



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

### **Selectboard Minutes**

Date: February 13, 2024, 3:30 PM at the Municipal Building  
**Items Are Often Taken Out of Order to Accommodate Schedules**

Rev 1

**Note: A listing as present does not denote attendance for the entire meeting.**

**South Thomaston Selectboard Present: Jeff Northgraves, Sue Snow, via zoom: John Spear**  
**Others Present: Terri-Lynn Baines, Hannah Moholland, Conservation Commission Chair Sondra Wallace, via zoom: Catherine Lerne, Sally Merchant**

#### **I. Call to Order**

Northgraves called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM.

#### **II. Adjustments to Agenda**

To review Fire Truck and Revaluation Reserve budget after Conservation Commission budget.

#### **III. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda**

There was no public comment.

#### **IV. New Business**

##### **a. Budget Discussions with Department Heads**

##### **Conservation Commission**

Wallace stated that to apply for the LFM (Lands for Maines Future) grant they would need to show that they have the money to spend to get it reimbursed. Spear stated that it would be wise to have Nate (the surveyor) come in the spring and survey the Smith and Kline property as they are guaranteed a grant from the Georges River Land Trust. With a lengthy discussion between the Selectboard and Wallace, they agreed to make a Forest Preserve in the reserve account and add \$20,000 from surplus to it as well as carry forward all donations.

##### **Review Fire Truck Reserve**

To put \$60,000 in the reserve that was not voted on in the prior meeting.

##### **Discuss Revaluation**

Northgraves talked with the assessor about having a revaluation. He said that we would not be able to do one in the next coming year, that the agents assessing are 4-5 years out. Northgraves stated that we would be ready for a revaluation in four years' time. Northgraves suggested putting \$20,000 in the Revaluation Reserve for the next four years and then it should get close to the cost of a revaluation.

##### **Public General Safety, Emergency Disaster Reserve**

Betty Thomas asked to add 5,000 to the reserve and the selectboard declined. Adding \$100 for the Public Health Officer budget.

### **Town Roads, Paving Reserve**

Carry forward the bushing/limbing budget of \$8,000 for bushing on Westbrook. To have the town road shoulder work included as part of ditching/berm removal. Spear was worried that the section of road on Island Road was going to collapse and suggested budgeting \$4,500 to survey and to give the town an estimated cost to apply for a grant to do something for the road like riprap. Northgraves asked if this would be a project for after July which was agreed upon. Spear also said his goal is to pave all of Westbrook Street and to keep the roughly \$171,000 in the budget for paving.

### **Solid Waste**

To see if there is a better option than burning the brush and testing the ash, Spear suggested for the next few weeks adding the brush to the containers and see how that goes and stated that with the discussion he had with the state, we were able to put the brush in the spot where we once burned until it's ready to be hauled off.

The roll off service will be increased to \$35,000 and container rental/push can down budget will increase to \$20,000 as the brush being added to the cans will make it more expensive. \$40,000 was put in for the disposal fee to adjust to adding the brush into the cans as well.

### **Building & Grounds, Building Reserve**

Laborer was increased to \$1,500 as Spear has more help. The Solar Panels are to be put in during the spring and will help with the electricity but needs more clarification on how. \$19,000 for the Fire Alarms, but the select board would like to see if there are other possibilities as they don't agree with the pricing.

### **Town Landing**

The use of two floats is not being used as they should be and as they are falling apart, Spear suggested going to one float and maybe putting some away to budget for a new one which would come out of the excise fund.

\$1,000 for repairs as a buffer in case of any accidents as we already have \$3,500 in it but will be used when Kalloch fixes the slabs at the Town Landing. As well as putting \$2,000 in the town landing reserve.

### **Administration**

Adding a new part time clerk position and putting \$16,084 for wages as well as adding Cline Property to the budget and getting rid of Bulk Mail as we no longer have use for it.

Cutting the workshop to \$500 instead of \$1,000 as Hannah is already doing most of the workshops now.

## **XI. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM by Northgraves.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83725766941?pwd=V0h4di92ZitPRWdCVWEvdThSUHE1Zz09>

Meeting ID: 837 2576 6941

Passcode: 606150