



**Town of South Thomaston, Maine**  
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**Selectboard:**  
John Spear  
Jeff Northgraves  
Sue Snow

Selectboard Minutes  
Date: August 23, 2022, 6:00 PM at the Municipal Building  
**Items Are Often Taken Out of Order to Accommodate Schedules**

Rev 1

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

**Selectboard Present,** John Spear, Sue Snow

**Others Present:** Terri-Lynn Baines, Pennie Alley, Maureen Spencer, Catherine Lerne, Peter O'Brien, Jan Hartman, Carol Dumont, Mike Dumont, Chuck Hartman

**Via Zoom:** Elizabeth Hilchey, Cynthia Carter. Ambulance Director Amy Drinkwater

**I. Call to Order**

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

**II. Adjustments to Agenda**

Accept Crystal Burch's resignation.

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

Lerne asked about the status of her appointment to the Library/Committee Center Committee. She was appointed at the August 9<sup>th</sup> meeting but due to a miscommunication she wasn't notified she was appointed and that she needed to come in to the Town Office and be sworn in.

Peter O'Brien requested the Town consider a Noise Ordinance. Spear explained the process to get an ordinance on the town warrant at the Annual Town meeting. O'Brien explained his problem with noise was having the oyster farm running their diesel generator 24 hours a day. He filed a complaint with Fish and Wildlife in Augusta. O'Brien felt if the Town had a Noise Ordinance it could have been enforced quickly, giving his family relief from the noise. Spear asked Baines to put this on the next agenda.

**IV. Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes (August 4<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>)**

*Snow moved and Spear seconded a motion to approve the minutes of August 4<sup>th</sup> and August 9<sup>th</sup>.*  
**Motion passed 2-0.**

**V. Old Business**

**a. Discussion on Second Tranche of ARPA Funds**

Some considerations were using some funds as a match for rebuilding the tennis court, \$10,000 to the Community Center, a ventilation system for the meeting room, air filters for the town office and the back-room office, a tv for the owl at the library and vacation buyout for Baines who has been unable to use her vacation due to staffing issues and other covid related matters..

*Snow moved and Spear seconded a motion to table the discussion on the second tranche of ARPA funds to the September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.*

**Motion passed 2-0.**

**b. Planning Board By-laws**

*Snow moved and Spear seconded a motion to table the Planning Board By-laws to the September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.*

**Motion passed 2-0.**

**c. Discuss New Fire Truck Purchase/Lease Options**

There was a brief discussion on rates through Machias Savings Bank and the rates quoted by Tom Shook, if the Purchase/Lease was signed by September 1<sup>st</sup>.

There was also a brief discussion on the discount offer.

*Snow moved and Spear seconded a motion to move the discussion of the new fire trucks purchase /lease options to the August 30<sup>th</sup> meeting.*

**Motion passed 2-0.**

**VI. New Business**

**a. Consider Ambulance New Hire**

Cynthia Carter (Thia) attended the meeting through zoom. She introduced herself to the Selectboard. She is an EMT. She is currently enrolled in an Advanced EMT class and is working full time in the ER as an ER Tech. She lives in Camden

*Snow moved and Spear seconded a motion to hire Cynthia Carter as an EMT on the South Thomaston Ambulance Service.*

**Motion passed 2-0.**

**b. Consider Ambulance Hardship Write-off**

*Snow moved and Spear seconded a motion to approve the hardship write off of \$810.50.*

**Motion passed 2-0.**

**c. Discussion on Shingling the Little Red School House**

The shingles have been delivered for the schoolhouse. There was a discussion on where the shingles could be dipped and finding volunteers to do the work. There is also some repair work that needs to be done. It was suggested the work could be broken into sections then get a commitment from volunteers for each section.

The Historical Society would like to change the color of the schoolhouse from red back to its original color of beige. There was a discussion on having public input on changing the color. Jan Hartman gave a brief history on the color of the schoolhouse.

The Carol Dumont will write up a blurb asking how the town feels about changing the color from red to a previous historical color. Baines will send it out on the town group email and put it on web and anyone who would like to comment on this can send Baines an email stating which color they would prefer.

The Historical Society has set the school house up as a museum. It is open 10 to 2 on Saturdays.

**d. Tax Acquired Property Bids**

The Town received three bids for the Tax Acquired Property (M 17 L 004-001) on Westbrook Street. The bids were:

Christopher Poirier- Quit Claim Deed \$9,250, Warranty Deed \$12,500.

Jake Weisburg- Quit Claim Deed \$9,250, Warranty Deed \$13, 250.

Dan Ford- Quit Claim Deed \$6,600, Warranty Deed \$8,600.

There was a brief discussion on the low amounts of the bids.

*Snow moved and Spear seconded a motion to table the tax acquired bids until the September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.*

**Motion passed 2-0.**

**e. Review Draft Audit for Period Ending June 30, 2022.**

*Snow moved and Spear seconded a motion to accept the June 30, 2022 audit and to authorize the Chair to execute the representation letter.*

**Motion passed 2-0.**

**f. Monthly Department Head Reports**

The Board had no questions on any of the reports.

**g. Discussion on the Chat Feature Use in Zoom Meetings**

There was a brief discussion on private chats on zoom. The chat option has been disabled on the Town's zoom account.

**h. Consider Landscape Request at Intersection of Village Road and Rt 73**

Adrian Hooydonk requested he be able to plant roses in the open space behind the guardrail. He is also concerned the guardrail didn't go all the way around and a car could drive behind it. A big rock would block access to a car.

Spear will write up a letter to send to the Hooydonks and have it recorded at the registry.

*Snow moved and Spear seconded a motion the Selectboard approve the landscaping request at intersection of Village Road and Rt 73.*

**i. Discussion on the Evaluation Difference with the State and Impact on Homestead & Veteran Exemptions This Year**

*Snow moved and Spear seconded a motion to table the discussion on the evaluation difference with the State and impact on Homestead and Veteran Exemptions this year to the September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.*

**Motion passed 2-0.**

**j. Discussion on Locking in #2 Heating Oil Price for Upcoming Heating Season**

*Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion to grant the Town Administrator the authority to lock in the purchase price of the #2 heating oil.*

**Motion passed 2-0.**

**k. Accept the Resignation of Crystal Burch**

*Snow moved and Spear seconded a motion to accept the resignation of Crystal Burch.*

**Motion passed 2-0.**

**VII. Correspondence**

**Maine Municipal Association Risk Management Services**

The Town received a dividend check from MMA Risk Management in the amount of \$2,031. \$1,049 from property and casualty and \$982 from workers comp.

**Jane Karker- Campgrounds in R-2**

Spear read the email requesting the consideration of changing use regulations in R-2. Spear suggested the Selectboard refer this matter to the Ordinance Review Committee. *Snow moved and Spear seconded a motion to refer the letter to the Ordinance Review Committee.*

**Motion passed 2-0.**

**VIII. Warrants Review and Approval**

The Selectboard approved the warrants.

**IX. Review Items for Next Agenda**

**August 30<sup>th</sup> meeting**

Discuss New Fire Truck Purchase/Lease Options.

**September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

Noise ordinance request from Peter O'Brien.

Color of the Historical Society Museum shingles.

Tax acquired property bids.

Discussion on Second Tranche of ARPA Funds.

Planning Board By-Laws.

Discussion on the Evaluation Difference with the State and Impact on Homestead & Veteran Exemptions This Year.

**X. Schedule Future Meetings**

Meetings scheduled for August 30<sup>th</sup>, September 13<sup>th</sup> and September 27<sup>th</sup>.

**XI. Adjourn**

*Snow moved and Spear seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:20.*

**Motion passed 2-0.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87081985254?pwd=QUJMeEIDL1ltclEvc25oZThmU0cydz09>

Selectboard Approved September 13, 2022