**South Thomaston Library and Community Center Auxiliary Board of Directors**

**Minutes of Meeting held on June 25,2024 at2:00 pm at the South Thomaston, ME Town Office**

**Present:** John Spear, President, Barbara Reitz, Treasurer, Sandy Weisman, Secretary, Erv Curtis (via Zoom), Sheryl Dacso, and Rhonda Nordstrom

**Public:** Moira Paddock, Pennie Alley, Pamela Atkins, Pam Hoygdunk, John Koffel, Sally Merchant, Skip Connell, Catherine Lerme, Walter Reitz, Lynne Tootil, Sandra Wallace, Sue Winters

**Zoom:** Sue Snow, Kevin Bunker, Virginia Slawson, Sharon Setz, Elizabeth Lunt, Kate Clark, Julie O’Hara, Paul DiMaggio, Gabe Tomasulo

J Spear called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

**Minutes:**

B Reitz moved to accept the minutes from 4/8/24 and 6/3/24. R Nordstrom seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-1 (one abstained due to being absent for the meeting 4/8/24) and 6-0 for minutes 6/3/24

**Treasurers Report:**

B Reitz reported that it was not the end of month yet; however, the Auxiliary’s account has a balance of $1604.00 and the town account for the Auxiliary has a balance of $1000.00.

**Discuss the Future of the Auxiliary:**

J Spear called this meeting prior to the Selectboard meeting being held on Thursday, 6/27,24 so that a consensus of the board could be reported to the Selectboard due to the town vote on June 18, 2024.

J Spear said he was disappointed with the vote at the town meeting, considered calling it quits for about 10 minutes but felt it was not in the best interest of the town and that two major donations had been lost.

J Spear said that 4 members of the Auxiliary needed to stay on so that the Auxiliary could continue.

J Spear discussed an idea - and he emphasized it was only an idea and that the Selectboard would have to vote and approve whatever action should happen with Gilford Butler. The proposed idea was to build a meeting room that is easily severable from Gilford Butler building in the event it was torn down in the future, the new addition would have a kitchen, bathrooms, and also include a new leach field. The Auxiliary would have to reword the grants with the change. The Auxiliary would need to raise 25 % of the cost.

J Spear said he did not know what the future of Facility Committee would be and that would be up to the Selectboard. J Spear felt that there was flexibility in Article 10 that the town voted on earlier (2021) and in the Auxiliary bylaws.

J Spear said he would stay on the board and then went around the table and asked each board member to speak.

* S Weisman said the Auxiliary should stay in business, writing grants and she would continue to support the Auxiliary efforts. S Weisman also noted that the Facility Committee lost their mission and she had resigned from Facility Committee but was willing to stay on the Auxiliary
* R Nordstrom said first she wanted to address that the town said hateful things at the town meeting and perhaps there was need to take a pause. The Auxiliary needed strong grant writers and she would take a step back if there was someone with grant writing skills to take her place.
* S Dacso said she would stay on and clearly would like to work together. S Dacso said the town needed some other facility and added we need a commitment to work together. S Dacso said the bylaws would need to be changed.
* B Reitz thanked J Spear for coming up with this compromised idea. B Reitz said she was discouraged by the town meeting - the rudeness, the booing, speaking out was awful and she had been vilified. B Reitz said she would stay on but no more grant writing.
* E Curtis said he was not interested in doing anything with the Gilford Butler Building - too many issues with the building. The town needs a new building and the town should continue with the plan to build a new building somewhere else in town or on the GBC site.

Further discussion ensued about the Congressional Directed Spending (CDS) and the Community Project Funding (CPF) and what would need to be rewritten on the grants. J Spear said he wanted to save the funding and asked what can we do to save the money?  J Spear also proposed enlarging the Facility Committee.

J Spear asked Kevin Bunker and Gabe Tomasulo if it was possible to add on the Gilford Butler Building and using the grant money towards a new addition. G Tomasulo said it was possible and would support this idea. K Bunker also agreed with this compromise and said the town needs to be on board with whatever compromise is proposed.

Further discussion ensued from the public in attendance and on Zoom. M Paddock asked if and when the mission of Facility Committee would be changed, she supported the compromise idea but asked if Pennie Alley would be on board. W Reitz said that the Articles of Incorporation would need to be changed and the grants were all about a new building and the grants would need to be rewritten. J Koffel said that he and wife, Pam, appreciated what the community had done and that with the expense of the work that needs to be done, more communication and Kevin Bunker’s help, he and his wife, Pam will fund the architectural fees and construction analysis for the new proposal. S Winters asked about parking and how much land was at the Gilford Butler site.

S Connell said he was not ready to get over the town meeting and asked for 2 columns on a spread sheet of the costs of renovations and the cost of the new building. S Wallace said she was more and more discouraged over the years and that the folks on the Facility and Auxiliary committees were under impossible circumstances. S Wallace asked if all the people at town meeting are willing to work on this.

C Lerme said she was in flavor of this “hybrid solution” and that people need to be able to compromise. The community’s well-being is on the table.

P DiMaggio said he accepted J Spear’s idea and fully supported the compromise but wanted to hear from P Alley and her ideas. P Alley said that everything that happens is a community effort and said that Kevin Bunker’s talk was brilliant and she would not be on a committee without a vote.

J Spear said he would report to the Selectboard that the Auxiliary will stay alive and is interested in supporting a hybrid plan for a new meeting room, kitchen, and bathrooms to be added on the the Gilford Butler Building. J Spear asked for a show of hands supporting his proposal. 5 for and 1 dissent.

**Other Business:**

None

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be held on Monday, July 1, 2024 at 3:30 pm at the Town Offices.

J Spear without objections adjourned the meeting at 3:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Moira Paddock for Sandy Weisman, Secretary