



# Town of Thetford Vermont

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## **Selectboard Special Meeting Minutes Thetford Town Offices (w/Virtual Attendance Option) Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 7:00 PM**

Selectboard members present: Chair Sharon Harkay, Vice-Chair David Goodrich, Li Shen, Steve Tofel via Zoom.

Others present: Town Manager Brian Story, Bryan Ruoff of Stantec via Zoom, Selectboard Assistant Martie Betts

Participating community members:

Sharon Harkay called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

### **1. Agenda Review**

No changes to the agenda.

### **2. Notes from the Selectboard Chair**

Sharon said the community forum for discussion of a potential town social worker will be on September 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **3. Town Manager Report**

Brian gave an update on Academy and Gove Hill Roads paving.

Brian will be meeting with the Recreation Advisory Committee to discuss the job description for the Recreation Director.

Welcome Kelly Garner, new Zoning Administrator. She will have hours on Tuesday and Thursdays from 8:30 to 4:30.

Brian said the Grants-in-Aid program for fiscal year 2023 has been extended for a year.

### **4. Public Comment**

No public comment.

### **5. Stantec Water Study Report with Bryan Ruoff**

Bryan shared a detailed presentation via Zoom outlining the results of the water survey.

Sharon thanked Bryan for the report and presentation.

### **6. Update on Potential Uses for ARPA Funds by Town Manager Brian Story**

Brian Story reviewed a prepared document which had items pulled from the public survey on how to spend ARPA funds. The criteria were to look at ways to spend money without creating a long-term commitment.

Brian pointed out that the main room of the Timothy Frost building needs to be secured or future problems will be more costly.

Sharon felt the Selectboard has an obligation to listen to what the community members have suggested.

The Selectboard members will give more consideration to the report and revisit the topic in early October.

**7. Baseline Documentation Report (BDR) – authorize someone from town to sign.**  
**Motion** by Li Shen to recommend that the chair sign the Baseline Documentation Report for the conservation easement for a portion of the town forest. VOTE: All in favor (4-0-0).  
**Motion carried.**

**8. Warrants and Minutes**

#32.1 \$17,710.37  
#31.1 \$47,446.42  
#17.3 \$1,683.11  
#33.1 \$125,552.97  
#18.2 \$53,643.70  
#16.4 \$23,324.07  
#18.4 \$22,569.03

**Motion** by Sharon Harkay to accept the warrants as presented. VOTE by roll call: David Goodrich – in favor, Li Shen – in favor, Steve Tofel – abstain, Sharon Harkay – in favor.  
**Motion carried.**

**Motion** by David Goodrich to accept the Selectboard meeting minutes of August 21<sup>st</sup> and August 29<sup>th</sup>, as edited. VOTE; All in favor (4-0-0). **Motion carried.**

**9. Anticipated Executive Session to Discuss the Selectboard Candidates for the Vacant Selectboard Seat per 1 V.S.A. 313 §(a)(3)**

**Motion** by Sharon Harkay to enter Executive Session to Discuss the Selectboard Candidates for the Vacant Selectboard Seat per 1 V.S.A. §(a)(3) and to invite the Town Manager to join. VOTE by roll call: Steve Tofel – in favor, David Goodrich – in favor, Li Shen – in favor, Sharon Harkay – in favor. **Motion carried.**

The selectboard reconvened open session at 9:48 PM.

**Motion** by Sharon Harkay to appoint David Forbes to fill the vacant Selectboard seat until elections in March of 2024, contingent on David agreeing to recuse himself from any Selectboard vote pertaining to the Planning Commission or the Zoning Bylaws. Sharon expressed the hope that John Piecuch is not discouraged and that he will find an opening to serve the town, because we appreciate his skills and interest in helping the community. VOTE by roll call: Sharon Harkay - in favor; Li Shen - in favor; David Goodrich - opposed; Steve Tofel - in favor. **Motion carried.**

**10. Adjourn**

**Motion** by Steve Tofel to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 PM. VOTE: All in favor (4-0-0).  
**Motion carried.**