



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: <https://souththomaston.me>

Selectmen:
Jeffrey Northgraves
John Spear
Sue Snow

Selectboard Minutes

Date: May 14, 2024, 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: Jeff Northgraves, Sue Snow, John Spear
Others Present: Terri-Lynn Baines, Hannah Moholland, Marcia Turner, Maureen Spencer, Rhonda Nordstrom, Moira Paddock, Catherine Lerme, Jan Gaudio, Pennie Alley, Lynn Tootill, Denise Rzeknikiewicz, Paul DiMaggio, Rich Norman
Via zoom: Ambulance Director Drinkwater, Kevin Gordon, Wig Zamore, Sandy Weisman

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

Request from CEO to waive fee for a gazebo at the Gilford Butler Center.

Respond to Walter Reitz email, under correspondence.

Move the item regarding the stretcher to the beginning so Ambulance Director can attend the St. George Town Meeting.

IV. Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes (April 23)

Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion to approve the minutes of April 23, 2024.

There was a discussion on 7.C. in the April 23rd minutes. The warrant article was submitted to the Selectboard but was handed back to the presenter. Add to the minutes "One of the circulators agreed to take the petition back after it was presented to the Selectboard."

The motion was withdrawn.

Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion to approve the minutes of April 23rd as amended.

Motion passed 3-0.

V. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda

Paul DiMaggio commented that by his calculations, the weight of the books at the South Thomaston Library is not an issue. He wanted to reassure the public that there is not an issue because of the weight of the books.

VI. Old Business

a. Update on Ambulance Collections

Baines reported that she sends three letters to delinquent accounts. Each letter also has a hardship waiver included. If there is no response after the three letters, she sends a final notice, notifying the patient that the account will be sent to collections if payment isn't made, payment arrangements made or a hardship waiver submitted and accepted. 16 accounts have been sent to First Financial Resources. As of today, no payments have been collected by the collection agency.

b. Update regarding cleanup of Maine Coast Seafood Property

Wig Zamore attended the meeting via zoom. He has asked Jeff Woodman to post the property. He will meet with the 3 brothers that own the property online via a zoom-like situation very soon.

The property isn't actually posted, but there is a line with flags to prevent people from using the driveway/parking area.

There was a brief discussion that traps are not gone but that isn't really the issue. The damage to the wharf, buildings and debris floating around the pound is more of an issue.

Zamore is not the owner of the property and can't do much without permission from the owners.

The debris in the pound is a major issue. There is also a rumor that the fuel tank does have fuel left in it.

The Selectboard feels it's time to move ahead and talk with State agencies and the Town Attorney.

There was a discussion on the process to remove lobster traps from the property.

Zamore can convey the message to the owner that the Selectboard wants the property cleaned up and he can get back to the staff.

Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion that the Town Administrator should contact the Town Attorney to see what steps the Town should take.

Motion passed 3-0.

c. Update on tax acquired property

There has been no response from the former owner of the tax acquired property. There is a new law regarding tax acquired properties that has a little different process than the previous law. It has been recommended by MMA legal that the Town wait until the new law is in affect to start the process of selling the tax acquired property.

Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion to delay the sale until the new law is in effect, provided MMA Risk Management is notified and is okay with that.

Motion passed 3-0.

d. Discussion on Roof Repair

This was tabled at the last meeting. At this time, it will be removed from further agendas, unless the temporary repair doesn't work.

VII. New Business

a. Discussion on Timing to Submit a Citizen Petition in Time for the Annual Town Meeting

The Selectboard had a request to clarify the timing for the Selectboard to receive a petition in time for the annual town meeting.

There was a discussion on timing and on the process of turning in a petition.

It is a decision of the Selectboard whether the article will be placed on a warrant for the annual town meeting or a special town meeting.

There was a lengthy discussion on timelines for the petition to be received to be placed on this upcoming town meeting. It would be best for the Town Clerk to receive the petition by May 22nd so it could be included in the Selectboard packets and the proposed article could be reviewed before the meeting. If the petition was received at the May 29th meeting, the Selectboard would have to have another meeting to sign the warrant if the article was added because the article would have to be added to the warrant.

b. Discuss Request from Ambulance Director to Sell Older Auto Stretcher

Ambulance Director Drinkwater asked for approval to sell the older auto stretcher to the Midcoast School of Technology for \$6000.

Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion to approve the Ambulance Directors recommendation to sell the stretcher to the Midcoast School of Technology as is, no warranties.

Motion passed 3-0.

There was a discussion on what the market price would be. Drinkwater said it would be between \$5,000 and \$9,000.

c. Update on Front Step Repair

The steps have been repaired, but not correctly. Glenn Brooks, one of the owners of Mainely Concrete, came out to look at the steps and said he will send someone out to repair them correctly.

d. Discussion on nominating a member to the Legislative Policy Committee

There was a discussion on what the member would be required to do. There will be one representative for our district, District 12.

Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion to nominate Jeff Northgraves.

Motion passed 3-0.

e. Countersign the Warrant and Notice of Election Calling Regional School Unit NO.13 Budget Validation Referendum

Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion to countersign the Warrant and Notice of Election Calling Regional School Unit No. 13 Budget Validation Referendum which is scheduled for June 11th.

Motion passed 3-0.

f. Discussion on Rackliff Memorial Scholarship & Hopkins Scholarship

Snow said the High School has 3 applications for the Hopkins Scholarship and 4 for the Rackliff scholarship.

Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion to use \$10,000 for the Hopkins Scholarship and \$2,500 from the Rackliff Scholarship.

Motion passed 3-0.

g. Possible Executive Session Pursuant to M.R.S.A §405(6)(C)

There was no executive session.

h. Ceo Request to Waive Fee

The library is building a 10 x 12 gazebo on the Gilford Butler Center grounds. The gazebo is removable. Since it is going to be on town property, the CEO asked the permit fee to be waived.

Spear moved and snow seconded a motion to waive the fee for the gazebo on town property.

Motion passed 3-0.

VIII. Monthly Reports

The Selectboard reviewed the reports.

Road Commissioner Spear gave an oral report. He explained the paving done on Westbrook Street is a base pave. Westbrook Street will be paved later in the season. The tennis courts will be paved tomorrow. The Stump Dump Road has been paved.

IX. Donations

There were no donations to accept at this meeting.

X. Correspondence

The Selectboard received correspondence from Paul Dimaggio.

Question 1- "Is it a Town Policy that Town Employees cannot take part in Political Activities in their off-hours and outside of Town owned facilities or outside their town workplace?" The answer is no, it is not a policy.

Question 2- " Is it a Town Policy that Town Employees cannot circulate Citizen Petitions to collect signatures of residents in their off-hours and outside of their Town workplace and outside of Town owned Buildings?" The answer is no, it is not a policy.

The Selectboard received correspondence from Walter Reitz .

Reitz requested if the Selectboard should receive a petition regarding the Gilford Butler Center to not put an article on the annual town meeting but to delay for 60 days.

A resident questioned if the article could be voted on at the November election. The Selectboard discussed this. The wording allows for voting on articles at the polls, but it must be a town meeting election. Also, if it's on a referendum, there is no discussion nor any chance for a competing article.

The Chair will respond to Reitz.

XI. Warrants Review and Approval

The Selectboard approved the warrants.

XII. Review Items for Next Agenda

XIII. Schedule Future Meetings

The next SB meeting is scheduled for May 29th. It will follow a public hearing on the amendments to the Land Use Ordinance that will be voted on at Town Meeting.

The Annual Town Meeting is June 11th and June 18th.

June 5 is reserved if a meeting is needed before Town meeting.

June 25 will be a regular SB meeting.

XIV. Adjourn

Without objection the Selectboard adjourned at 7:06.

Approved by Selectboard on June 27, 2024