



Town of South Thomaston, Maine
125 Spruce Head Road
P.O. Box 147
South Thomaston, ME 04858-0147

Tel: 207-596-6584
Fax: 207-596-7529
E-mail: terri@souththomaston.me

Selectboard:
John Spear
Jeff Northgraves
Sue Snow

Selectboard Minutes
Date: August 9, 2022, 6:00 PM at the Municipal Building
Items Are Often Taken Out of Order to Accommodate Schedules

Rev 0

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

Selectboard Present: Jeff Northgraves, John Spear, Sue Snow

Others Present: Terri-Lynn Baines, Ambulance Director Amy Drinkwater, Pennie Alley, Rob Duplisea, EMA Director Betty Thomas, Maureen Spencer, Becky Butler, Ervin Curtis, Tom Shook

Via Zoom: Ryan Colson, Walter Reitz, Meg Rasmussen

I. Call to Order

Spear called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

II. Adjustments to Agenda

Under appointments Director Drinkwater added appointing Ryan Colson as Captain.

Consider participating in the Community Resilience Partnership.

Strike executive session at the request of Director Drinkwater.

III. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda

There was no public comment.

IV. Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes (July 12 and July 14, 2022)

Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion to approve the minutes of July 12th and 14th.

Motion passed 3-0.

V. Old Business

a. Update Regarding Fire Trucks Acquisitions

Chief Calderwood and Tom Shook, Regional Sales Manager at Greenwood, came in to discuss with the Selectboard the lease purchase option. There would be no payment until a year after signing the lease. No bond counsel opinion is required. Shook explained different prepay options. The company will provide a performance bond at no cost to the Town and there is no prepayment penalty.

b. Consider Participating in the Community Resilience Partnership

The Selectboard met with Meg Rasmussen on August 4th to discuss participating in the partnership. Belonging to the partnership can open the town up to receiving grants for activities that lower energy expenses, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and increase community resilience in alignment with the state's climate action plan and goals. Rasmussen will help with applying for funding.

Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion WHEREAS, the Community Resilience Partnership provides grants to municipalities and Tribal Governments for activities that lower energy expenses, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and increase community resilience in alignment with the state's climate action plan and goals;

WHEREAS, the Midcoast Council of Governments can, at no cost to the Town, help enroll South Thomaston in the Community Resilience Partnership through a State funded Service Provider grant.

BE IT RESOLVED, The Selectboard of the Town of South Thomaston commits to enrolling in the Community Resilience Partnership program with the Midcoast Council of Government as its Service Provider.

Motion passed 3-0.

Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion to authorize Baines to sign the letter of support.

Motion passed 3-0.

c. Discussion on Second Tranche of ARPA Funds

The Town has \$74,099.18 available. The Selectboard will consider options and discuss them at the next meeting.

Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion to table this discussion until the next meeting.

Motion passed 3-0.

d. Discussion Regarding Results of Advisory Article 10

Article 10. *This article is strictly advisory and is not binding on the Selectboard. To see if the Town desires that the Selectboard include an article on the warrant of the 2023 annual town meeting to determine if the town wishes to adopt the provisions of Title 30-A MRSA Section 2528. Adoption of Section 2528 would henceforth, until if and when repealed:*

- 1. Require that all elected officials, excluding the Moderator, be elected by a referendum secret ballot vote at the polls, and*
- 2. Enable the Selectboard, and petitioners, to submit certain articles or questions, at their discretion, to a referendum secret ballot vote at the polls.*

Currently the only elected South Thomaston officials, other than the Moderator, is the town's member of the RSU 13 Board of Directors and the members of the Selectboard, who also serve as the Board of Assessors and the Overseers of the Poor.

The Selectboard discussed that people seemed in favor of this change, as long as they still had a town meeting for voting on articles on the warrant. It was discussed that future Selectboards could make changes. This item can be put on the warrant of the next town meeting. There was a discussion on when the election would be held and when the Town Meeting would be held. If an Article is placed on next year's Town Meeting Warrant, and passes, it wouldn't be effective until the following year.

e. Discussion of Possible Creation of Recreation Committee

There was a brief discussion on creating an ad hoc committee vs an informal Recreation Group. The Town already has a working group for the tennis court. Alley will start a Gilford Butler Grounds group.

f. Update on LD 290 An Act to Stabilize Property Taxes for Individuals 65 Years of Age and Older

Duplisea gave a brief overview of LD 290. The taxpayer doesn't have to have a homestead exemption, but needs to be eligible for one. They have to have owned a home in Maine for 10 years, but the years don't have to be consecutive. Every person that applies, must receive a letter of approval or non approval. Software providers will need to update software. The tax amount will be frozen and the taxpayer can move to any other town in Maine and still pay that rate and even if an addition is added, the tax amount is frozen as long as the property owner files an application every year.

g. Appointments

Snow moved and Spear seconded a motion to appoint Jeff Northgraves to the Co-operative Solid Waste Board.

Motion passed 3-0.

Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion to appoint Catherine Lerme as a member of the Library and Community Center Facility Committee.

Motion passed 3-0.

Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion to appoint Cliff Dacso as Health Officer.

Motion passed 3-0.

Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion to appoint Becky Butler as Assistant EMA Director.

Motion passed 3-0.

Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion to appoint Ryan Colson as Captain for the Ambulance Department.

Motion passed 3-0.

h. Review Proposed Planning Board By-Laws and Addendum

Curtis addressed the latest amended addendum. There was a discussion on #9. Permanent Establishments serving alcohol. It was recommended by the Selectboard this be removed. The Planning board can not take action on this. There was a discussion on public hearings and letters of notification. There was a brief discussion on initial reviews and complete reviews. For their August 18th meeting the Planning Board has 5 permit applications for Wilson construction, 1 permit for Saltwater Fields for glamping tents, 1 permit for a ramp and float and a solar company will be presenting a presentation.

VI. New Business

a. Tax Commitment for 12 Month Period July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

Rob Duplisea presented two tax rate calculation standard forms. He walked down through the first form line by line. The Town has approximately 437 homestead exemptions. Total valuation is up, totaling a little more than 3 million. County tax is \$328,719.00. Municipal Appropriation \$1,827,282. Local Education \$3,635,557.19. Anticipated Revenue Sharing \$200,000. Other revenues \$811,651.

Line 16 to 18 Maximum tax allowed, and minimum tax allowed. Line 19 is the mil rate. With the above numbers the rate would be .01710. Line 21 and Line 22 are Homestead and BETE amounts. Line 23 is overlay.

On the second tax rate calculation form, adding additional money to other revenues from surplus lowered the mil rate to .016500.

The 2020 mil rate was 15.35.

There was a lengthy discussion on lowering the mil rate using surplus or using surplus for paving. If the Selectboard uses \$260,000 of surplus the mil rate would be .01615.

Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion to put an addition \$260,000 from undesignated funds (surplus) towards other revenues for a mil rate of .01615, with an overlay of \$17,343.03.

Motion passed 3-0.

b. Certify Local Road Assistance Program Form

Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion to certify the Local Road Assistance Program Form.

Motion passed 3-0.

c. Discussion Regarding Possible Enterprise Fund for Ambulance Department

An Enterprise Fund is an accounting mechanism. Basically it means if the ambulance department budget is \$200,000, \$100,000 appropriated from the town and \$100,000 from revenue the department brings in, if the ambulance department brings in more than it spends, that money is set aside as restricted for use by the ambulance. This provides incentive to the department to undertake activities that might generate revenue. This is a possible way to budget for next year. Excess revenue the ambulance department collects wouldn't go to undesignated fund balance, it would go to a designated fund for the ambulance. The Board is interested in looking into this and will talk to the auditor concerning this. This would offer more flexibility towards moving towards regionalization, if that should happen in the future.

d. ACO Report

The Selectboard reviewed the report.

e. Road Commissioner Report

The overlay from Rt 73 to the Spruce Head bridge still needs to be completed. There were three minor change orders in the Island Road Project.

At the south end of Waterman Beach Road, the State dug out triangle to improve the intersection. Performance Paving will pave the area.

Other paving projects the Road Commissioner had proposed doing are on hold because of pricing.

It has been recommended Westbrook Street should be reclaimed and paved. Spear will get pricing from Hagar and Performance Paving.

There is no longer a Bump sign near the Spruce Head bridge because two signs placed there have been stolen, and two others were written on.

f. MMA Annual Election

Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion approve the slate as presented.

Motion passed 3-0.

g. Accept Donation for Library

Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion to accept a \$500 donation from Elizabeth Lunt.

Motion passed 3-0.

The Library Director gave an update on the library and the historical society. Sprinkler heads were replaced at Gilford Butler today. The outlet for fire trucks to hook up to outside was updated.

The Historical Society has started using the Little Red School house. Heritage Day is Sunday, August 14th, and will be held at the Little Red School House.

The following Sunday, August 21st, the Gilford Butler Reunion will be held.

The Library will have open hours on Thursday and Friday while the building is open for other groups.

The Owls Head Library Board is using our learning center room.

PEO is using the Gilford Butler Meeting Room.

On Thursdays the Fiber Art Group meets.

h. Review Draft Audit for Period Ending June 30, 2022.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

i. Executive Session – Personnel Matter- Request of Ambulance Director Drinkwater

Removed at the request of the Ambulance Director.

VII. Correspondence

Knox Clinic

The Selectboard reviewed the funding request. ARPA funds are a possibility. ARPA funds will be discussed at the next meeting.

VIII. Warrants Review and Approval

The Selectboard approved the Warrants.

IX. Review Items for Next Agenda

Draft Audit

Discussion on Second Tranche of ARPA Funds.

X. Schedule Future Meetings

Previously scheduled meeting for August 17th and August 23rd.

Scheduled September 13th and 27th.

XI. Adjourn

Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:18 pm.

Motion passed 3-0.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89416876904?pwd=TkF6UklCOFF4Z2hNd21JT1c0U1hrdz09>

Selectboard Approved August 23, 2022