



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

Tel: 207-596-6584
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E-mail: sthomstn@midcoast.com
selectmen@town.south-thomaston.me.us

Selectmen:
John Spear
Jeffrey Northgraves
Penelope Alley

Selectmen Meeting Minutes

August 11, 2005

6:00 p.m.

Called to order: 6:00 p.m.

Present: Selectmen: John Spear, Jeffrey Northgraves, and Penelope Alley

Administrative Assistant: Barbara Black

Assistant to Administrative Assistant: Jeanmarie Koenig

Departments: Road Commissioner: Gerald Grierson - **Fire Chief:** Wayne Brown

Code Enforcement Officer: Larry Terrio

S.A.D. #5 Board Member: Audrey Buffington

Webmaster & Member of the Fire Department: Arthur Grierson

Planning Board: Chairman, Mary Waterman

I. Recognize Guests:

1. Audrey Buffington: SAD# 5 School Board Member

Audrey Buffington- was present to accept a letter from the Board of Selectmen to SAD #5 regarding the \$250,000.00 in cuts to be made to the 2005 School Budget. Audrey will present the letter at the School Board Meeting for the Board of Selectmen as the Board was not able to attend the meeting. Motion made to execute letter. (copy attached to minutes)

Board approved 3-0.

2. John Hansen:

John Hansen was present to discuss the option of converting the town's Emergency Civil Defense area in the municipal building into a vault. The town has no vault for storage of vital records. John detailed his recommendations, and estimated the cost of conversion at \$5,000.00. Selectmen Alley requested that Barbara Black look into any possible grant monies that may be available. Pennie would like to see continued restoration of vital records. Selectmen Northgraves moved to authorize an estimate for the vault, with a timeline by January 2006.

Board approved 3-0.

3. Donald Protheroe:

Donald Protheroe was present to request the renewal of an easement to use the Stump Dump Road. Mr. Protheroe's easement with the Town expired in 2000. The Board requested Barbara to draft an agreement for use of the road with permission from the Road Commissioner required each time the road is to accessed.

Board approved 3-0.



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4. Arthur Grierson – Personnel Matter:

The Board asked Mr. Grierson if they could recognize departments before taking up his personnel matter. Mr. Grierson agreed.

II. Recognize Departments:
Code Enforcement Officer:

1. Lawrence Terrio was present to discuss the property of Robert McMahan on Westbrook Street. The Board asked the Code Enforcement Officer if Mr. McMahan is operating a junkyard without the proper permits. The Planning Board Chairman, Mary Waterman was present and stated that Mr. McMahan had come before the planning board and stated he was not operating a commercial business. Mrs. Waterman informed the Board because he was not operating a commercial business he did not need to come before the planning board. The Code Enforcement Officer and Mary Waterman stated to the Board he was indeed operating a junkyard. Mary Waterman stated Mr. McMahan needed to apply to the State Department of Transportation for a junkyard permit before he could apply for any permits required by the town. John Spear made a motion for the Code Enforcement Officer contact the town attorney, Frederick Newcombe to advise the him how to proceed in this situation.

Board approved 3-0.

Road Commissioner:

1. The Board asked Gerald to attend to the following maintenance issues.
 - a.) Trim grass by the Keag Bridge, (hazardous blind spot.)
 - b.) Placement of guard rails on Westbrook Street and Island Road.
 - c.) To look into an erosion problem in front of Lucy Judecki's home located on Village Road.

Winter Sand:

2. The Road Commissioner informed the Board he would like to order 1,000.00 yards of winter sand from George Hall & Sons. The Board asked how much more sand the town would need for the winter season. Gerald Grierson informed the Board he hoped the town would not need to order more because the town received sand at the end of the last season, and thought there should be a sufficient supply.

Fire Department :

1. Chief Brown informed the Board a check received for the \$1,500.00 for the Volunteer Fire Assistant Grant has been returned because the check was made payable to the Town of South Thomaston. A replacement check will be re-issued, made payable to the Fireman's Association. The grant money is for the Fireman's Association and not for the Town.

Arthur Grierson- Personnel Matter.



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Selectmen Spear made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter in accordance with Maine Statutes Title 1 M.R.S.A. 405,6, A.

Board approved 3-0.

Adjourned at 7:15 for executive session.

Reconvened at 7:36.

III. New Business:

Salt Bids

1. The Road Commissioner presented the Board with the Salt Bids for the winter season of 2005-2006. The bid from International Salt was accepted at the price of \$50.82 per ton. John Spear made a motion to accept the bid from International Salt.

Board approved 3-0.

Perpetual Care South Thomaston Village Cemetery:

2. The Town received \$750.00 from William Atwood for perpetual care at the South Thomaston Village Cemetery in the name of his parent's Marsden and Elisabeth Atwood. Barbara Black asked the Board if the town was allowed to accept more than the \$300.00 cost of perpetual care. The Board stated that the town can accept more than the \$300.00 for perpetual care.

Barbara Black also informed the Board that lots have been reserved for future burials but not paid for, and that the town has lots with burials that have also not been paid for. The Board asked Barbara to send a friendly reminder that the lots are not paid for.

Complaint about Tennis Courts from Repplier's:

3. Mrs. Repplier reported a crack in the tennis court. The Board asked Barbara to call and get an estimate for repair.

Surplus Property Program Application:

4. The Board asked Barbara to fill out the application and return with the following individuals listed as contacts:

- a.) Fire Chief, Wayne Brown
- b.) Ambulance Director, Richard Norman
- c.) Road Commissioner, Gerald Grierson
- d.) Administrative Assistant, Barbara Black
- e.) Library Director, Marilyn Mercer



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Heritage Day:

5. The picnic will be at the Municipal Building from 11:00 to 12:00. Dedication at the Village Cemetery at 12:00. Band in the Park at 2:00. There will be an open house at the Weskeag Historical Society from 1:00-4:00.

Consideration of Nomination for Elected Officials:

6. Selectmen Spear will draft a letter for the September newsletter explaining the procedure to residents and to solicit feedback

Consideration of Tax Requirements for 2005:

7. Tabled until end of agenda.

IV. Old Business:

Forest Hills Cemetery:

1. Violet Burton informed Penelope Alley she will not be mowing the cemetery next year. The Board concluded they will have to budget more money for mowing in 2006. The Board asked Barbara to find out the individual cost of mowing the South Thomaston Village Cemetery, so the interest could be used from the trust fund account to pay for the mowing.

Credit / Debit Card:

2. The Board discussed the cost associated with accepting credit/debit cards presented by Barbara Black. The Board decided to place an article in the next newsletter soliciting feedback from residents.

Broadband Internet:

4. Selectman Northgraves made a motion to remove broadband internet from the agenda and future agendas.

Board approved: 3-0.

Traffic at the Corner of Elm Street and the Public Landing:

5. Barbara informed the Board that after speaking to the Department of Transportation they would not be able to place a three way stop due to the requirement for equal amount of traffic on all three streets. The Department of Transportation would be willing to place no parking signs upon receipt of a letter from the Board of Selectmen. Barbara also contacted MMA legal. Their recommendation was for the Board of Selectmen to enact a traffic ordinance for the town. According to Maine Statutes the Board does have the authority to enact such an ordinance for town and state roads within the municipality. After discussion it was decided that Penelope Alley will contact Sharon Allen and ask her



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if she would request vendors not to park in the road at the intersection. The Board asked Barbara to contact Central Maine Power regarding the possible placement of a mirror on an utility pole. Barbara will contact the Department of Transportation about placement of a mirror on its own pole if prohibited to use utility pole.

Tax Acquired Property- Leach:

6. Barbara informed the Board the agreement with Mr. Leach will expire on September 15th. The Board asked Barbara to send a letter reminding Mr. Leach of the expiration date. (copy attached to minutes)

Tax Acquired Property- Powell:

7. The Board signed a letter to Mr. Powell regarding the tax acquired property. The Board has given Mr. Powell thirty (30) days to make a good faith effort to pay the back taxes on the property. (copy attached to minutes)

V. Other Business:

.Review Correspondence:

1. The Board acknowledged e-mail received from George Hardt. The Board asked Barbara to respond to Mr. Hardt stating he will need to make a formal request for specific records, attaching the Freedom of Information Act, and requesting further e-mail be addressed to the Board of Selectmen, not the Town Clerk.

Set Selectmen's Meeting's for September:

2. The Board scheduled the meetings for September 13th and 27th at 6:00.

Set Ambulance Committee Meeting:

3. The Board scheduled the meeting for August 22nd or 23rd at 7:00.

Set Town Landing Working Committee Meeting

4. The Board scheduled the meeting for September 22nd at 7:00.

Set Budget Committee Meeting:

5. The Board scheduled the meeting for September 15th at 7:00.

Thorndike Cemetery:



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6. Barbara Black informed the Board the entrance to Thorndike Cemetery was impassable for the contracted mower. The Board asked Barbara to contact the Road Commissioner to get an estimate for repair.

Norton Subdivision Fire Pond:

7. Barbara informed the Board the town has an easement for the fire pond located in the subdivision located on the property of Jay & Donna Barrows. The Board requested a copy of the easement to be sent to the Barrows.

Executive Session:

8. Selectman Spear asked the Board if they would like go into executive session regarding a legal matter. No motion was made to go into executive session.

Request from Board:

9. The Board asked Barbara to see if the town has a policy on workplace harassment, and to contact MMA legal services regarding State requirements. The Board requested Barbara to draft a harassment policy if needed.

VI. Administration:

Newsletter for September:

1. The Board discussed articles for the next newsletter. Several items were discussed. The following is a list of the topics.

- a.) Thank you's to Skip Black, Arthur Alley, Spruce Head Co-op.
- b.) Article Village Flower Committee.
- c.) Revaluation update.
- d.) Article from Fire Department.
- e.) Article from Ambulance Service.
- f.) Town Landing Committee reconvened.
- g.) Town Office update.
- h.) Article soliciting feedback for credit/debit cards.
- i.) Article soliciting feedback on the town sign/ placement of addition signs.
- j.) Change in hours for Demo Debris Facility.
- k.) Article on nomination of Selectmen and SAD 5 Board Members.
- l.) November Election.
- m.) Update on Ambulance Committee.

Status of Fire Chief Appointment.



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2. Barbara Black informed the Board that Chief Brown was sworn into office on August 10, 2005.

Administration:

3. Authorized Treasurer's Warrants.
4. Reviewed Financial Statements for June & July.
5. Approved Check Reconciliation for June & July.
6. Reviewed Real Estate Collections.
7. Reviewed Excise Tax Collections for June & July.
8. Approved Selectmen Meeting Minutes of July 13th & August 9th.

Consideration of Tax Requirements:

9. The Board discussed the tax requirement for 2005, the Board is still waiting for the town's total valuation from Vision Appraisal. The valuation will be given to the Board by August 17th – 19th. Once the Board has the final valuation figure they will be able to project an estimated mil rate for 2005 taxes. The notices of new values will be sent out by Vision with a projected mil rate.

Gray Smith Land at the Public Landing:

10. Penelope Alley suggested she would like to see the town attempt to purchase a small portion of land located at the public landing. The Board requested Barbara to place further discussion on the next agenda.

Land Located at Pleasant Beach:

11. The Board informed Jeffrey Northgraves of the request from Tom and Rosanne Shepler to purchase a small portion of land from the town at the last meeting. The Board discussed the issue and decided not to take further action at this time.

VII. Adjournment: 10:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Black
Administrative Assistant