



Town of Thorndike

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Selectman's Meeting 4/21/2021

In Attendance

G Falzetta, C Greenberg, W Trafton, R Cunningham, R Nelson, J Ard, T Veazie, D Berry, J Trafton, R Carter, A Hamblet, A Gleason

Open @ 6:30pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Prior Minutes

D Berry Motions to accept the 4/7/2021 minutes with listing noted changes from 3/17/21 (prior meeting minutes) and adding warrant amounts to 4/7/21 minutes. J Trafton seconds. 3-0 passes.

Fire Department

Old Business

Hose Testing

T Veazie reported although he didn't have the exact quote, the hose testing estimate should be the same as last year. He agreed to get the quote for this year and to forward it to the town office clerk, who will then forward it to the selectmen.

J Trafton reported that the electrician was at the fire department earlier today and fixed the outlet. With the outlet at the fire station fixed. T Veazie believes that everything with the state inspection is completed. He will check to confirm.

New Business

Fire Department Committee

(for centralized area fire department and personnel staffing)

J Trafton has spoken to Blaine from Unity Fire (whom Thorndike has a mutual aid contract) to act as Chief for Thorndike. Trafton believes this is a good option as Thorndike and Unity fire departments already train together. A formal decision will need to be made after the town meeting as the incoming selectmen will have to meet to approve.

J Trafton thinks that with having a regionalized fire department there will be better overall coverage and save taxpayers money. Trafton suggests looking into working with other area towns after the

town meeting. In the interim J Trafton suggests checking with Unity for a possible contract until a more permanent solution can be made.

G Falzetta suggests that when looking into a regional fire department that an insurance community member also be involved with the board for insurance rates information. T Veazie agrees with this as the ISO rating is important to be working with.

T Veazie expresses his concern that there are pros and cons on both sides with and without a regional fire department; management, equipment, personnel, and costs.

J Trafton believes that with his discussions with EMA that a regional station should not cost more, but be more cost effective with a formalized agreement with other towns, pooling resources, people, equipment and a centralized station. This is something that will take time and be done methodically.

After more discussion J Ard asks if a committee is going to be started. J Trafton states that it will have to wait until after the town meeting to be done with the incoming selectmen.

R Carter states that the fire department door needs to be checked as it was open and no one was around. T Veazie said that he had checked the door and that possibly the batteries need to be replaced. He will continue to keep an eye on the door. D Berry asked if there were eye sensors on the door and if they need to be checked.

T Veazie stated that there are no door safety eye(s). D Berry then suggested getting a quote for door sensors for safety. T Veazie agrees that this is a good idea and will look into getting a quote.

Town Office

Old Business

Salt & Sand Shed Update

G Falzetta shares that at the moment the salt & sand shed process has slowed down as things cannot move forward until after the town meeting and the building design has been chosen. He also shares that the state revolving fund application is 80% completed and sent to the AE for review. The SRF application is also in the works. From the engineer application go to the bond attorney for review and then back to the town selectmen for signatures and then the bond bank will consider the application from there. If the SRF loan is granted then the State will be involved in the plans, specs, schedules, etc.

J Ard questions Article 5 on building types with cost estimates. People at the town meeting will want to know costs first and foremost.

Discussion on salt & sand shed buildings, costs estimates, plans, location, town salt & sand shed account, DEP and State of Maine involvement. R Carter sums up that the reason for the salt & sand shed is that Thorndike is an environmental conscientious town. The building will be efficient for the contractor, less salt will be used as it will in the building and it will protect the surrounding area. After more discussion, D Berry reminds everyone that all will be discussed Saturday at the town meeting and we need to move on.

Town Meeting Reminder

D Berry reminds everyone that the town meeting will be Saturday (4/24) starting at 9am and to arrive early to register.

New Business

Tax Abatement Request

R Cunningham is seeking an abatement. R Cunningham paid taxes with the wrong checking account, causing a bounced check. When informed of the error he wrote a check from the correct bank account. Even though the new check was backdated in the computer system to when the original payment was made, the computer system still tacked on late fees. J Trafton motions to accept the abatement request, R Carter seconds. 3-0 passes.

Other

Reimbursements

- Car registration special plate fee of \$20 charged twice. D Berry motions to reimburse \$20 fee. J Trafton seconds. 3-0 passes.
- Dog registration late fee charged. Due to COVID late fees are not to be charged. D Berry motions to reimburse \$25 fee. J Trafton seconds. 3-0 passes.
- J Tochterman charged \$37.43 for registration. Check cashed for \$43.43 (check incorrectly filled out) D Berry motions to reimburse \$6 overcharge. J Trafton seconds. 3-0 passes.

Homestead Reimbursement Program. State billed \$661. A check approved in October for \$1088 for the Homestead Reimbursement Program. An up-to-date state bill shows an amount due of \$661. D Berry questions if we send in the \$1088 check (we still have) and give the state a credit or to void the aforementioned check and pay the current billed amount of \$661. D Berry suggests voiding the \$1088 check and cutting a new check in the amount of \$661. As there is no discussion, D Berry motions to void the old check and to process a new check in the amount of \$661. J Trafton seconds. 3-0 passes.

Quitclaim Deed

In 1947 through a lien warrant the town acquired property on the Reid Road, map 3 lot 5. D Berry motions to have selectmen sign quitclaim deed to said property to Paul and Michelle Philbrick. J Trafton seconds. 3-0 passes. Needing a notary to finalize the quitclaim deed and not having one on hand on 4/7/21, a notary will be available at the town office between 4:30-6:30 Thursday 4/8/21 for the selectmen to sign and finalize.

D Berry motions to pay Waldo County Registry of Deeds \$19 to file. J Trafton seconds. 3-0 passes.

Waldo County Bounty

Catherine Sander called from the Waldo County Bounty, and would like to host a food table with fresh fruit and vegetables free to community members, no questions asked. Volunteers from the Waldo County Bounty will take responsibility for the table and food.

After much discussion, it is decided that the best place for the table to be set up is outside the front of the town office between the doors. D Berry motions to invite the Waldo County Bounty to set up a table at the town office. J Trafton seconds. 3-0 passes.

Maine State Liquor Sales

A letter from the State of Maine in regards to the history of liquor sales in the Town of Thorndike needs to be researched and reviewed. Have until July 1, 2022 to complete. Table until after town meeting for the incoming select board to handle.

Town Appointed Positions

April is the month to appoint town positions. D Berry motions to reappoint the following: Code Enforcement Officer, Charlie Porter; Plumbing Inspector, Wayne Pitre; and Deputy CEO & Deputy LPI Brian Croft. J Trafton seconds. 3-0 passes.

Road Grading

R Carter asks if there is enough in the budget to grade roads.
D Berry motions to have roads graded. J Trafton seconds. 3-0 passes.

Salt/Sand Pile

R Carter questions where the footprint of the proposed salt and sand building will go as he is concerned where the current salt/sand pile is located. G Falzetta assures that the location of the pile is fine. R Carter states that the pile is to be covered for the summer.

Ard Board of Appeals

J Ard questions the letter he received from the board of appeals not being posted registered certified mail and if any of the others involved were registered certified mail.
As there are varying degrees of how the letter was delivered, it is suggested that the Board of Appeals Chair Janet Abrahamson be contacted on this matter.

Warrants

Warrants reviewed: AP warrant of \$95,931.19; payroll warrant of \$2988.66; and the current warrant of \$4,690.32 with the additions made to the current warrant covered in the meeting \$51 in reimbursements, \$19 registry of deeds, and \$661 Maine Homestead Reimbursement Program. D Berry motions to sign warrants. J Trafton seconds. 3-0 passes.

Executive Session

8:20pm D Berry motions to go into executive session. J Trafton seconds. 3-0
8:40pm D Berry motions to end executive session. J Trafton seconds. 3-0

Fire Department Application

With the town meeting and election of new selectmen, D Berry motions to table FD application until after the town meeting.
J Trafton seconds. 3-0 passes.

Adjournment

R Carter motions to adjourn meeting. D Berry seconds. 3-0 passes
Meeting Adjourned at 8:45pm.