



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

Selectboard Minutes  
Date: May 10, 2022, 6:00 PM at the Municipal Building  
**Items Are Often Taken Out of Order to Accommodate Schedules**

Rev 0

**Selectboard Present:** Jeff Northgraves (via zoom), John Spear, Walter Reitz  
**Others Present:** Terri-Lynn Baines, Pennie Alley, Chief Calderwood, Theo Pratt, Bob Baines, Cliff Dacso, Ted Mahler, Maureen Spencer, Chuck and Janet Hartman, CEO Dan Dates, Sondra Wallace  
**Present via zoom:** Michael and Carol Dumont, Nancy Goslin, Lynne Canavan, Anne Just, Ervin Curtis, Chad Harris

**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 pm.

**II. Adjustments to Agenda**

Donation for Cemetery maintenance from Sandra Williams.

Draft Planning Board By-laws.

Coastal Opportunity request for a donation.

Town Warrant Article – tax discount.

**III. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda**

There was no public comment.

**IV. Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes (April 6<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and May 4<sup>th</sup>.)**

*Reitz moved and Northgraves seconded a motion to approve the minutes of April 6, 12, 25 and May 4<sup>th</sup>.*

**Motion passed 3-0.**

**V. Old Business**

**a. Update From the Technology Committee**

Lynne Canavan presented a power point update to give a brief summary of the work the Technology Committee has done over the past few months.

The Mission of the Committee is: "The Ad Hoc Technology Committee is charged with discovering and evaluating communications and other technologies that could be of benefit to the Town and reporting these to the Selectboard in a timely fashion."

Lynne talked briefly about the Midcoast Internet Development Corporation and the Axiom Feasibility Study for South Thomaston.

The Technology Committee recommends Consolidated Communications and Spectrum as high-speed internet delivery for the town as opposed to Midcoast Internet Development Corporation.

There was a brief discussion on keeping the technology committee active or terminating it. The members of the committee are willing to continue and the Selectboard support the committee continuing. The committee also had ideas of how they could continue with their mission.

## VI. New Business

### a. Consider the Request of the Conservation Commission to Appoint Sally Merchant and Wes Pratt as Associate Members of the Conservation Commission

*Reitz moved and Northgraves seconded a motion Sally Merchant be appointed as an Associate Member of the Conservation Commission for a term that will expire the first Selectboard meeting after the town meeting of 2023.*

**Motion passed 3-0.**

*Reitz moved and Northgraves seconded a motion Wes Pratt be appointed as an Associate Member of the Conservation Commission for a term that will expire the first Selectboard meeting after the town meeting of 2024.*

**Motion passed 3-0.**

### b. Review Town Meeting Warrant

#### **Little Red School House/Historical Society Lease**

Article 5 on proposed warrant. No changes.

#### **Amend the Current Inter Local Agreement between the Towns of Owls Head, South Thomaston and Thomaston establishing a Cooperative Solid Waste Transfer Facility**

Article 6 on proposed warrant. There is a question concerning a comma in the first paragraph. Reitz will check to see if the comma should be there.

#### **Authorize the Selectboard to form a nonprofit corporation to be called the Library Community Center Auxiliary**

Article 7 on the proposed warrant. There was a brief discussion if the by-laws would affect the article. The consensus was they would not. The Selectboard scheduled a meeting to discuss the proposed by-laws.

#### **Ordinance Regulating the Storage of Solid Waste and Junk**

Article 8 on the proposed warrant. Spear proposed several changes to the ordinance.

This will require a public hearing. The public hearing is scheduled for May 24, 2022.

#### **Acquisition of Fire Trucks**

Article 9 of the proposed warrant.

There was a brief discussion on a lease to purchase option. This article would also cover lease/purchasing.

There was a discussion on terms.

On June 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm, the Fire Department will have a public hearing with a power point presentation on purchasing a new truck.

#### **Maine Lobstermen's Association's Legal Defense Fund**

Reitz read the proposed Article for the Town Warrant.

He also noted this article has no effect on the tax bill as the funding is coming from the town landing reserve which is funded by boat excise.

#### **Change to Town Meeting**

Article 10 of the proposed warrant.

#### **Other - Tax Discount**

There was a brief discussion on continuing or not continuing to have the tax discount article. It was decided not to have a tax discount article this year.

### c. Discussion on a Newsletter

Possible articles: purchase of new fire trucks, Island Road Project, Axiom Study, availability of the town report.

### d. Discussion Regarding Distribution of 2021 Town Report

There was a discussion on what version of the budget to put in the Town Report. The two-page summary will go in town report and a more detailed handout will be available at the Town Office.

After briefly discussing that the audit report would not be available for the town report, it was decided to put a brief explanation in the town report as to why.

There was a brief discussion on printing less reports and having them available at the Town Office. A newsletter will be mailed before town meeting. The newsletter will contain an article saying the Town Report is available at the Town Office and online.

**e. Update Island Road Project and Paving**

Spear gave an update on the Island Road Project and road work. Culverts will be replaced beginning May 16th. Island road will be closed between 73 and the intersection of Village Road and Island Road, when two culverts are replaced on that stretch of road, detouring traffic around Village road.

Hagar is beginning work on the Island Project the second or third week of July. Island Road and the Project area will be paved at the same time.

**f. Update Regarding Skateboard Park**

Spear briefly met with the Paquettes and several residents at the skateboard park. The idea is to focus on a park for younger kids. The Paquettes are going to organize a work party to dismantle several of the bigger, older equipment pieces. People at the meeting recommended taking the fence down. The plan is to try to buy items off the shelf designed for younger skateboarders.

**g. Update Regarding Tennis/Basketball Courts Renovations/Grant**

Spear gave an update. The Town received no bids. One company that Spear spoke with, said the cracks will just come back. The cracks have been repaired before and the cracks keep coming back. To replace two courts the cost would be approximately \$160,000 to \$170,000. The Group that has been involved in this project discussed fixing one court. Test boring needs to be done to see what the problem is. The cost of test boring is around \$2,000 to \$2,500 per court. The Town would need to raise a substantial amount for our local match, approximately \$25,000 or \$30,000. Test boring would be an eligible cost, but the grant would have to be modified. The grant can only be modified up to \$22,000. To get more money the Town would have to reapply. The next step is to have the test borings done or just fill the cracks.

**h. Execute the Certified Ration Declaration Form**

*Reitz moved and Northgraves seconded a motion to select option two and approve the Certified Ration Declaration Form.*

After a discussion, Reitz withdrew his motion and Northgraves withdrew his second.

*Reitz moved and Northgraves seconded a motion to table until the May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.*

**Motion passed 3-0.**

**i. Consider Acceptable Use Agreement**

*Reitz moved and Northgraves seconded a motion to table until the May 24<sup>th</sup> Selectboard Meeting.*

**Motion passed 3-0.**

**j. Discussion on MMA Risk Management Services Inspection Report on the Gilford Butler Building.**

Baines and Alley went through the list.

Items that are completed:

Electrical Safety

Hallways Cleared

Office is Cleaned

Plants have been removed from the basement

Items to be completed:

Alley has been researching slides

Alley will be ordering wood chips

Eastern Fire testing and replace sprinklers

Masonry repair

Cover for sprinkler reservoir

**k. Consider Accepting a Donation to the Ambulance Service**

*Reitz moved and Northgraves seconded a motion to accept a donation from Rebecca Taylor.*

**Motion passed 3-0.**

**I. Consider Accepting a Donation to the Fire Department and Ambulance Service**

*Northgraves moved and Reitz seconded a motion to accept a \$500 donation (\$250 Ambulance \$250 Fire Department) from Michelle and Stephen Taylor.*

**Motion passed 3-0.**

**m. Consider Accepting a Donation to the Tennis/Basketball Courts**

*Reitz moved and Northgraves seconded a motion to accept a donation from Susan Buttura for the Tennis/Basketball courts.*

**Motion passed 3-0.**

**n. Cemetery Maintenance Donation**

*Reitz moved and Northgraves seconded a motion to accept a donation from Sandra Williams for cemetery maintenance.*

**Motion passed 3-0.**

**o. Planning Board By-Law**

There was a discussion between Erv Curtis, Chair of the Planning Board, and the Selectboard on changes the Selectboard would like to see made.

It was briefly discussed whether this should be an addendum or imbedded in the bylaws.

Curtis will take the recommendations to the Planning Board and bring back to the Selectboard at a later meeting.

**p. Consider Appointment of Health Officer, Anticipated Executive Session**

*Reitz moved and Northgraves seconded a motion to enter executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A) a Personnel Matter.*

**Motion passed 3-0.**

The Board entered executive session at 8:45.

The Board exited executive session at 8:50.

**q. Coastal Opportunities**

No action taken.

**VII. Correspondence**

**Ted Mahler email regarding Wilson Construction**

Spear briefly explained the situation and issues. Spear recommends CEO Dates and Northgraves meet with the Town attorney since it is a complicated situation. Northgraves mentioned Wilson is to come back to the Planning Board in June.

*Reitz moved and Northgraves seconded a motion that Dates and Northgraves are authorized to meet with the town attorney in regard to this situation.*

**Motion passed 3-0.**

**Attorney James Haddow regarding 3 Westbrook Street**

Baines will record a new discharge lien at the Knox County Registry.

*Northgraves moved and Reitz seconded a motion that because we were not timely enough our attempt to place the lien was in error.*

**Motion passed 3-0.**

**VIII. Warrants Review and Approval**

**IX. Review Items for Next Agenda**

**X. Schedule Future Meetings**

May 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss the By-laws of the Library and Community Center Auxiliary.

Public Hearing and Selectboard Meeting May 24th.

June 7th.

June 21st.

Town Meeting June 28<sup>th</sup>.

**XI. Adjourn**

*Reitz moved and Northgraves seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:52.*

**Motion passed 3-0.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89182660588?pwd=VTZyYVJOUiU1NVRwaUo0NXhwdGpmZz09>

Meeting ID: 891 8266 0588      Passcode: 831055

Approved by Selectboard May 24, 2022