



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

Selectboard Minutes
Date June 6, 2023, 5:00 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.

South Thomaston Selectboard Present: John Spear, Jeff Northgraves, Sue Snow

Others Present: Terri-Lynn Baines, Sandy Weisman, Maureen Spencer, Denise Rzeznikiewicz, Kathy Florance, Linc O'Neil, Nancy Goslin

Via Zoom: Town Attorney Kristin Collins

I. Call to Order

Spear called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

II. Discussion with Legal Counsel (Possible Executive Session Pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A §405(6)(E))
Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion to enter executive session to talk with the Town attorney pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A §405(6)(E).

Motion passed 3-0.

The Board entered executive session at 5:03 pm.

The Board exited executive session at 5:30 pm.

On the advice of Kristin Collins, the Town's attorney, the Youtube video of the Library Nominating Committee meeting will be kept private because the intent of the committee was to be in executive session. There are also privacy issues of the people that were discussed so the video will be kept nonpublic to protect the privacy of these individuals.

The Selectboard will be setting an agenda item at the next Selectboard meeting to address the complaint received. The Selectboard will invite the people who spoke during the public comment time at the May 23rd meeting and Candace Smith who wrote an email in regard to the meeting and the 3 committee members involved in the meeting.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Spear led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Adjustments to Agenda

Consider the quote to re-side the Little Red School House.

Fire Chief- questions on EPL.

Appointment to GRSF Committee.

V. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda

There was no public comment.

VI. Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes (May 23rd and May 30th)

Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion to approve the minutes of May 23rd and May 30th.

Motion passed 3-0.

VII. Old Business

a. Update from Resiliency Committee re: Grant Application and Solar Array Proposal

The application is due July 7th. The Resiliency Committee is looking for approval to submit the grant application.

Linc O'Neil gave a brief presentation on the proposed solar array and the grant.

There will be no cost to the town, this is not a reimbursable grant.

The Committee will find out in the fall if the grant will be awarded to the Town. The solar array will offset over half the Town's electricity costs. The solar array will be free to the Town and will immediately save on electricity costs. The electricity generated by the proposed solar array will not 100% offset, the Town's electricity use, but the array can be expanded at a later date.

The Town can also file for a tax rebate. This money could be used to expand the system.

If the grant is awarded it will take approximately 4 months to complete the project. The construction part will take approximately a week.

There was a brief discussion on how the site for the solar array was chosen.

There was also a discussion about if the solar array was small or large and would the permit application need to go before the Planning Board or this could be permitted by the CEO.

Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion to submit the application based on the Sundog proposal and to accept the Sundog proposal pending receipt of the grant.

Motion passed 3-0.

b. Review Draft Ambulance SOPs

Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion to table to a future meeting.

Motion passed 3-0.

c. Fire Chief- Update Regarding the Fire Truck Purchases

Chief Elwell gave an update on the new fire trucks. The tank truck will come in January 2024 and the rescue truck will come in May 2024. The price is still the same and final specs have been signed off on.

Chief Elwell had a detailer look at the trucks and the ambulance. Buses have scratched the sides of the trucks. The detailer recommends buffing out the scratches and then covering the sides in a hard coating that will protect the vehicle from future scratches. Chief Elwell says he still has money left in his budget to do this. The quote is \$2,500 for one vehicle. This could be on the high side. The purpose of doing this is to help extend the life of the paint.

As Department Head, Chief Elwell can make the decision to spend this money out of his budget,

Chief Ellwell had a question on how Earned Paid Leave works in regards to the Fire Department.

The FD is eligible, but they do not have a schedule where they can schedule a time to take EPL. There was a brief discussion on paying out the Earned Paid Leave. Baines will check with MMA and figure out the best way to handle EPL for the Fire Department.

VIII. New Business

a. Execute 2023 Town Meeting Warrant

The Selectboard discussed Article 10, the proposed Public Works budget. Because the town was able to pave this spring, money was spent in the current budget so the proposed budget for next year can be decreased. The Selectboard could rewrite the article or adjust the amount on the floor at the Town Meeting. The Selectboard decided it will be easier to adjust the amount at Town Meeting.

The Cline property was also discussed. If Article 6 is defeated, the Selectboard could then ask the Town to reconsider purchasing the smaller portion of land.

Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion to execute the Town Meeting Warrant.

Motion passed 3-0.

b. Discussion Re: Assigned Fund Balances

The Selectboard reviewed the balances to carry forward.

Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion to carry forward the balances as adjusted and presented.

Motion passed 3-0.

c. Consider Krista Tripp's Request to use the Town Landing for an Oyster Shucking Class

Tripp is interested in hosting a shucking event at Memorial Park at the Town Landing.

The discussion on her request included that the area Tripp suggested being able to use is a Memorial Park and the shucking event would be a commercial event, which should not be encouraged, alcohol beverages cannot be consumed, and the licensing that may be required.

If allowed this could open the door to many more vendors requesting to use the space. Craft fairs have been held on the Little Red School House grounds in the past. The historical society leases the property now so the Selectboard could not give permission for her to use that space.

Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion to deny permission.

Motion passed 3-0.

d. Discussion Re: Contract with Maritime Energy to Install LP Tanks for Generator at Gilford Butler

There was a discussion on what funds to use.

3 tanks will be needed. The cost to install the tanks is \$1500. The cost to fill the three tanks is \$1267.

Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion to authorize Terri to approve and execute the contract with Maritime Energy and to use surplus for the costs to install and fill the tanks.

Motion passed 3-0.

e. Reside the Little Red School House

The Historical Society has a quote for \$12,000 from Dwayne Hunt to re-side the Little Red Schoolhouse.. He can start the job in August.

There was a discussion on the Library and the Historical Society Hopkin Trusts and which funds will be used for the re-siding.

Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion to move forward with contracting Hunt to do the work.

Motion passed 3-0.

f. Monthly Reports

The Board reviewed reports.

g. Consideration of Performance Payments

This will be discussed in executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A §405(6)(C) personnel issues.

h. Authorize Use of Reserve Funds for Paving

Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion to approve \$67,243 from reserves to be used for paving.

Motion passed 3-0.

IX. Consider Accepting Donation(s)

X. Consider Appointment(s)

Krista Tripp is interested in the opening on the GRSF Committee.

Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion to appoint Tripp until the first Selectboard meeting after annual town meeting.

Motion passed 3-0.

XI. Discuss Personnel Issue (Possible Executive Session Pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A §405(6)(C))

Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion to enter executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A §405(6)(C) to discuss a personnel issue.

Motion passed 3-0.

The Selectboard entered executive session at 7:20.

The Selectboard exited executive session at 7:35.

Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion to award a performance payment to the new Fire Chief that has really stepped up in the amount of \$500.

Motion passed 3-0.

XII. Correspondence

XIII. Warrants Review and Approval

XIV. Schedule Future Meetings

Town meeting is scheduled for June 20th at 7:00 pm.

The next regular Selectboard meeting is scheduled for July 18th at 6:00 pm.

XV. Adjourn

Without objection the Selectboard adjourned.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87665919262?pwd=ekx6Y1gzZ1Z5TVlrak54NGpHT2cyZz09>

Meeting ID: 876 6591 9262

Passcode: 432682

Selectboard approved July 18, 2023