

TOWN MEETING WARRANT
Tuesday, June 20, 2023

To Penelope Alley, a resident of the Town of South Thomaston, in the County of Knox, State of Maine,

GREETINGS:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the voters of the Town of South Thomaston in the County of Knox and State of Maine, qualified to vote by law in Town affairs, to meet at the Ash Point Community School, 54 Ash Point Drive, Owls Head, Maine , on Tuesday, the 20th day of June 2023 A.D., at seven o'clock in the evening, then and there, to act upon the following articles to wit:

Article 1. To choose a moderator to preside at said meeting.

Article 2. To elect by written ballot one Selectboard member, one Assessor and one Overseer-of-the-Poor for a term until Town Meeting 2026.

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to authorize payment to the Selectboard members and Assessors quarterly.

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to 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 Adoption of Section 2528 would henceforth, until if and when repealed: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.

Article 5. *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 2024 annual town meeting to determine if the town wishes to accept the statutory town manager form of government pursuant to 30-A M.R.S. § § 2631 through 2639, said change to take effect at the 2025 annual town meeting.

Article 6. To see what sum the Town will authorize the Selectboard to expend from undesignated fund balance, and from any grants or donations that may be available, to purchase two parcels of land consisting of 11 acres, more or less, identified on the town's tax map as Map 008 Lot 002 and Map 008 Lot 003 and as more particularly described in a deed from the Estate of Ralph E. Cline, Jr to Ralph E. Cline, III, dated January 31, 2020, found at Book 5522 Page 198, under other such terms and conditions as the Selectboard deems advisable.

Selectboard: Recommends purchase.

Budget Committee: Recommends purchase.

Article 7. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to expend up to \$50,000 from undesignated fund balance, and from any grants or donations that may be available, to purchase three parcels of land consisting of 118 acres, more or less, identified on the town's tax map as Map 8 Lot 5, Map 9 Lot 6, Map 13 Lot 6, and as more particularly described in deeds from Irving F. Smith and Marilyn K. Smith to Jeffrey T. Smith, dated December 21, 1998 found at Bk 2310 Pg 185, Bk 2310 Pg 185 and Bk 2310 Pg 183 and under other such terms and conditions as the Selectboard deems advisable including taking any actions regarding easements or agreements for access to the properties. This purchase would be conditioned by deed restrictions to be imposed by the current owner that the land shall be preserved in a forever wild state with the exceptions that the activities of hiking, hunting and snowmobiling and the construction and maintenance of walking trails would be permissible. The use of ATV's, motorbikes and similar off-road vehicles or devices would be expressly prohibited.

Selectboard: Recommends purchase at \$50,000.

Budget Committee: Recommends purchase at \$50,000.

Article 8. To see what sums of money the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for General Government and how the same shall be raised. (see lines 14-20 of proposed 2023-24 budget)

Administration (line 14)

Selectboard/ Budget Committee Recommends:

By Appropriation	176,137
Anticipated Revenue	28,571
From Excise	100,000
Surplus	<u>3,000</u>
Total:	\$307,708

Assessors (line 15)

Selectboard/ Budget Committee Recommends:

By Appropriation	13,981
Anticipated Revenue	<u>21,000</u>
Total:	\$34,981

Planning Board-Board of Appeals (line 16)

Selectboard/ Budget Committee Recommends:

By Appropriation	<u>2,826</u>
Total:	\$2,826

Conservation Commission (line 17)

Selectboard/ Budget Committee Recommends:

By Appropriation	<u>518</u>
Total:	\$518

Buildings & Grounds (line 18)

Selectboard/ Budget Committee Recommends:

By Appropriation	13,250
Anticipated Revenue	155
From Excise	50,000
From Surplus	<u>56,000</u>
Total:	\$119,405

Town Landing (line 19)

Selectboard/ Budget Committee Recommends:

From Excise	6,000
From Reserve	<u>1,956</u>
Total:	\$7,956

Code Enforcement & Plumbing Inspector (line 20)

Selectboard/ Budget Committee Recommends:

By Appropriation	15,623
Anticipated Revenue	8,000
From Surplus	<u>10,000</u>
Total:	\$33,623

Article 9. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for Public Safety and how same shall be raised. (see lines 21-25 of proposed 23-24 budget)

Fire Department (line 22)

Selectboard/ Budget Committee Recommends

By Appropriation	139,596
From Reserves	<u>6,000</u>
Total:	\$145,596

Ambulance Service (line 23)

Selectboard/ Budget Committee Recommends:

By Appropriation	202,512
Anticipated Revenue	<u>126,000</u>
Total:	\$328,512

General Public Safety (line 24)

Selectboard/ Budget Committee Recommends:

By Appropriation	72,636
Anticipated Revenue	<u>355</u>
Total:	\$72,991

Streetlights (line 25)

Selectboard/ Budget Committee Recommends:

By Appropriation	<u>4,300</u>
Total:	\$4,300

Article 10. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for Public Works and how same shall be raised. (see line 27 of proposed 23-24 budget)

Public Works

Selectboard/ Budget Committee Recommends:

By Appropriation	3,487
Anticipated Revenue	39,877
From Excise	230,000
From Reserves	<u>110,000</u>
Total:	\$383,364

Article 11. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for Health & Sanitation and how same shall be raised. (see line 28 of proposed 23-24 budget)

Health & Sanitation

Selectboard/ Budget Committee Recommends:

By Appropriation	313,297
Anticipated Revenue	3,300
Total:	\$316,597

Article 12. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for General Assistance and how the same shall be raised. (see line 29 of proposed 23-24 budget)

General Assistance

Selectboard/ Budget Committee Recommends:

Anticipated Revenue	<u>1,500</u>
Total:	\$1,500

Article 13. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for Culture & Recreation and how the same shall be raised. (see lines 30-32 of proposed 23-24 budget)

Library (line 31)

Selectboard/ Budget Committee Recommends:

By Appropriation	2,520
Anticipated Revenue	<u>2,500</u>
Total:	\$5,020

Recreation (line 32)

Selectboard/Budget Committee Recommends

By Appropriation	2,100
Anticipated Revenue	<u>350</u>
Total:	\$2,450

Article 14. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for Debt Services and how the same shall be raised. (see line 34 of proposed 23-24 budget)

Debt Services

Selectboard/ Budget Committee Recommends:	
By Appropriation	50,700
Anticipated Revenue	<u>15,600</u>
Total:	\$66,300

Article 15. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for Reserve Funds and how the same shall be raised. (see line 35 of proposed 23-24 budget)

Revaluation Reserve Fund

Selectboard/ Budget Committee Recommends:	
By Appropriation	<u>10,000</u>
Total:	\$10,000

Fire Truck Reserve Fund

Selectboard/ Budget Committee Recommends:	
By Appropriation	<u>60,835</u>
Total:	\$60,835

Fire Equipment Reserve Fund

Selectboard/ Budget Committee Recommends:	
By Appropriation	<u>10,000</u>
Total:	\$10,000

Fire Pond Maintenance Reserve

Selectboard/ Budget Committee Recommends:	<u>5,000</u>
By Appropriation	\$ 5,000

Ambulance Equipment Reserve Fund:

Selectboard/ Budget Committee Recommends:	
By Appropriation	<u>5,000</u>
Total:	\$5,000

Building Reserve Fund:

Selectboard/ Budget Committee Recommends:	
From Excise	<u>5,000</u>
Total:	\$5000

Cemetery Reserve Fund:

Selectboard/ Budget Committee Recommends:
By Appropriation 1,000
Total: **\$1,000**

Recreation Reserve

Selectboard/ Budget Committee Recommends: 10,000
By Appropriation **\$ 10,000**

Article 16. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for Cemetery-GRSF-Veterans and how the same shall be raised. (see line 36 of proposed 23-24 budget)

Cemetery-GRSF-Veterans

Selectboard/ Budget Committee Recommends:
By Appropriation 23,168
Anticipated Revenue 300
Total: **\$23,468**

Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to exceed the property tax levy limit of \$523,901, established for the Town of South Thomaston by State law, in the event that the municipal budget approved under the preceding articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than the current property tax levy limit.

Article 18. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard, on behalf of the town, to: solicit donations and grants, whether public and private; accept or reject any donations or grants that may be offered or awarded, including donations or grants that impose conditions or other restrictions; expend funds from any accepted donations or grants in accordance with any conditions or other restrictions that the donor or grantor may impose and; execute any documents that the donor or grantor may require.

Article 19. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to appoint all town officials as necessary or required by law.

Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard on behalf of the Town to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for nonpayment of taxes thereon, under such terms as it may deem advisable, and to execute quit claim deeds for such property.

Article 21. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to accept or dispose of all equipment.

Article 22. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to transfer funds from unexpended balances and surplus as it deems necessary.

Article 23. To see if the town will vote to charge interest on all delinquent taxes at the rate of 8 % per annum, computed on a daily basis and to establish two due dates for property taxes, with one-half of the tax amount due October 2, 2023, and one-half of the tax amount due April 1, 2024.

Article 24. To see if the Town will vote to set the interest rate to be paid by the Town on abated taxes at a rate of 8% and to authorize such interest paid or abatements granted to be appropriated from the overlay funds, or if necessary, from unassigned fund balance.

Article 25. Shall an ordinance entitled South Thomaston Local Food Sovereignty be enacted?

Town of South Thomaston

Local Food Sovereignty Ordinance

Sec. 1 Short Title

This ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the “Local Food Sovereignty Ordinance.”

Sec. 2. Authority and Purpose.

This Ordinance is intended to provide residents increased access to local food, to support the ability of residents to produce, sell, purchase and consume locally produced foods, and to reduce governmental regulation of local foods to the extent permitted by and pursuant to 7 M.R.S. § 281 - § 286. This Ordinance is enacted pursuant to 7 M.R.S. § 284 and the home rule authority granted to municipalities by 30-A M.R.S. § 3001.

Sec. 3. Definitions

As used in this ordinance, the following words have the meanings stated below:

Community social event means an event where people gather as part of a community for the benefit of those gathering, or for, the community, including but not limited to a church or religious social, school event, potluck, neighborhood gathering, library meeting, traveling food sale, fundraiser, craft fair, farmers’ market and other public events.

Direct producer-to-consumer transaction means a face-to-face transaction involving food or food products at the site of production of those food or food products.

Food or food products means food or food products that are grown, produced, processed, or prepared for human consumption, including, but not limited to, vegetables, fruit, milk or milk products, meat or meat products, poultry or poultry products, fish or fish products, seafood or seafood products, fresh produce, cider or juice, acidified foods or canned fruits or vegetables.

Home Consumption means consumed within a private home.

Local Foods means any food or food product that is grown, produced or processed by individuals who sell directly to their patrons through farm-based sales or buying clubs, at farmers markets, roadside stands, fundraisers or at community social events.

Processor means any individual who processes or prepares products of the soil or animals for food or drink.

Producer means any farmer or gardener who grows any plant or animal for food.

State food law. “State food law” means any provision of Title 7 or Title 22 of the Maine Revised Statutes that regulates direct producer-to-consumer transactions.

Site of production. “Site of production” means the premises where a food or food product is grown, raised, processed or produced such as a farm, home kitchen, farm-based kitchen or similar location controlled by the producer, grower or processor. The term does not include a farmers’ market, community social event, or other venue unless the market, social event or venue is itself the site of production of the food or food product.

Sec. 4. License and Inspection Exemptions

A. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Ordinances of this municipality to the contrary, producers, growers, and processors of food or food products in the municipality are exempt from licensure and inspection

requirements contained in State food law (as defined above) with respect to their direct producer-to-consumer transactions conducted exclusively at the site of production of those food products.

B. Pursuant to 7 M.R.S. § 285, the exemption provided in section 4(A) above does not apply to any transactions involving meat, meat products, poultry, poultry products or shell food as those terms are defined in 22 M.R.S. and 12 M.R.S. All such transactions remain subject to federal and state inspection and licensing pursuant to Chapter 562-A of Title 22 and Title 12 of the Maine Revised Statutes and the rules adopted thereunder.

C. This Ordinance does not provide relief from Town of South Thomaston Land Use restrictions and permitting requirements. For example, any Commercial Use, Restaurant, or Home Occupation Business requires Planning Board approval/permitting.

5. Liability Protection; No Waiver of Municipal Immunity

With faith in our citizens' ability to educate themselves and make informed decisions, Producers and Processors of local food may enter into private agreements with consumers to waive any liability for the consumption of local food. Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed as a waiver of the Town of South Thomaston's immunity from liability pursuant to the Maine Tort Claims Act of any other immunities or defenses available to the Town.

6. Severability.

Should any section or provision of this ordinance be declared to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not invalidate any other section or provision of this ordinance.

7. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall become effective upon its adoption at the Annual Town Meeting, scheduled for June 20, 2023.

The Registrar will be in session at 6:30 o'clock in the evening of June 20, 2023, at Ash Point Community School 54 Ash Point Drive, Owls Head, Maine for the registration of voters and correcting the voting list. A PERSON WHO IS NOT REGISTERED AS A SOUTH THOMASTON VOTER MAY NOT VOTE IN ANY ELECTION INCLUDING TOWN MEETING.

Given under our hands at South Thomaston on this day of two thousand, twenty-three.

South Thomaston Selectboard:

John Spear, Chair _____

Jeff Northgraves _____

Sue Snow _____