



**SELECT BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2021
CEMETERY TRUSTEES 5 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING: 6:00 P.M.**

IN-PERSON AT 13 VALLEY STREET

**NEW! LIVE STREAMING AVAILABLE ON THE TOWN WEBSITE OR BY VISITING:
https://www.townhallstreams.com/towns/thomaston_me**

CEMETERY TRUSTEES AT 5:00 P.M.

REGULAR MEETING AT 6:00 P.M.

- 1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER**
- 2. PUBLIC HEARINGS:**
- 3. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF: October 13, 2021**
- 4. APPROVE THE WARRANTS**
- 5. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**
- 6. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**
- 7. TOWN BOARDS & COMMITTEES UPDATE**
- 8. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- 9. OLD BUSINESS**
- 10. NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Discuss next steps regarding the North Road Study.**
 - B. Discuss the extension of the Economic Development Specialist Contract.**

C. Accept with regret the resignations of Elizabeth Allen and Jessica Shepard from the Comprehensive Plan Committee.

11. ADJOURN

Upcoming Dates:

Tuesday, November 9th	6 p.m. Planning Board & Comp Plan Committee Joint Workshop
Thursday, November 11th	Town Offices closed in observance of Veterans Day
Tuesday, November 16th	6 p.m. Planning Board Meeting
Wednesday, November 17th	9 a.m. Watts Block Trustees Stakeholder's Group Rescheduled to Wednesday, Dec. 1st at 5 p.m.
Thursday, November 18th	9 a.m. Economic Development Committee
Friday, November 19th	8 a.m. Dragon CAP
Monday, November 22nd	5 p.m. Select Board Affordable Housing Workshop 6 p.m. Select Board Regular Meeting
Thurs.-Fri., November 25-26th	Town Offices closed in observance of Thanksgiving

**Town of Thomaston
Selectboard Minutes
October 13, 2021**

Lura Libby Dedication at 5 p.m.

Executive Session at 5:30 p.m. was canceled.

Regular Meeting at 6 p.m.

Board Present: Diane Giese, Zel Bowman-LaBerge, Pete Lammert, Town Manager
Kara George, Recording Secretary Donna Culbertson. **Absent:** Bill Hahn.

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM by Chair Diane Giese.

ACTION: Motion to use the Breen Amendment made by Pete Lammert. Seconded by Zel Bowman-Laberge. VOTE: 4-0.

9. OLD BUSINESS

A. Consider the request of Chris Farthing for paving and plumbing repairs up to \$5,000 at the Academy, as tabled on 9/27/2021.

Chris Farthing noted that the sink in the boiler room needs to be relocated. Artists can no longer put their paint down the drain, as it causes drainage issues. Relocation of the sink will cost approximately \$1,200. The paving that will divert the water will cost approximately \$2,600.

ACTION: Motion made by Pete Lammert to allow up to \$5,000 for the needed repairs at the Academy Building. Seconded by Sandy Moore. VOTE: 4-0.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consider for appointment Greg Hamlin as a Thomaston Representative on the Midcoast Internet Coalition.

ACTION: Motion made by Pete Lammert to appoint Greg Hamlin as a Thomaston Representative on the Midcoast Internet Coalition. Seconded by Sandy Moore. VOTE: 4-0.

B. Consider for appointment Amanda Prior to the Recreation Committee.

ACTION: Motion made by Zel Bowman-Laberge to appoint Amanda Prior to the Recreation Committee. Seconded by Pete Lammert. VOTE: 4-0.

C. Discuss the Christmas Tree Lighting at the Thomaston Mall per the request of Select Board Member Sandy Moore.

The tree that is being given to the Town will be in memory of Mary Rita McDevitt. Sheila Guyer and Ann Robison volunteered to hang tree lights this year. The trees are ordered from Pleasant View Farm.

D. Review for approval the amended ambulance billing rates as requested by EMS Chief Amy Drinkwater.

EMS Chief Amy Drinkwater recommended that the Town adopts the new fee schedule for ambulance billing to be on par with Medicare.

ACTION: Motion made by Pete Lammert to approve the amended billing rates. Seconded by Zel Bowman-Laberge. VOTE: 4-0.

E. Set a Special Town Meeting date for the acquisition of the Kiln Parcel.

ACTION: Motion made by Pete Lammert to set the special town meeting date of October 27th at 6PM in the Lura Libby Room. Seconded by Sandy Moore. VOTE: 4-0.

F. Set a Public Information Session for the North Road Study for Thursday, October 21st at 6 P.M.

ACTION: Motion made by Pete Lammert to hold the Public Information Session for the North Road Study on October 21, at 6PM. Seconded by Sandy Moore. VOTE: 4-0.

3. Approve the minutes of: August 9, September 13, 20 and 27.

ACTION: Motion to approve the minutes of August 9, September 13, 20, and 27, 2021, made by Zel Bowman-Laberge. Seconded by Diane Giese. VOTE: 4-0.

4. Approve the Warrants

ACTION: Motion made by Pete Lammert to approve the warrants. Seconded by Sandy Moore. VOTE: 4-0.

6. Town Managers Report. (See attached).

ACTION: Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Pete Lammert. Seconded by Zel Bowman-Laberge. VOTE: 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Chair Diane Giese

Recording Secretary Donna Culbertson

Meeting Updates

- 9/29/21 *Maine Rural Water Association (MRWA)– David Leonard and Humza Kahn*
John Fancy and I met with representatives from MRWA to discuss the transition of Pollution Control Superintendents. MRWA currently has a grant that will pay for Human Resource services, which means they can provide services to us at no cost. Collaboratively, MRWA will work with the Town through the whole advertising, interviewing, and hiring process to ensure that we can find a qualified candidate to work with John prior to his retirement.
- 9/30/21 *Business Block Landlord Meeting*
Brian Doyle, Tim Hoppe, Brandon Allen, and I attended a Business Block Landlord meeting to discuss concerns around parking, snow removal, dog waste, and trash debris.
- 9/30/21 *Regina Leonard, Architect*
I met with Regina Leonard to discuss the Town budget and number of employees/volunteers the Town currently has as it relates to parks, trails, and recreation. The public survey will be live on the new website at www.thomastonparks.info.
- 10/1/21 *Maine Service Centers Coalition (MSCC)*
I attended the annual MSCC meeting and was elected as an officer on the Executive Committee. Some changes from the most recent state legislative sessions that are a benefit to Maine municipalities included:
- 55% State Funding for Education for K-12 grades, which means the minimum property taxpayer contribution for schools decreased by \$68 million between FY21 and FY22
 - Restoration of Revenue Sharing to municipalities to 4.5%, and then 5% in July of 2022. Thomaston's State Revenue Sharing projections for FY22 are \$557,962, up \$127,942 over last year.
 - Homestead Exemption remains \$25,000 for property owners; however, reimbursement to municipalities will increase by 3% each year until municipalities are 100% compensated.
- The MSCC continues to advocate for municipalities. Other areas of discussion included housing issues, sharing the marijuana tax with municipalities, and local sales tax options.
- 10/7/21 *TD Wealth Management*
Diane, Jodell, and I met with TD Wealth Management to discuss the transition of our trust funds. TD will be working over the new few weeks to move funds. The Town should be fully transitioned over sometime in November. They will meet with us at a minimum annually and by teleconference whenever we need to. Jodell has already begun sending the appropriate documents TD needs to get started.
- 10/12/21 *Knox County Commissioners Meeting*
(Will have more information on Wednesday)

Other Notes

There were 73 tax liens filed at Knox County Registry of Deeds. As of today's date (10/7/21), 18 liens have been paid.

Reminder: October 14th from 10-11:30 a.m. is a free ARPA Housing Forum through MMA.

Meeting Updates

10/26/21

Army Corp of Engineers

Attended a zoom meeting to discuss what is involved with dredging requests and timelines of steps that are required. Currently the Town is in the survey phase with initial testing and sampling projected for spring of 2022. All steps are dependent on funding; however, the Army Corps of Engineers has a 2-yr budget cycle which goes through FY23.

10/27/21

Fire Department

I met with Fire Chief Mazzeo to discuss concerns with the Fire Department. Currently, the newest fire truck is at Copelands Garage for repairs at an estimated \$9,000 +/- . Chief said the repair involves the turbocharger. We carried about \$15,000 that was left over in vehicle maintenance in last year's budget, which will cover the unexpected expense.

Additionally, the Fire Department is looking for more volunteers. We have recently hired two new people, one of which is a junior firefighter. Plus, two more people have applied. Jamie Leo put out a help sign outside the station.

MMA Legal Update on Recreation Marijuana Webinar

I attended a Zoom meeting regarding legislation on recreational marijuana in Maine. Most of the presentation discussed laws for adult-use vs. medical use. Currently, there is no direct revenue sharing to municipalities from the sales of marijuana. All tax proceeds go to the State and then is factored into the sales tax formula that is distributed to towns in revenue sharing.

Special Town Meeting

The Town held a special town meeting to approve the resolution in order for the Town to acquire the Kiln Parcel. Voters approved the warrant.

10/28/21

Knox County Manager Meeting

I met with Andy Hart along with 4 other town managers from neighboring municipalities. Andy Hart was unable to discuss anything regarding the ARPA grant applications, as the matter is now in the hands of the County's Attorney. However, we had a great conversation on how to work collaboratively with the Commissioner's going forward.

11/1/21

Transco

I met with Kevin from Transco to review our copier leases and plans.

11/2/21

Referendum Election

For an off year election, the Town had a great turn out for the Referendum Election with 837 voters. Thank you to all that worked at the election.

11/10/21

Vaccine Mandate

Jodell and I are attending a zoom webinar regarding the ETS (Emergency Temporary Standard) from OSHA just released on November 4th. The official ETS is published November 5th. The Town may need to adopt a vaccine policy and enforce vaccine mandates or testing if the Town falls within the 100 employee threshold. I will keep the Board informed of what we find out.

Missy Stevens

From: Daryl Hahn <darylhahn@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 29, 2021 12:40 PM
To: Missy Stevens
Subject: Comprehensive Plan Committee

Good Morning Missy,

As co-chair of the Comprehensive Plan Committee, I would like to request that the names of Elizabeth Allen and Jessica Shepard be removed from the list of Committee members since they are no longer serving as such.

Thank you for your assistance,

Daryl Hahn