



Town of South Thomaston, Maine
125 Spruce Head Road
P.O. Box 147
South Thomaston, ME 04858-0147

Tel: 207-596-6584
Fax: 207-596-7529
E-mail: terri@souththomaston.me
Website:

Selectboard:
John Spear
Jeff Northgraves
Sue Snow

Selectboard Minutes
Date: December 12, 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.

South Thomaston Selectboard Present: John Spear, Sue Snow
Others Present: Terri-Lynn Baines, Pennie Alley
Via zoom: Jeff Northgraves, Catherine Lerme, Sondra Wallace

I. Call to Order

Spear called the meeting to order at 6:02.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Spear led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Adjustments to Agenda

Extension of Don Protheroe's use of the Stump Dump Road.

Donation of \$170 from the People's Methodist Church to the Ambulance Service.

Executive Session tabled from last night.

Damaged Owl.

IV. Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes (November 14th)

Snow moved and Northgraves seconded a motion to accept the minutes of November 14, 2023.

Motion passed 3-0.

V. Old Business

a. Update on Building Use Form

The Selectboard had a building use form/policy from MMA and a form from another town.

Spear also supplied a rough draft of a form he worked on. Spear's form defines an outside group and a town group. It would only apply to the municipal building and the GB Center. The rough draft addresses scheduling, facility use and also prohibited uses. A fee would only be charged to a private for-profit business or if an outside group is charging a fee, the town should also charge them a fee. In some cases, a refundable deposit will be required. Donations would be accepted. Proof of Insurance would only be required for profit groups and a non-profit group that has insurance.

Adding a clause indemnifying the town, adding no smoking or vaping and serving alcohol were discussed. The rough draft has a provision for emergencies, events can be cancelled. A lease agreement would supersede this policy. The MMA building use form does not allow anything to be attached to the walls, ceiling or furniture, and also includes a statement that the room should be left as it was found. Allowing political groups to use the buildings was discussed. Fees and who should be charged fees were again briefly discussed.

Based on what he's heard tonight, Spear will take a second stab at the form and circulate it when finished. It was suggested no alcohol will be served unless specifically approved by the Selectboard. This suggestion was agreeable to the Board and Alley.

b. Execute Contract Between the Town of South Thomaston and Sundog

Snow moved and Northgraves seconded a motion to accept the contract between the Town of South Thomaston and Sundog Solar and to authorize Terri Baines, Town Administrator to sign the contract.

There was a question asking if we had received the grant money yet, which we have.

Motion passed 3-0.

c. Discussion on How to Enforce Prohibiting ATVs on Town Properties (former Cline and Smith) to the Rear of the Stump Dump

Spear spoke with MMA legal department regarding prohibiting ATVs on Town property. The lawyer he spoke with felt the Selectboard could under their authority ban ATVs, but without an ordinance there isn't any teeth. She highly recommended the town vote on an ordinance banning ATVs from Town property.

The Selectboard discussed what would happen if the ordinance should get voted down at Town Meeting. An informational meeting on the banning of ATVs on Town property was held last night. The only attendees to the meeting were four members of the Conservation Commission.

An ordinance will be needed for at least the Smith and Cline property. The Selectboard discussed whether the Ordinance should cover all the properties now owned by the Town.

Spear has walked all the way to the rear of the town owned property. He described the ruts and damage to the trail. He also talked about the silt running into the stream because of the damage.

There was a brief discussion on how to enforce prohibiting ATVs from the property. Boulders have been tried, but they are just moved. Although permission was never given, ATVs were never prohibited either. The property should be posted right away, and an ordinance should be written for voting on at Town Meeting. Inland fisheries and wildlife officers will enforce posted properties.

Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion to post the property that we already have Town authority to post and notify the Inland Fisheries and wildlife officer.

The Selectboard discussed if all properties should be posted and where signs should be posted.

Northgraves amended his motion to post the Smith property and post the entry way at the first gate on the Stump Dump Road with no ATVs beyond this point. Snow seconded this motion.

Motion passed 3-0.

d. Discussion Regarding Tennis Court Repairs/Renovations

Spear met with the Tennis/B-Ball Courts Working Group and they discussed a path forward for the Tennis Courts. The suggestion is repaving and relining of the west tennis court with two pickle ball courts and one tennis court. It will be expensive to rehab the east tennis court. Next summer a grant can be applied for that would cover 50% of that cost. There was also a discussion on putting pickle ball court lines on the basketball court. There are two options. A court in the middle of the basketball court or take one end of the basketball court.

Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion to rehab the west tennis court in accordance with the current plan.

Motion passed 3-0.

VI. New Business

a. Discuss on COLA for the FY 24-25 Budget

Many towns are using a 3.2% Cola.

Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion to approve a 3.2% cola.

Motion passed 3-0.

b. Discussion on Budget Timeline and Letter to Department Heads

There was a brief discussion on a letter to department heads.

Baines will send out the same letter as last year to the department heads, emphasizing if a wage increase is requested higher than the approved cola, it needs to be brought before the Selectboard before budgets are reviewed.

c. Monthly Reports

The Selectboard reviewed the reports.

d. Don Protheroe Lease

Don Protheroe's agreement to use the Stump Dump Road expires at the end of month. Mr. Protheroe would like to extend the agreement,

Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion to extend the agreement to continue to use the Stump Dump Road to access his property for another year.

Motion passed 3-0.

e. Damaged Owl

The Owl is damaged and unusable. It was found on the table, off the tripod. Our insurance deductible is \$1000. A new owl is a little over \$1000. The Selectboard would like to find out what happened. Baines was asked to conduct a small investigation.

Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion to replace the owl.

Motion passed 3-0.

f. 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 into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A §405(6)(C)).

Motion passed 3-0.

The Selectboard entered executive session at 7:31 pm.

The Selectboard exited executive session at 7:53 pm.

VII. Donations

\$100 from Leslie and John Spear for the Land Purchase.

\$519.38 from Sally and Paul DiMaggio for the land purchase.

\$2,500 from McLoon's Wharf for the land purchase.

\$250 from Brad and Charlotte Choyt for the land purchase.
\$100 from Richard Waldron for the Ambulance Service.

\$170 from the People's Methodist Church for the Ambulance Service.

Northgraves moved and Snow seconded a motion to accept all the listed donations.

Motion passed 3-0.

VIII. Correspondence

The Selectboard received the draft 2024 Knox County budget. There are significant increases in all areas of the budget. Almost all related directly to personnel. South Thomaston's increase could be approximately \$80,000 for the County tax and an \$8,000 increase in the dispatch fee.

Wreaths Across America Day is December 16, 2023. The Lions Club will be laying wreaths at the Village Cemetery at 12:00 pm.

IX. Warrants Review and Approval

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the warrants.

X. Review Items for Next Agenda

XI. Schedule Future Meetings

Selectboard meetings were scheduled for January 16th and February 6th.

XII. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda

Walter Reitz sent an email requesting Caucus's be allowed to be held in the Community Room as in years past.

XIII. Adjourn

Without objection the Selectboard adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81152291080?pwd=Z1JhTDR3TjVRR2YraHg4amxqQkxpQT09>

Meeting ID: 811 5229 1080

Passcode: 386994

Selectboard Approved January 16, 2024