

Town of Thorndike Selectmen's Meeting Minutes 10.2.2019

Attendees: R Nelson, J Ard, M Mayer, D Berry, J Trafton, W Trafton, R Stevenson, J Wadick, Z Bond, L Rolerson, C Rolerson, R Cunningham, S Bristol & P Pendergast.

R Nelson opened the meeting at 6:34pm

Minutes:

M Mayer made a motion to approve the 8.19.2019 Special Town Meeting Minutes as written, J Ard Seconded; motion carried. Minutes accepted as written

3 votes in favor of the motion / 0 votes to opposed the motion

R Nelson made a motion to approve the 9.18.2019 minutes as written; M Mayer seconded, motion carried. Minutes accepted as written.

3 votes in favor of the motion / 0 votes to opposed the motion

Fire Department:

Old Business: Fire Chief (FC) R Stevenson: discussion on Open House scheduled for 10/12/2019: pamphlets made, small activities and Ladies Auxiliary is providing some food.

P Pendergast asked for clarification that the donations that would be received would go to the Thorndike Municipal Fire Department; FC R Stevenson advised that they would.

Electrical work at the Fire Department: M Mayer is still looking into quotes. Grants are available with Efficiency Maine but the vendors must be registered with them.

Volunteer Fire Department Application: M Mayer made a motion to approve Jeremy Soulia as a member of the Thorndike Municipal Fire Department, J Ard seconded, motion carried.

3 votes in favor of the motion / 0 votes to opposed the motion

Return of Austin Grant Donation from 2017:

R Nelson advised, per MMA, that once a donation is made to a town, the donation remains with the town and the money must be used for the original intended purpose as donated.

J Ard advised that money cannot be returned to Lori Grant Nason as the donation was made to the Town of Thorndike by the Thorndike Volunteer Fire Company. Also no money can be returned without approval from the Town of Thorndike registered voters at a Town Meeting. Advised that the Thorndike Volunteer Fire Company Inc could request the money to be returned, as they are the ones that donated the money to the Town of Thorndike, but again the registered voters for the Town of Thorndike would need to vote to approve the return of spending of any money.

Z Bond asked, "Why does she (Lori Grant) want the money back?"

J Ard read the memo from Lori Grant, as the money has not been spent on the reason intended, she has asked for the money returned to be used for Driver's Ed classes.

S Bristol asked for clarification that Lori Grant could ask the Thorndike Volunteer Fire Company Inc for the donation given to them to be returned. Then the Thorndike Volunteer Fire Company could then approach the Selectmen to propose to them to put on a warrant; asking for the money to be returned to them. Then the money could be returned to Lori Grant with the Thorndike Volunteer Fire Company Inc's approval. J Ard agreed that this process could be used but reiterated again that money cannot be spent without the approval from the Town of Thorndike's registered voters at a Town Meeting.

Discussion that the prior Selectmen had inquired for additional information about proposed trucks and the additional information was never provided to the prior Selectmen by the Thorndike Volunteer Fire Company Inc.

Town Office: Old Business:

Exterior light: M Mayer is looking into this with the Fire Department light grant; can include all Municipal buildings.

Salt and Sand Shed: R Nelson that they are looking for an entrance permit from the State of Maine DOT as the property is located on a State Road. Bruce Tweedie has noted authorization to allow the Town of Thorndike to start cutting trees and to install the driveway.

J Ard advised that the property of Bruce Tweedie has a mortgage on it and this is causing a delay as the bank needs to approve a partial mortgage waiver on it.

J Trafton inquired if the title search came back ok? J Ard advised that it had; they are just waiting on a partial mortgage waiver.

R Nelson advised that the DOT will not authorize other locations without meeting their minimum requirements; followed by an initial inspection and other Towns do not have the space to store Thorndike's salt and sand.

J Ard advised that the State of Maine DOT is working well with the town; they want to help.

R Nelson advised that the State of Maine does not pay the town for snow removal, salt and sanding of State roads. The State provides LRAP (Local Roads Assistance Program) and these funds are to be used with capital improvements to town roads that will last at least 10 years.

R Nelson advised that the State of Maine has also made it so the Towns in Maine are responsible for the second culvert installed to driveways off of State roads; unless the culvert goes under a State road.

Kenneth Copp: request for a pro-rata refund on unused excise tax for a vehicle he no longer owns; \$12.88; J Ard made a motion to approve the pro-rate BMV excise to Kenneth Copp in the amount of \$12.88; M Mayer seconded, motion carried.

3 votes in favor of the motion / 0 votes to opposed the motion

Abatement:

J Ard made a motion to approve an abatement of the property tax bill for 149 Reid Road, of the home and 5 acres from Roland Reid to Maine Farmland Trust; M Mayer seconded, motion carried.

3 votes in favor of the motion / 0 votes to opposed the motion

General Assistance Public Hearing: R Nelson must be done every year to decide on the minimum and maximums on guidelines for accepting or declining General Assistance.

J Ard made a motion to have a Public Hearing on 10/16/2019 at 6pm for General Assistance Ordinance; M Mayer seconded; motion carried.

3 votes in favor of the motion / 0 votes to opposed the motion

J Ard made motion to be closed on 10/14/2019 for Columbus Day (Federal) / Indigenous People Day (Maine) , M Mayer seconded, motion carried.

3 votes in favor of the motion / 0 votes to opposed the motion

M Mayer made a motion to reschedule their Selectmen’s workshop on 10/14/2019 from 11am to 4pm; J Ard seconded, motion carried.

3 votes in favor of the motion / 0 votes to opposed the motion

Other:

M Mayer made a motion to table to cast their ballot for nominee for the MRC

(Municipal Review Committee) board: J Ard sec; motion carried: -----TABLED

3 votes in favor of the motion / 0 votes to opposed the motion

J Ard referenced the Selectmen’s meeting minutes from 9.18.2019; that there was discussion with the Planning Board and the discussion, particularly in regards to the State’s stand on hemp.

J Ard advised that, to his surprise, the State of Maine, not long after 9.19.2019; made hemp agricultural.

M Mayer advised if the Town was to “opt in” and there was no ordinance; then the Town of Thorndike would have to follow the State of Maine’s ordinance.

J Ard made a motion to approve a Haunted House event at the old fire station put on by the Town of Thorndike’s Park and Rec Committee ; M Mayer seconded; motion carried.

3 votes in favor of the motion / 0 votes to opposed the motion

D Berry and J Ard asked if the old fire station was equipped with fire extinguishers and lit “EXIT” lights as required for commercial/municipal buildings; also if there are two means of egress.

J Trafton: Chair of the Town of Thorndike Park and Recreational Committee: advised that there are no fire extinguishers in the building but could get some from the fire department and the exit lights, they will look into battery operated lights as there is no power to the old fire house.

The Park and Rec committee will be inviting local groups in the area to see if they want to participate in a "Trunk or Treat" up and down Gordon Hill Road.

Candy donations can be left at the Town Office.

R Nelson made a motion to sign the warrants; J Ard seconded, motion carried

3 votes in favor of the motion / 0 votes to opposed the motion

AP Warrant from 10.2.2019: \$139,228.75

Current Warrant: \$55,286.30

Payroll Warrant: \$1659.91

R Nelson made a motion to adjourn; M Mayer seconded; motion carried.

3 votes in favor of the motion / 0 votes to opposed the motion

Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm