



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

Selectboard Minutes
Date: March 9, 2023, 6:00 PM at the Municipal Building
This meeting rescheduled from 2/28/2023
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.

South Thomaston Selectboard Present: John Spear (via zoom), Jeff Northgraves, Sue Snow
Others Present: Terri-Lynn Baines, Local Health Officer Cliff Dacso, Fire Chief David Elwell, Sondra Wallace, Sandy Weisman, Library and Community Center Director Pennie Alley
Via Zoom: Theo and Wes Pratt

- I. Call to Order**
Northgraves called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance**
Northgraves led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. Adjustments to Agenda**
Consider accepting Library donation of \$800.
Consider dates for meeting with the Owls Head Selectboard.
Update on iWorQ.
- IV. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda**
There was no public comment.
- V. Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes (February 8th and 14th ,15th and 16th)**
Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion to approve the minutes of February 8th , 14th , 15th and 16th.

Motion passed 3-0.

- V. Old Business**
 - a. Discuss with Ambulance Director Drinkwater Draft of Ambulance Standard Operating Procedures**
Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion to table this to a workshop at a time to be determined.

Motion passed 3-0.

- b. Discuss Ambulance Service Billing Waiver Procedures**
Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion to table this to the same workshop.

Motion passed 3-0.

c. Consider VOIP Phone System

After a discussion on VOIP Phones and the current phone system, the Selectboard decided they would like to meet with Gus Natale (The Town's IT provider) and Walter Reitz to get a better understanding of VOIP systems. Baines will reach out to Natale and Reitz to see when they might be available.

d. Consider Dates for Meeting with the Owls Head Selectboard

Dates of availability to meet with the Owls Head Selectboard were discussed. All South Thomaston Selectboard members are available the 10th or 11th of May. Spear will reach out to the Chair of the Owls Head Selectboard Board, Gordon Page, to see if the Owls Head Selectboard would be available for either of these dates.

VI. New Business

a. Presentation by LHO Cliff Dacso on Radon and Well Water in South Thomaston

Cliff Dacso, Local Health Officer, presented a power point regarding screening for environmental contaminants particularly in water for residents in the area. 100% of the Town is on well water.

Arsenic is prevalent as is radon. Radon is naturally occurring. There is a lot of uranium in our groundwater. Radon gets in the house thorough ground water or through the basement. The Rationale for testing for Radon:

1. The Health affect of water and air contamination are indisputable.
 - a. Radon is the most common cause of lung cancer in non-smokers.
 - b. Cigarette smokers exposed to radon over time have a 33% chance of developing lung cancer.
 - c. Children exposed to cigarette smoke and radon are at an increased lifetime risk of cancer.
 - d. Arsenic has wide ranging health affects including neurological conditions and vascular disease.
2. Testing is available and relatively inexpensive.
3. There is no alternative to repeated testing.
4. We are in a high-risk area for radon and well water issues.
5. Mitigation processes are available.

Dacso's proposal is to have two screening days, one in the spring for water and one in the fall for radon. The dollars identified at the 1/24/23 Selectboard meeting will be used to defray the costs of testing for those who ask for it until the funds are depleted. The Selectboard will authorize the Local Health Officer (Dacso) to seek price quotes from both Maine Environmental Heath Testing Laboratory and private labs for both basic water and radon testing and to inform the citizenry. The Selectboard will also authorize Dacso to contact local media to publicize the screening events. The Maine CDC will be notified of this effort and it will be coordinated through the Midcoast Public Health Liaison.

Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion to authorize the Local Health Officer to proceed with his proposal.

Motion passed 3-0.

Also discussed was having influenza and covid vaccinations in conjunction with the fall screening.

b. Consider South Thomaston Community Resilience Resolution

The explanation for installing a renewable energy project as the first priority and installing a heat pump as the second priority is heat pumps could possibly be partially funded through efficiency Maine.

The second paragraph of the Resolve was edited to state:

Be It Resolved, the South Thomaston Selectboard commits to continued participation in the Community Resilience Partnership, which supports community leadership in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing resilience to extreme weather and climate change impacts.

The third paragraph elicited a very lengthy conversation on Town Committees and Ad hoc Committees. The Ad hoc committee for the Community Resilience Partnership has been meeting every Sunday. The committee has a revolving chair, an agenda and one member takes minutes. This committee is independent of the Conservation Commission. The committee consists of 13 casual members and 8 dedicated members. The Selectboard discussed creating a new town committee or leaving the committee as an ad hoc committee. Also discussed was terms if it became a town committee and how many members should the town committee be?

The Selectboard formed the committee tonight and at the next meeting will appoint members. Current ad hoc members should submit an email to the Town Administrator expressing interest if they would like to be on the new committee. The Committee will consist of up to 11 members.

The third paragraph of the Resolve was edited to state:

Be It Further Resolved, the South Thomaston Selectboard designates the Community Resilience Committee to coordinate planning, implementation, and monitoring of energy and resilience projects and to be the primary point of contact to the Community Resilience Partnership.

Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion to adopt the Resolution with changes made and pick option b. the newly established committee of up to 11 members who are to be appointed at the next meeting.

Motion passed 3-0.

c. Discussion on CD rates

Machias has the best and most flexible rates and terms. This is tabled to a future meeting after the budget meetings with the budget committee. Baines will also do some homework on terms and amounts to commit to cds.

d. Discussion with the Fire Chief in Regard to Selling Equipment

Town meeting would have to authorize the funds from the sold equipment being donated to the Fire Department Auxiliary. The Fire Chief could sell the items, the town would hold the money and donating the money to the Auxiliary could be put on the warrant at town meeting for town approval.

The selling process was discussed. The items for sale can be advertised on the website and information can be sent out through the town's email list.

e. Consider a request from Wilson Construction to name the road leading to the cell tower Wilsons Way.

Arthur Grierson, E-911 Addressing Officer has the authority to name the road. According to the Ordinance the Selectboard would address any appeals.

Baines will refer this back to Grierson.

f. Monthly Reports

The Selectboard had no questions on any of the reports.

g. Consider Accepting Library Donation

The Owls Head Garden Club gifted the library \$800. The money will be used to buy a library pass to the botanical gardens, put money into the community garden and for flowers for the building.

Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion to accept the \$800 gift from the Owls Head Garden Club.

Motion passed 3-0.

h. Update on iWorQ

Baines went to the St. George town office for hands on demonstration of the program. Before Baines went ahead with purchasing the program, she wanted to make sure the Selectboard understood there is an annual fee involved with the program.

VII. Correspondence

VIII. Warrants Review and Approval

The Selectboard approved the warrants.

IX. Schedule Future Meetings

March 21st next scheduled Selectboard meeting.

April 10-13 Meetings with Budget Committee

April 25th Selectboard Meeting.

May 10th or 11th Owls Head Selectboard.

XI. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89052071887?pwd=UW4zYW1xeDVpMGZETTMzODU5eVpHZz09>

Meeting ID: 890 5207 1887

Passcode: 396775

Selectboard Approved March 21, 2023