



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

Selectboard Minutes
Date: November 15, 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: John Spear, Sue Snow, Jeff Northgraves

Others Present: Terri-Lynn Baines, Pennie Alley, Carol and Mike Dumont, Catherine Lerme, Sondra Wallace, Maureen Spencer

I. Call to Order

Spear called the meeting to order at 6:12 pm. The start of the meeting was delayed due to technical issues with the volume on the zoom meeting.

Spear noted the Town is in need of volunteers interested in helping on various committees and the Fire Department.

II. Adjustments to Agenda

Accept the resignation of Donna Fifield.

III. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda

Walter Reitz inquired about enforcement of the "Junky Yard Ordinance". He asked if inspections are proactive or must an inspection be triggered by a complaint. The Selectboard felt a complaint is currently the best way as the CEO is extremely busy.

IV. Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes (October 18th)

Snow moved and Spear seconded a motion to approve the minutes of October 18th as written.

Motion passed 2-0. Northgraves abstained.

V. Old Business

a. Update from Theo Pratt on the Community Resilience Partnership

Pennie Alley gave the update on the Community Resilience Partnership working group for Theo Pratt, who was not able to attend the meeting.

There was a discussion on the two questionnaires that were distributed. One of the questionnaires was in regards to actions already taken and one is on community awareness/self-assessment. Meg Rassmusen will meet with the working group again. She is assisting them in working on a timeline and the group hopes to have a public meeting in January for the Town's input on project options.

The Selectboard has a workshop on November 22nd to work on the questionnaire.

b. Discussion on Potential Work on the Little Red School House

Carol Dumont reported that eight bundles of shingles have been dipped, but they have a total of 80 bundles to dip. The plan is to shingle the school house in the spring. The Historical Society has purchased one new sign. A Village School Museum sign and have added the word Museum to the current Historical Society Sign.

Snow moved and Northgraves seconded a motion to approve both of the signs.

Motion passed 3-0.

The Historical Society is seeking reimbursement from the Randall Hopkins Trust Fund for items they have purchased. A sign, refrigerator, laptop, tv and bracket, bronze plaque, dehumidifier, and heating system. The amount of reimbursement requested is \$15,393.83.

Snow moved and Northgraves seconded a motion to approve disbursement from the Randall Hopkins Memorial Fund for the Wessaweskeag Historical Society.

Motion passed 3-0.

c. Process of Nominations to the South Thomaston Library and Community Center Auxiliary Board of Directors

The Selectboard briefly discussed the group and whether a Selectboard member should be on the Board of Directors. Weisman was attending the meeting via zoom. Due to the technical difficulty being experienced with sound on zoom, she requested this discussion be tabled until the next meeting.

Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion to table until the next meeting. The motion was amended to table until the November 29th meeting.

Motion passed 3-0.

d. Discussion Regarding the Tennis/Basketball Courts

The options regarding what to do with the courts were discussed. Options range from the Town doing nothing and trying to get out from under the grant to rebuilding all three courts. There was a discussion on reapplying for a new grant and building the parking lot, rebuilding one court and paving the basketball court. Also discussed was the process to abandon the courts. Currently there is quite a bit of basketball court and pickleball courts use. The Selectboard Board will investigate the options for going forward to repair the courts.

e. Discussion on Second Tranche of ARPA Funds

2 AED's will cost \$2,106.44, a streetlight for outside the Butler Building will be approximately \$1000. Alley has a quote of \$12,325 for a generator that would be hard wired and big enough to run the Butler building as a shelter. Once ordered it would take several months to get here. Alley will make sure that the generator would be able to be moved to the new building if/when a new building is built. There was a brief discussion on the need to have the warming shelter at the Little Red School House if we had a shelter at the Butler Building. Other possible uses for ARPA funds is for paving in the spring.

f. Discussion on Mowing Contract

The Selectboard discussed requiring the bids be due in January and reviewed the list of areas to mow. Dates in the bid document need to be updated, Thorndike cemetery was removed from the areas to be mowed and wording will be added under “the Contractor shall” holding the contractor liable for any damage.

g. Discussion on Assessors Agent RFP

RFP has gone out.

h. Discussion on State Valuations

There was no further discussion.

VI. New Business

a. Discussion on Efficiency Maine

Alley requested this agenda item. The application period is open until August 2023. The Program has a no cost no obligation consult.

This program can cover heat pumps and light retrofitting for Municipal buildings. There was a discussion on qualifying partners. Qualifying partners are a requirement to go through the application process. Alley has a list of qualifying partners.

Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion to authorize Baines and Alley to pursue the no cost, no obligation consult.

Motion passed 3-0.

b. Consider Accepting the Conservation Commission Mission Statement

There was a discussion on why the Conservation Commission needs a Mission Statement, and why limit the statement to just public land? The way the statement submitted to the Selectboard is written is limiting.

The Conservation Commission had two members here to discuss the Mission Statement with the Selectboard.

The Mission Statement was modeled on fellow Conservation Commissions in Knox County. The Conservation Commission will tweak the statement and bring it back before the Board.

Snow moved and Northgraves seconded a motion to table until the second meeting in December. The motion was amended to table until the Jan 10th meeting.

Motion passed 3-0.

c. Consider Accepting a Donation to the Library

Alley read the letter sent along with the donation.

Snow moved and Northgraves seconded a motion to accept the \$150 donation from the Board of Trustees of the Public Library of Melvern, PA

Motion passed 3-0.

d. Accept Resignation of Donna Fifield

Spear moved and Northgraves seconded a motion to accept with regret the resignation of Donna Fifield.

Motion passed 3-0.

- e. **Consideration of a New Hire to Clean at the Library- Proposed by the Library Director**
Alley recommended Nicky Tyler to clean at the library. Baines will meet with her also to discuss cleaning at the Municipal Building.

Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion to hire Tyler for the cleaning at the library and Baines will interview her to see if she is a fit for the Town Office.

Motion passed 3-0.

- f. **Monthly Reports**
The Selectboard reviewed the reports.

- g. **Anticipated Executive Session -Personnel Matters**

Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion to enter Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A) a Personnel Matter.

The Board entered executive session at 8:00 pm.

The Board exited executive session at 9:12 pm

Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion to pay Donna Fifield a Performance stipend of \$500 in recognition of her many many years of service in cleaning the library and town office.

Motion passed 3-0.

Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion to pay Hannah Moholland a Performance bonus of \$150 in recognition of her positive attitude and quick learning since she has been on the job.

Motion passed 3-0.

Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion to amend our Personal Policy to pay EMS per-diems that work on holidays at time and a half.

Motion passed 3-0.

- VII. **Correspondence**

Ted Mahler sent an email complaining about continuing noise at Wilson's Construction. CEO Dan Dates discussed the situation at Wilson's Construction with Mahler. Dates feels Wilson is no longer operating his business on the property and feels the problem is resolved. The Selectboard discussed how to handle the issue if Mahler has more complaints.

- VIII. **Warrants Review and Approval**

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the warrants.

- IX. **Review Items for Next Agenda**

Process of Nominations to the South Thomaston Library and Community Center Auxiliary Board of Directors.

Discussion on Second Tranche of ARPA Funds.

X. Schedule Future Meetings

November 22nd Workshop at 3:30

November 29th

December 13th

January 10th

January 24th

XI. Adjourn

Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion to adjourn at 9:17.

Motion passed 3-0.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82694746073?pwd=S0RIWDcwd0ZnNmt1cUNoNjJGWWVHZz09>

Selectboard approved 11/29/22