



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

**Tel:** 207-596-6584  
**E-mail:** Hannah@souththomaston.me  
**Website:** <https://souththomaston.me>

**Selectmen:**  
Jeffrey Northgraves  
John Spear  
Sue Snow

Selectboard Minutes  
Date: January 28, 2025, 6:00 PM at the Municipal Building

Rev 0

**Present: Jeff Northgraves, Sue Snow**  
**Also Present: Hannah Moholland, Ervin Curtis, David Elwell, Trinity Dearborn, Sondra Wallace**  
**Zoom: John Spear, Terri- Lynn Baines, Sally Merchant**

Note that people listed may not be present during the entirety of the meeting

- I. **Call to Order**
    - a. Spear called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM
  - II. **Pledge of Allegiance**
    - a. Northgraves led the Pledge of Allegiance
  - III. **Approve Prior Meeting Minutes (December 18<sup>th</sup>, January 14)**
    - a. **Spear motioned to approve prior meeting minutes of December 18 and January 14 and Snow seconded**
- Motion Passed 3-0**
- IV. **Adjustments to Agenda**
    - a. Set Town Meeting Date
    - b. Add Ambulance to New Business A
    - c. Consider New Hire Trinity Dearborn Requested by Ambulance Director David Elwell
    - d. Consider New Hire Cynthia Carter Requested by Ambulance Director David Elwell
    - e. Exposure to the Frozen Grants
  - V. **Old Business**
    - a. **Update on Forest Preserve**
      - i. Wallace asked the board for approval to start contract negotiations with the forester and to create a forest managers plan which is one of the conditions of the grant. After the agreement is signed, within eighteen months, there will need to be a management plan in place that will need to be approved by the State Agency.
      - ii. **Spear made a motion to authorize the Conservation Commission and or its representatives to enter into contact discussions with Maren Grantrom a licensed forester for a forestry plan for the forest preserve and Snow seconded**



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### **Motion Passed 3-0**

- iii. Wallace also asked about money regarding Nate Beals contract for the survey, having legal work done by Melissa Reynolds to have the five parcels turned into one, and easement work. Wallace would like to make a report on what has happened now and outline what needs to be done and to ask for donations. Wallace asked for some part of the money for the easement survey to come from the Town and not forest preserve money as some of the things they have asked Nate to do is more beneficial to the Town and not for the preserve. Northgraves stated that both benefit the Town, and that the money that comes from is the Towns money. Spear took a different approach as some of it is for the Towns benefit more than the preserve and to strictly keep forest preserve money for the preserve but does not need to be decided at this point in time.

### **b. Update on Solar Rebate**

- i. No update

### **c. Consider Ambulance Write-Offs Concerning Unpaid Bills**

- i. The board directed that the people who have unpaid bills were mostly from out of Town and would not pay and the ones who had insurance was not going to pay the remaining bill. Spear mentioned to have the conversation at a later date if the ambulance bills should continue going to the collection's agency.
- ii. **Northgraves motioned to write off the accounts in FFR and Spear seconded**

### **Motion Passed 2-1**

### **d. Update on 2022 Tax Lien Foreclosures**

- i. Moholland explained that Gregory Ranquist came in with the amount to pay the 2022 taxes to get a Quit Claim Deed back to the former owners.
- ii. **Spear made a motion to execute a municipal quit claim deed to Ranquist Ester w. estate C/O Rackliff Linda PR for property located at 72 Westbrook Street for the payment of what would have been owed for taxes and needs in 2022 and Snow seconded**

### **Motion Passed 3-0**

- iii. Regarding the other properties that are Foreclosed, there was a letter sent out stating that after February 21<sup>st</sup>, the board will decide to initiate the new process of selling the property.
- iv. **Spear made a motion for any properties that have not contacted the Town Administrator and not had a discussion regarding**



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**repurchasing of the foreclosed property that the board initiate the new tax lien foreclosure sale process after February 21<sup>st</sup> and Snow seconded.**

### **Motion Passed 3-0**

#### **e. Demo Debris Facility Fees**

- i. There was a discussion regarding the changes of the date this will be effective to April 1<sup>st</sup>. To include the half pick up price to \$0. There was an increase of the contracting fee to \$2,400 but is not sure if that's a good amount. To change the brush date to July 1<sup>st</sup> and the fee date to April 1<sup>st</sup> to become effective. Curtis questioned whether this is related to the Town residents as well as contractors and charging homeowners for brush and debris. There was concerns about homeowners that will not want to pay and start dumping debris and brush on other people's property. Northgraves commented that the brush should wait until the end of the season till early fall, to see the impact on how the brush is on the budget. Spear said to push it to a year instead. There was discussion about whether \$2,400 is still too low for the contractor permit and possibly upping it to \$5,000. The transfer station sticker and the demo sticker, if they need to pay for more than one sticker to half the others half priced. The board decided to keep the price for each sticker the same and to pay the \$20.00.

#### **VI. New Business**

##### **a. Consider New Hire Trinity Dearborn Requested by Ambulance Director David Elwell**

- i. Dearborn worked in EMS for five years in Thomaston and will continue working with Thomaston as well. She is an advanced EMT that will work per diem and to work overnights.
- ii. **Northgraves made a motion to authorize the hiring of Trinity Dearborn in accordance with Ambulance Directors request and Snow seconded.**

### **Motion Passed 3-0**

##### **b. Consider New Hire Cynthia Carter Requested by Ambulance Director David Elwell**

- i. Carter was on the Ambulance before but took some time away from the department and Elwell would like her to return. She is an advanced EMT that will work part time day and night shifts. Northgraves stated that she is already hired.
- c. **Discuss Wages for Fire Department/Ambulance with Fire Chief Elwell**



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- i. Last budget, the Fire Chiefs positions salary was brought up to match the Ambulance Directors. As they moved money around when the Ambulance Department switched positions around it would be brought up again during the budget meeting. The board asked Elwell to make a proposal of the budget.
- ii. Elwell stated that the Ambulance Department has the Stablization Grant coming for wages and did not touch the shift pay stipend last budget and would like to raise the pay for that and the hourly wages for the Ambulance Crew above the cola. Snow asked for this to also included in a proposal.
- iii. Elwell would also like to round the Fire Department pay a little above the 2.5% cola.

**d. Consider Changing Collateralization with Machias Savings Bank**

- i. Moholland discussed that the Town office staff were having a hard time reconciling due to Machias Savings Bank updating everything. In order to make reconciling easier it would be to change the collateralization to get rid of the ICS account.
- ii. **Spear motioned to authorize the treasurer to make the necessary adjustments with Machias as outlined in the using letters of credit document presented and Snow seconded.**

**Motion Passed 3-0**

**e. Discuss New Fire Truck Payment Options**

- i. There are two quotes from Machias Savings Bank and The First. Elwell stated that the truck will not be coming until around May but will not have a more concrete date until the truck gets shipped to Brunswick.
- ii. **Spear made a motion that they should look more into the financing options as we still have time and to table this to the next Selectboard meeting and Snow seconded.**

**Motion Passed 3-0**

**f. Set Town Meeting Date**

- i. As there is no State Election this June to figure out when the election will be held for the school budget. To tentatively hold the Town Meeting June 17<sup>th</sup>.

- VII. Monthly Reports
- VIII. Appointments
  - a. Other, if applicable
- IX. Donations



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- X. Warrants Review and Approval**
- XI. Schedule Future Meetings**
- XII. Adjourn**
  - a. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88641762239?pwd=izy6YJKujlaAepGVsrJKEhyoSqCWSe.1>

**Meeting ID: 886 4176 2239**  
**Passcode: 279962**

Selectboard Approved March 18, 2025