

**TOWN OF THOMASTON**  
**APRIL 26, 2021**  
**SELECT BOARD MINUTES**

**EXECUTIVE SESSIONS 5 P.M.**

**ACTION:** Diane Giese made a motion, seconded by Sandy Moore to enter executive session at 5:03 p.m., pursuant to MRS Title 1, §405 (6D), to discuss the Fraternal Order of Police bargaining agreement. **VOTE: 5-0**

**ACTION:** Bill Hahn made a motion, seconded by Sandy Moore to exit executive session at 5:08 p.m. **VOTE: 5-0**

**ACTION:** Bill Hahn made a motion, seconded by Zel Bowman-Laberge to approve the ratified Fraternal Order of Police bargaining agreement and authorize the Town Manager to sign the final agreement. **VOTE: 5-0**

**ACTION:** Diane Giese made a motion, seconded by Bill Hahn to authorize the Town to change its plan for its police officers effective July 1, 2021, for future service only. The Town agrees to:

- a) Provide Special Plan 3C to its police officers who work more than 20 hours per week and who are not seasonal or temporary as defined by the Appendix to MainePERS Rule Chapter 802 for service rendered after June 30, 2021. Service rendered prior to July 1, 2021 remains under Special Plan 2C.
- b) Continue to provide Regular Plan AC to all other employees who work more than 20 hours per week and who are not seasonal or temporary as defined by the Appendix to MainePERS Rule Chapter 802. All other employees, including the Town's elected/appointed officials and election workers continue to be excluded from membership.
- c) To authorize Town Manager Kara George to sign the Amended Agreement between the Town and the Maine Public Employees Retirement System. **VOTE: 5-0**

**ACTION:** Bill Hahn made a motion, seconded by Zel Bowman-Laberge to enter executive session at 5:12 p.m., pursuant to MRS Title 1, §405 (6C), to discuss a property foreclosure. **VOTE: 5-0**

**ACTION:** Zel Bowman-Laberge made a motion, seconded by Diane Giese to exit executive session at 5:12 p.m. **VOTE: 5-0**

**ACTION:** Bill Hahn made a motion, seconded by Sandy Moore to approve the payment agreement with George C. Hall & Sons at the increased rate of \$6,000 per month. **VOTE: 5-0**

**ACTION:** Bill Hahn made a motion, seconded by Zel Bowman-Laberge to enter executive session at 5:17 p.m., pursuant to MRS Title 1, §405 (6A), to discuss a personnel matter. **VOTE: 5-0**

**ACTION:** Zel Bowman-Laberge made a motion, seconded by Peter Lammert to exit executive session at 5:59 p.m. **VOTE: 5-0**

**REGULAR MEETING 6 P.M.**

**Board Present;** Chair Peter Lammert, Vice-Chair Bill Hahn, Sandy Moore, Diane Giese, Zel Bowman-LaBerge, Town Manager Kara George, Recording Secretary Donna Culbertson, Town Clerk Missy Stevens.

Meeting called to order at 6 p.m. by Chair Peter Lammert.

**ACTION:** The Breen Motion was made by Sandy Moore, seconded by Bill Hahn to take the meeting agenda out of order. **VOTE: 5-0**

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Request of Daryl Hahn to reschedule the Community Picnic to May 31, 2021.**

The Mid-coast Community Band had a conflict with the date of May 30. It is a Town event. Pete mentioned he has poster board available for use.

**ACTION:** Motion made by Sandy Moore, seconded by Diane Giese to reschedule the community picnic event to May 31, 2021. **VOTE: 5-0.**

**B. Discuss the next steps for a Pesticide Ordinance per the request of Zel Bowman-LaBerge.**

Zel gave a brief overview of what the Ordinance would entail and what would be the next steps. Noreen Mullaney of the Planning Board also participated in this discussion. Noreen had invited Connie Hayes, who had been involved with the drafting of the pesticide ordinance in Rockland. Connie informed the Board that the Ordinance had been in place for one year in Rockland. There was a long grace period and now the Ordinance covers all Rockland property. Connie stated that it is not about policing, rather it is about education. There is a need to determine what problem is being solved by what use of which pesticide. Laws change frequently on pesticides.

A suggestion was to create an ordinance so that citizens cannot say “You can’t tell me what to do in my yard.” Sandy Moore mentioned that there are no hazardous waste (local) areas for paint, pesticides, gas, oil, or antifreeze. The closest place is either Lewiston or Portland. Another suggestion was made to have the local towns join to establish a place for hazardous waste disposal.

**ACTION:** Motion made by Zel Bowman-LaBerge to hold a workshop to further discuss creating a pesticide ordinance. Seconded by Bill Hahn. **VOTE: 5-0.**

**C. Review the Town Hall Streams proposal for live streaming of town meetings.**

Town Manager Kara George discussed the services provided by Town Hall Streams for live streaming of town meetings. The company is located out of York, Maine. They would come here and set up the equipment. It would not be possible to use the Multi-purpose room due to the high ceilings. The Select Board room makes more sense because the company would need a room with a dropped ceiling. Kara also mentioned the challenges of running the meeting in-person and via Zoom as was done in the past.

**ACTION:** Motion made by Zel Bowman-LaBerge to try the Town Hall Streaming in May. Seconded by Diane Giese. **VOTE: 5-0.**

**D. Accept with regret the resignation of Mary Rita McDevitt from the Conservation Commission.**

**ACTION:** Motion made by Sandy Moore to accept with regret the resignation of Mary Rita McDevitt from the Conservation Commission, seconded by Zel Bowman-LaBerge. **VOTE: 5-0.**

**AGENDA ADJUSTMENT**

**Discuss broadband per the request of Economic Development Specialist Brian Doyle.**

The workshop with Brian Lippold from Casco Bay Advisors will not be held on Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup> due to conflicting schedules. The meeting has been rescheduled for Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m.

Spectrum had contacted the Town and requested to meet with the Select Board to discuss broadband. The Mid-Coast Internet Coalition also want to meet with the Select Board. The Board agreed to speak with Brian Lippold first.

Debra Hall from the Midcoast Internet Coalition reached out to each community requesting municipalities submit written requests to Knox County for American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds be earmarked for broadband. The Board asked if there would be other options for the funds. Brian Doyle stated that he will research how the funds will be distributed and how the funds may be used. The Select Board wants more information about the ARP funds and broadband before dedicating funds to for a specific use.

**4. Approve the Warrants.**

**ACTION:** Motion made by Sandy Moore, seconded by Diane Giese to approve the warrants. **VOTE: 5-0.**

**7. Town Boards & Committees Update**

Bill Hahn informed the Board that the Watts Block Trustees applied for a grant from Lowe's. Bill Najpauer from Midcoast Economic Development District (MCEDD) is working on a grant from Northern Borders Regional Commission for Economic Development funds. The bathroom in Blueberry Moose will be finished by Mr. Hoppe.

Joanne Richards, Chair of the Planning Board, stated that in May the Planning Board meetings will once again be in person. They would also like to participate in the live streaming.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Charlie Frattini of the Planning Board stated his concerns to the Select Board regarding the memorandum from the Town Attorney Paul Gibbons about the proposed ordinance amendments for R1 and R2 zones and statements made at the April 12<sup>th</sup> Select Board meeting. He stated that he was deeply offended by the statement of Attorney Gibbons and that the Planning Board had not done anything illegal. He requested the letter submitted by the Planning Board to the Select Board be read aloud and be included in the minutes of this meeting. Additionally, he wants the word “illegal” stricken from the April 12<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes and the memorandum from the Attorney withdrawn.

Town Manager Kara George stated that the Town cannot retract the Town Attorney’s memorandum from the record. Peter Lammert stated that the Select Board do not have April 12<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes yet and the Town is in communication with the Town Attorney about the matter.

**ACTION:** Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. made by Zel Bowman-LaBerge, seconded by Sandy Moore. **VOTE: 5-0.**

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Chair Peter Lammert

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Recording Secretary Donna Culbertson