929 8365

Passcode: 861138

Selectboard Approved February 8, 2022