

## Town of Thorndike

### Selectmen's Meeting Minutes - 12.18.2019

**Attendees:** R Nelson, J Ard, M Mayer, R Stevenson, S Bristol, B Croft, D Berry, R Cunningham, P Pendergast & E Pendergast

6:33pm R Nelson opened the meeting

**Minutes:** J Ard made a motion to amend the minutes on page 3 as the wording in incorrect. It was a statement that the Town needs to be cautious of their actions in regards to subdivisions as the Town could be held legally liable. The statement is struck from the minutes per this amendment request.

M Mayer approved the minutes as amended. Motion carried.

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

**Shoreland Zoning Class:** Brian Croft : Town of Thorndike Event Room : Licensed Plumbing and Assistance Code Enforcement Officer for the Town of Thorndike reviewed with the Selectmen a class that Charlie Porter, Town Code Enforcement Officer and he would like to conduct in the Town of Thorndike's Event Room on 1/28/2020 with a snow date of 1/29/2020. Brian asked for use of the Event Room for no fee and they would offer the class to the Town of Thorndike Selectmen, Appeal's Board and Planning Board for no fee.

M Mayer approved the use of the event room for 1/28/2020 ( snow date 1/29/2020) for no fee, R Nelson seconded, motion carried.

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

#### **Fire Department:**

**Cost Recovery Services:** S Bristol: met with the Cost Recovery, out of Fairfield, ME. The contract states that the Town of Thorndike can opt out at anytime. Their commission rate is 20% and only if they collect any payments. If the necessary information is not received, then there will be additional charges. But the contract states what information is required.

J Ard made a motion to sign the contract for Cost Recovery, M Mayer seconded, motion carried

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

Discussion by J Ard discussion on this billing service for personnel for their services when on accident scenes. J Ard made a motion to have the Fire Department's reimbursement for hourly service fees to be placed in an account and paid out quarterly to payroll. Treasurer, D Berry advised and M Mayer concurred that the ordinance states that any funding received from the Town of Thorndike Billing ordinance, enacted on 3/17/2018, that any of this funding is to be placed in the Fire Truck Replacement Savings Account. Discussion about that this will would be an incentive for people to join the fire department. This will be reviewed and an article to be placed on the Annual Town Meeting for March 2020 to place out for legislative vote for amendment to the fire department billing ordinance.

M Mayer made a motion to accept Michael Craig Millen as a volunteer fire department, J Ard seconded. Motion carried

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

J ard discussion on a \$350 delivery charge for a hose rack. It is coming from Indiana.

J Ard made a motion for the Fire Department to purchase the hose cart for \$2150 from Fire Tech and Safety and the light kits for \$875; M Mayer seconded, motion carried.

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

Discussion on current equipment such as flashlights and how old they are; about 10-12 years old. Selectmen recommended to research to buy new instead replacing parts on antiquated equipment.

**Old business:**

- Abatements:

M Smith: the landowner has stated that this land is "land locked" and looking for an abatement or approval for open space tax exemption. An abatement was already completed in 2017.

R Nelson will make contact with the property owner to discuss. ----- TABLED

C Banker : landowner informed Jacki that the additional home on the property was not liveable. The reduction in valuation was completed for the FY2019. J Ard made a motion to deny an abatement towards the FY2017 & FY2018 taxes as the abatement was for the property being noted as not livable just this year , M Mayer seconded, motion carried.

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

J Ard will request an actual physical assessment from Jacki Robbins, Town Tax Assessment Officer.

**New Business:**

MMA Legal: authorized personnel:

Discussion on how MMA Legal needs to have it noted in the minutes of approval for all three selectmen as well as Chairs to Town Boards have authorization to contact MMA legal. Currently as it stands, only the first Selectmen has authorization to contact MMA legal.

J Ard made a motion to allow First , Second, Third Selectmen, Planning Board Chair, Appeal’s Board Chair (and with the Planning Board and Appeals Board Chair that the Selectmen retain the option to allow a second member of the board to contact MMA Legal with the Chair ), to have authorization to contact MMA Legal, M Mayer seconded, motion carried.

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

Records are kept by MMA Legal of all communications and Boards should be keeping their own records for the Town.

Discussion of permits being issued for the Town of Thorndike. As it stands the CEO issues the permits and there is no one checking the work so this may allow a place for errors to be made.

J Ard made a motion that all completed applications will need to be reviewed and approved by the Planning Board and to the Selectmen for final approval. M Mayer seconded, motion carried.

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

J Ard made a motion that should a person want to expedite the process this will be for a \$100 fee with the fees paid equally to the Planning Board Members that attend the expedited meeting, M Mayer seconded, motion carried.

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

Quit Claim Deed: J Bailey: Cates Road: prior agreement with landowner that the 3 years in taxes to be paid and a Quit Claim deed would be issued. M Mayer made a motion to sign the Quit Claim Deed, J Ard seconded, motion carried.

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

Belfast Moosehead Railroad liquor license request : Discussion on the Town of Thorndike being a ‘dry town’. This will be TABLED at this time to research.

J Ard asked for this to be reviewed for the March 2020 Annual Town Meeting warrant to review an article on the town being a “dry town”.

January 1<sup>st</sup> Selectmen’s meeting: reschedule: M Mayer made a motion to reschedule the next Selectmen’s meeting to Thursday, 1/2/2020 at 7pm, R Nelson seconded, motion carried.

**Other:**

Brian Croft: Assistant Code Enforcement Officer: stated that he has taken the marijuana classes and should the Town of Thorndike opt in then he would be more than willing take on the role for the enforcement of any local ordinances that the Town should approve. The State of Maine handles the State enforcement of rules and regulations. Discussion of the State of Maine constantly changing the rules and regulations.

Leonard Road: R Nelson picked up the cattle gates and getting ready to have them installed. F C Ron Stevenson maybe able to get some volunteers to help them to be installed. 12' long gates.

Salt and Sand property: J Ard advised that electricity will be installed once the pole is installed at the lot.

Park and Rec *Merry and Bright* dinner: \$146 donations received and other donations from Halloween event and selling mugs, t shirts and button \$719.44 = \$865.44: M Mayer made a motion to accept the donations of \$865.44; J Ard seconded, motion carried. R Nelson advised that there were all good reports for the Merry and Bright dinner. J Ard and M Mayer advised that about 75-80 in attendance.

P Pendergast asked about the succession of the Selectmen terms going to 3 year terms as this was something they was working on? J Ard advised that this is an ordinance and has to be a new ordinance to rotating terms for the Selectmen. This is looking to be an article on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant for 2020. This is a Maine Law as part of the Election process.

R Stevenson: reviewed with Tidewater about group pricing for next winter season. A Tidewater rep would be available to meet sometime next year to review numbers for a pre-buy. J Ard advised meet for the 1/15/2020 Selectmen's meeting to compile a list for February & March to have people sign up.

WCAP: Food baskets : 21 to be delivered; numbers down for FY2018. They have 18 for Thanksgiving.

J Ard made a motion for TechSource to replace the drive for the Security Cameras and and the battery backups for the clerk's office , M Mayer seconded, motion carried.

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

**Warrants:**

- A/P Warrant from 12.04.2019 : \$50,888.43
- Current Warrant: \$62,128.21
- Payroll: \$8660.21

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

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

**Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm**