



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

Selectboard Minutes
Date: January 24, 2023, 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 (via zoom), Jeff Northgraves, Sue Snow

Others Present: Terri-Lynn Baines, Fire Chief David Elwell, Ambulance Director Amy Drinkwater, Sandy Weisman, Pennie Alley, Ryan Colson, Jan Gaudio, Via zoom: Sondra Wallace, Walter Reitz

I. Call to Order

Spear called the meeting to order at 6:01.

II. Adjustments to Agenda

Consider CEO applicants probable executive session

Stryker Power Load

Delete 6 c.

III. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda

There were no comments.

IV. Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes (January 10, 2023)

Snow moved and Spear seconded a motion to approve the minutes of January 10, 2023.

Motion passed 3-0.

V. Old Business

a. Discussion on Second Tranche of ARPA Funds

There were no additional requests for funds at this time. Walter Reitz asked for a breakdown of what had been spent from the second tranche of funds. Baines will email the spreadsheet breakdown to him.

b. Consider Mowing Bids

Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion to accept the bid from Wilson Construction for a three year contract at \$14,000 a year.

There was a brief discussion that Wilson's bid was intended to be for three years at \$14,000 a year. Also briefly discussed was the money difference in the two bids received. Wilson's bid was lower because he feels mowing for the Town is more a civic duty than a money making project for him.

Motion passed 3-0.

c. Discussion Re: Proposal by Local Health Officer to Use Stipend to Fund Water Testing for Residents

The Knox Clinic isn't able to set up an account and disperse the funds for water testing. The Selectboard discussed accepting Dacso's Local Health Officer stipend and putting it out there that funding is available to have water tested.

Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion to accept the proposal less \$50 of what Dacso is paid to set up a fund to assist water testing for people facing financial hurdles.

Motion passed 3-0.

Baines will administer the funds.

d. Discuss Possible Dates for Joint Meeting with Owls Head Selectboard

The Selectboard will meet with the Owls Head Selectboard at 4:00 pm on February 8th.

e. Report from Treasurer Regarding Tax Acquired Property

Baines reported on the two tax acquired properties.

Francis Walsh, 6 Field Street M 15 L29-003, came in to talk about making payment arrangements. He does want to "purchase" his property back and said he will be in on or before Jan 30th with \$510.46 for the amount owed for the 2020 tax lien. Baines explained to him the Selectboard would Quitclaim it back to him after the payment was received and the 2021 and 2022 taxes would still be owed.

There has been no contact from the Cuccinello's regarding the other tax acquired property M 16 L9-001.

f. Report from CEO Regarding Wilson Construction Notice of Violation

Baines sent the Notice of Violation certified mail, so she would know when the letter was received. Wilson did not pick the letter up, so Baines hand delivered it to his Office Manager on January 18th. Wilson came to the Town office that day. He was angry, but did calm down. Wilson claims he is not using Lot 18 L 002-003-001 for any commercial activities. He is stockpiling materials for his own personal use to improve the lot – Driveway and lawn. He will be adding to the piles. He intends on building a house in a few years. He said several times he told this to the former CEO and wasn't very happy the information was not passed on to the Selectboard. Baines said it was very unfortunate that the information wasn't passed on, but we can only go forward from here. Baines asked Wilson to write a letter stating that the materials were for personal use and he is not conducting any commercial activity on that property. Northgraves suggested to him he also write a letter to the CEO with a brief outline of his timetable/plans to relocate to his new site. Wilson brought the letters to the town office that afternoon.

If a complaint is brought to the CEO, or the Selectboard again, Wilson would like the opportunity to provide insight into what had or had not taken place.

If the materials Travis is stockpiling there is for personal use, it appears there is no violation.

g. Report from CEO Regarding Letter Concerning Enforcement of Solid Waste and Junk Ordinance

The "junky yard" letters were sent out by certified mail on the 13th of January. Some letters have been picked up. Baines has received one phone call. The Property owner stated he has started cleaning up. Baines will check in with his progress in a couple of weeks.

A second letter recipient stormed in to the office. He said he is tired of being harassed by this town and the Town should be ashamed sending out letters like this. He couldn't understand that it was a generic letter sent to many people and all of the items mentioned were not on his lawn. Baines showed him the pictures Dan had taken and commended him on the amount he had cleaned up. He said he leaves his trash bags on the lawn because he

only goes to the dump once a week. Baines suggested trash cans. He said the Town would hear from his lawyer.

Not all of the letters have been picked up.

VI. New Business

a. Set Date for 2023 Annual Town Meeting

There was a discussion on having the meeting the last Tuesday or the third Tuesday of June.

Spear moved Snow seconded a motion to set the town meeting for June 20, 2023.

Motion passed 3-0.

b. Consider Ambulance Payment Write-Offs

Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion to authorize the Town Administrator and the Ambulance Director to sign the write off authorization.

There was a lengthy discussion on hardship forms being sent out and writing off the debt too quickly. Some bills are not a year old. Some of the write-offs are the full payment. The patients are not responding to the bill they receive. Some bills are only the patient's portion but the patients are not responding to the bills. There was a discussion on writing the debt off too quickly

Motion passed 3-0.

c. Report from Fire Chief Elwell and Ambulance Director Drinkwater on Discussion with Knox County Airport

Deleted from the agenda under adjustments to the agenda.

d. Stryker Power Load

Drinkwater had an updated quote for the new stretcher. AFG Grant. The cost will go up 8 to 10 percent February 1st. The Ambulance Service has a grant for \$30000, which leaves an approximate \$15,000 shortfall. It's possible the Ambulance Service could apply for the AFG Grant.

There was a brief discussion about if the current grant could be amended to cover the shortfall. There was a discussion on using the ARPA funds if we weren't awarded a AFG grant. Another option is half from ARPA funds and half from ambulance donations.

Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion to allow Drinkwater to commit to this Stryker Auto load using ambulance donation funds and ARPA funds 50 /50 , after checking with the grantor first.

Motion passed 3-0.

e. Discuss with Ambulance Director Drinkwater Possible AFG Grant

The Selectboard and Drinkwater discussed the AFG Grant and the AFG Safer grant. The AFG Safer Grant could cover hiring a full time fire fighter/EMS person. Drinkwater will apply for the AFG Grant for the Stryker Power Load and will research any other equipment that may be needed.

f. Discuss with Ambulance Director Drinkwater Draft of Ambulance Standard Operating Procedures

Drinkwater would like to get the SOP finalized. It was discussed that the SOP should refer to the town personnel policy in places. The latest one that had been worked on was worked on a couple of years ago. Some questions/ issues: members, employees, personnel, are they meant to be the same? Volunteers are mentioned, the Town doesn't have any true volunteers. There was a discussion on finding the latest version. Former Selectboard Member Jan Gaudio may have the latest version that corrects many of the concerns. Some policies in the SOP are redundant, the town already has some policies that are in the SOP.

g. Discuss Heating System Repairs at Gilford Butler

Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion to authorize the funds to replace the pump and patch a leak.

There was a discussion on the fact that there may be more repairs of this nature. The furnace is 12 years old.

Alley is looking into a grant for heat pumps to heat the building.

Motion passed 3-0.

h. Consider Ubicquia Street Light Renewal Quotes

The Selectboard reviewed the different quotes. 1 year, 3 years, 5 years and 10 years.

Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion to authorize a renewal on three years at \$875 depending on whether we actually need it or not.

Motion passed 3-0.

i. Consider Service Level Agreement with Gusco Consulting

Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion to approve the agreement authorizing Baines to sign.

Motion passed 3-0.

j. Consider VOIP Phone System

There was a short discussion on pursuing VOIP and looking at other options available.

Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion to table and to pursue a couple of other options.

Motion passed 3-0

k. Monthly reports

The Selectboard reviewed the reports.

VII. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

VIII. Warrants Review and Approval

The Selectboard reviewed the warrants.

IX. Schedule Future Meetings

February 8th workshop with the Owls Head Selectboard.

February 14th regular Selectboard meeting.

February 15th & 16th at 3:30 with department heads to review proposed budgets.

March 21st regular Selectboard meeting.

XI. Executive Session

Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion to enter into 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 7:45 pm.

The Board exited executive session at 7:49 pm.

X Adjourn

Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:50 pm.

Motion passed 3-0.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85032550927?pwd=T2VtRDdpdVc1Vkt6RG1RK3RVcGY1QT09>

Meeting ID: 850 3255 0927

Passcode: 142011

Selectboard approved February 14, 2023