



# **TOWN OF SOUTH THOMASTON**

## **QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**



Robert Branco, Chairman  
Dorothy Meriwether  
Dianne Darling

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**MARCH 2014**

Website: [town.south-thomaston.me.us](http://town.south-thomaston.me.us)

Town of South Thomaston  
125 Spruce Head Road  
P.O. Box 147  
South Thomaston, ME

### **SOUTH THOMASTON ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MARCH 25th**

Voters will face a 26 article warrant at the 2014 Annual Town Meeting scheduled for **7:00 PM, Tuesday, March 25, 2014** at the Guilford Butler School.

The Selectboard's proposed 2014 budget includes a **decrease** of \$14,150, or 2.41%, in the amount of property taxes required to fund town operations, even though total municipal expenditures are slated to increase by \$98,553. The expenditure increase results in large part from \$105,000 in anticipated road paving costs, which are to be funded in part by \$70,000 from the town's paving reserve fund. Projected increases of approximately \$40,000 in automobile excise taxes and other revenues contribute to the property tax decrease.

Administrative Assistant John Spear cautions that the overall property tax levy won't be known until the town's assessment from RSU 13 is issued once the school district budget is finalized; noting that the RSU 13 assessment comprises approximately 80% of the town's property tax levy.

Voters will be asked to elect a Selectboard member for a term of three years to replace Robert Branco, who chose not to seek re-election. Moira Paddock and Sonja Sleeper have filed nomination papers for the open Selectboard seat.

Also on the warrant is an election for a three year term for the town's only seat on the RSU 13 Board of Directors. Incumbent Christine Curtis was the only person who filed nomination papers for that position.

The town meeting warrant also seeks voter approval of a proposal to expend up to \$350,000 to purchase a fire truck to replace the 1989 model year Engine 5. (See related article).

### **TOWN OFFICE STAFF CHANGES**

Long time Administrative Assistant Barbara Black retired In October 2013. Barbara served for over a decade as Town Clerk, Registrar of Voters, Treasurer and Tax Collector. Prior to that Barbara served as the deputy in these positions for several years. She was instrumental, among her many accomplishments, in modernizing the Town Office and guiding it into the computer age.

In mid-December 2013, the Selectboard appointed John Spear of Spruce Head Island as Barbara's replacement. John has extensive experience in municipal government. Prior to assuming this position John was the Town Manager in Waldoboro. John also served 13 years on the Selectboard here in South Thomaston.

Bert Taylor has resigned as South Thomaston's Assessor's Agent. The new agent will be RJD of Pittsfield Maine. RJD employee Kevin McCormick will typically be in the Town Office on Wednesdays. If you would like an appointment with Kevin, please call the Town Office 596-6584 or email [deputyst@midcoast.com](mailto:deputyst@midcoast.com).

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## PROPOSED FIRE TRUCK PURCHASE

At the upcoming March 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Town Meeting voters will be asked to approve expending up to \$350,000 to purchase a multipurpose Class A pumper. This truck would serve as the Town's "First Due" apparatus, replacing the aging 1989 model year Engine 5 that now serves that purpose.

This current proposal is significantly different from the proposal rejected by a vote of 85 to 62 at last year's town meeting to expend \$450,000 to purchase a truck to replace the 2003 model year Engine 1.

Since the last town meeting the Fire Department Truck Committee was expanded to include residents who were not members of the Department, namely Jeff Northgraves, John Spear, Dorothy Meriwether and Raymond Wooster. The expanded Committee reevaluated the fire truck replacement plan, taking into consideration best practices to meet the changing needs of fire service as well as the financial impact on the taxpayer.

The Committee determined, consistent with NFPA 1901 recommended standards, that the average life span of a piece of fire apparatus is 30 years and that a "First Due" truck should not be more than 20 years old. The Committee found that motor vehicle accidents and fire related calls comprise the greatest demand for services.

The information made it very clear that a new, or nearly new, multipurpose engine is needed to properly and safely respond to the emergency situations faced by the citizens of South Thomaston. The Committee located a more affordable Class A multipurpose pumper that would serve as the "First Due" apparatus and recommended to the Selectboard that the town proceed with the purchase.

Specifically Article 6 on the meeting warrant reads as follows:

*To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to expend up to \$350,000 to purchase a new class A pumper fire truck and to fund the expenditure substantially in accordance with the method indicated below and under other such terms and conditions as the Selectboard deems advisable. Fire Truck Reserve Fund, \$244,200; Anticipated Donation, \$10,000; Trade In Allowance/Sale Proceeds, \$5,000; Bond or Lease Purchase \$90,800.*

Respectfully, Fire Chief Bryan Calderwood

## BUTTERMILK LANE TRANSFER STATION SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING— RECYLING MADE SIMPLE

It **ALL** goes together **except** plastic bags, food liners, unmarked plastics, glass, light bulbs, mirrors dishes, ceramics, foam, styrofoam.

**SAVE \$\$\$\$ TRY BACKYARD COMPOSTING**  
**\$\$\$ THE LESS WEIGHT SHIPPED, THE MORE DOLLARS YOU SAVE \$\$\$**

### TOWN OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

2014 Holidays	Date Observed
New Year's Day	January 1
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	January 20
President's Day	February 17
Patriots Day	April 21
Memorial Day	May 26
Independence Day	July 4
Labor Day	September 1
Columbus Day	October 13
Veterans Day	November 11
Thanksgiving Day	November 27
Thanksgiving Friday	November 28

### ROAD OWNERSHIP INFO

Route 131, Route 73, Buttermilk Lane and Dublin Road are all **State** roads. Confusion regarding ownership of these roads often exists because the Town is required to plow/salt/sand all of these roads except Route 131. Concerns regarding these State roads should be directed to Maine Dept. of Transportation.

### TOWN WEBSITE

Please visit the Town's website. It contains lots of information that you can access at anytime. *News and Announcements* is updated regularly, as is *Upcoming Meetings*. If you have any suggestions regarding how the site could be improved, including what additional information could be added, please feel free to email Terri Baines at [deputyst@midcoast.com](mailto:deputyst@midcoast.com) or call her at 596-6584.

# TOWN OF SOUTH THOMASTON NEWSLETTER

## TOWN OFFICE EARLY CLOSE

The Town Office will close at 4:00 pm on Tuesday, March 25th, 2014 to allow staff to prepare for the Annual Town Meeting.

## PROPOSED NEW FEMA FLOOD INSURANCE MAPS

FEMA has issued new proposed flood insurance maps for the entire State. Some contact and other limited information is available at the Town Office where a copy of the South Thomaston maps can be viewed. The proposed maps are not yet final and appeals to correct errors and implement other changes can still be made to FEMA. The maps are projected to take effect in the summer of 2015, although that could be delayed by Congressional action now under discussion.

Some pertinent websites to visit are: <http://hazards.fema.gov/femaportal/prelimdownload/>, <http://www.maine.gov/dacf/flood/>, and <http://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/pages/bw-12.jsp>.

## SOUTH THOMASTON TOWN LIBRARY

After the 2014 town meeting, I will be stepping down from my appointment as Director of the Library. It has been a privilege to be able to help our dedicated group of volunteers make quality library service available to the citizens of South Thomaston. I strongly urge anyone who wants to see the library continue to be the resource center of the community, to step up and volunteer to be a member of the team. The volunteer force has seriously dwindled in the past year, and without an influx of new workers, it may not be possible to continue the vast array of services the library has become known for. Please call Tina Branco at 593-9312, Pennie Alley at 594-7416 or email us at [library@south-thomaston.lib.me.us](mailto:library@south-thomaston.lib.me.us) if you can help.

A special thanks to Pennie Alley, Rebecca Geesey, Ellen Hayes, Martha Alley, Chuck Jacobs, Ann Norman, and Susan Schmitke for their hours of work to keep things running smoothly.

*Tina Branco, Librarian*

## CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER AND LOCAL PLUMBING INSPECTOR

South Thomaston's Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) is responsible for enforcing the town's Land Use Ordinance, Shoreland Zoning Ordinance, and Floodplain Management Ordinance. S/he works with town residents to review and issue building permits for construction in the town. In addition to inspecting properties and building sites and plans, the CEO attends meetings of the Planning Board and the Planning Board of Appeals and works with these Boards to interpret and propose revisions to the Land Use Ordinance. The CEO may issue violation notices on his own volition or upon complaint from a third party.

The CEO is also responsible for enforcing the Public Landing Ordinance including the boat ramp, the pier, and the parking lot. He works with Marine Patrol officers for coordination of traps and other equipment left on the pier and boats blocking access to the pier. All complaints about pier access should be taken to the CEO, including concerns about fuel spills/environmental issues.

The Local Plumbing Inspector (LPI) is responsible for enforcing the State plumbing laws and codes, including external wastewater systems. S/he works with town residents to review and issue plumbing permits and conducts inspections.

# TOWN OF SOUTH THOMASTON NEWSLETTER

## OPERATIONAL HOURS

### Town Office

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:30 - 5:00  
Tuesday 8:30 - 6:00 Closed Friday  
Office Phone: 596-6584 Fax: 596-7529  
E-mail: sthomstn@midcoast.com

### Demolition Debris Facility

Wednesday and Saturday 9:00 - 4:00  
A sticker is required for residents and vouchers  
are available at the Town Office.

### Transfer Station (Buttermilk Lane)

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday  
8:00 - 4:00 Phone: 594-0748

### Library

Monday 11:00—4:00, Wednesday 2:00 – 7:00  
Saturday 10:00 – 2:00 Story Hour— Monday 10:00

## VOLUNTARY TAX CLUB

Voluntary Tax Club Booklets are available at the town office. Anyone interested in participating should contact the town office at 207-596-6584. We would be happy to be of assistance. You can budget your property taxes on a monthly basis. October is a great time to start although you can start participating in the Tax Club at any time during the year.

## 2014 ELECTION SCHEDULE

So. Thomaston Town Mtg. March 25, 2014  
RSU 13 District Budget Mtg. TBD  
State Primary Election June 10, 2014  
RSU 13 Validation Vote\* June 10, 2014  
General Election November 4, 2014  
\*anticipated date

## EMERGENCY (E911) SIGNS AVAILABLE AT THE TOWN OFFICE

The blue or green emergency house number signs are again available at the Town Office. They cost about \$8.00 to \$11.00, depending on size and the number of digits. These signs are critical for emergency responders to be able to locate you quickly, especially at night or in inclement weather.

**IN AN EMERGENCY  
FIRE, POLICE OR AMBULANCE  
DIAL 911**

## DIRECTORY

### Selectboard

Robert Branco, Chair (home) 593-9312  
Dorothy Meriwether (home) 594-7873  
Dianne Darling (home) 354-0184

### RSU # 13 Board of Directors Representative

Christine Curtis Home: 596-0252

### Administrative Assistant, Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Treasurer, Registrar & General Asst Administrator

John A. Spear 596-6584

### Deputy Clerk, Treasurer, Tax Collector, and Registrar

Terri-Lynn Baines 596-6584

### Deputy Assistant

Michelle Ames 596-6584

### Animal Control Officer (ACO)

Robert Robinson 593-9132

### Call Knox Communications ACO issues

### Fire Department: Emergency Dial 911

Bryan Calderwood, Fire Chief 596-6674  
David Elwell, Deputy Chief 542-4797  
Gerald Harjula, Assistant Chief 354-8026

*All 3 are Fire Wardens and can issue burning permits*

### Ambulance Service: Emergency Dial 911

Pat Dougherty, Director 594-9305  
Rich Norman, Asst. Director 594-5428

### E-911 Coordinator

Arthur Grierson 594-8873

### Road Commissioner

Gerald Grierson 594-5493

### Budget Committee

Donald Protheroe, Donna Withington, Gary Skarka,  
Gayle Gallant, Moira Paddock, Raymond Wooster and  
Rebecca Geesey.

Planning Board Roger Young, Chair, Cheryl Waterman,  
Eileen Skarka, Christine Curtis and Edward Gallant.  
Alternates: Ruth Rinklin and Gregory Peet

Board of Appeals Rich Norman, Chair, Rolf Winters, John  
Hansen and John Snow Jr. Alternate: Charles Hartman

### Knox County Budget Committee

Dorothy Meriwether Home: 594-7873

### Code Enforcement Officer and Plumbing Inspector

Lawrence Terrio Office: 593-9331 Home: 596-0545  
Terry Brackett, Alternate LPI

### Assessor's Agent

RJ D — Kevin McCormick Office: 596-6584

### Georges River Shellfish Warden

Neil Pollis Cell: 542-4281

### Solid Waste Committee

Dianne Darling 354-0184  
Moira Paddock 596-6584

### Emergency Management Director:

Raymond Wooster

Knox County Sheriff (non-emergency) 593-9132

Maine State Police (non-emergency) 1-800-452-4664