

Town of South Thomaston, Maine  
 125 Spruce Head RD  
 P.O. Box 147  
 South Thomaston, ME 04858-0147

**Budget Committee Meeting**

January 25, 2016

Moira Paddock, Chair (present)	Gayle Gallant (present)	Jeff Northgraves (present)
Walter Reitz (present)	Gary Skarka (absent)	Sonja Sleeper (present)
Donna Withington (present)		

Also present: Selectboard (Budget Meetings are 'joint' meetings of the Selectboard and Budget Committee), Library Director & Cemetery Overseer Pennie Alley, Fire Chief Bryan Calderwood and EMA Director Betty Thomas.

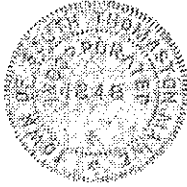
Following election of officers for 2016 (Moira Paddock elected 5-1 as Chair and Jeff Northgraves elected 5-1 as Secretary) the Selectboard clarified appointments of Budget Committee members runs until March, regardless of when they are appointed/sworn in.

Dorothy Meriwether began the meeting with a report on the Fire Department's budget increases over time and asked for careful scrutiny of the Fire Department's budget, especially the capital and supplies lines.

1. **Fire Department (570)**: Chief presented his budget (\$100,578). Significant discussion about the Cascade System and recent issues with the system. Significant discussion between the committee and the Selectboard about Supply vs Equipment line items, presentation formatting and the details expected and/or required. Chief provided an update on the Forestry Equipment in his budget (\$5,010): he has received approval for 50-50 grant for these line items, if they are approved as part of his budget. Several high cost equipment purchases were requested and the committee questioned the need for items and the prices.

- Jeff Northgraves moved to reduce the FD budget to 95% of last year's approved budget. No second: Motion died.
- Moira Paddock moved to reduce the FD budget to 90% of the Chief's request. No second: Motion died.
- Sonja Sleeper moved to reduce the FD budget to 85% of the Chief's request. No second: Motion died.
- Jeff Northgraves moved to reduce the FD budget to **95% of the Chief's request (\$95,549)**, Walter Reitz seconded: **Motion Passed 5-1**. (note: until the last day of budget consideration, all budget 'approvals'/votes are tentative pending review of the entire budget)

**Fire Truck Reserve (690)**: (\$34,500). Chief requested a 15% increase over last year because the cost of fire trucks have escalated 15% and the



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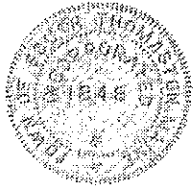
fire truck replacement plan needs, at least, \$35K/year for 10 years (next purchase is planned for 2025). Gayle Gallant moved to accept the Chief's request (\$34,500), Walter Reitz seconded: **Motion Passed 4-2.**

**Fire Equipment Reserve (690):** (\$2,300). Chief expressed confusion over the need and approval process for using this reserve account. Some explanation was offered by the Selectboard. Donna Withington moved to approve \$2,300, Gayle Gallant seconded: Vote was 3-3. Following the Selectboard action on this item, Jeff Northgraves moved to decrease this item to \$2,000, Gayle Gallant seconded: **Motion Passed 6-0.**

**Fire Truck Repair Reserve (690):** (\$1,150). Donna Withington moved to approve the Chief's request (\$1,150), Gayle Gallant seconded: **Motion Passed 4-2.**

Chair, without objection, requested to take the Unclassified Public Safety, Library and Unclassified (Cemetery, Georges River Shellfish and Veterans) budgets out of order as a courtesy to those presenters.

5. **Unclassified Public Safety (590):** (\$23,027). EMA Director Betty Thomas presented the EMA portion of this budget. Supply (\$600) and Equipment (\$1,500) lines were explained. Director also reported FEMA grants (\$2,747 for this year and \$4,200 from last year) will offset most of EMA's costs. Town Administrator Terri-Lynn Baines presented the rest of this budget (E911 and Animal Control). Donna Withington moved to approve the request (\$23,027), Gayle Gallant seconded: **Motion Passed 6-0.**
6. **Library (650):** (\$1,500). Library Director Penny Alley presented this budget. Donna Withington moved to approve Director's request (\$1,500), Gayle Gallant seconded: **Motion Passed 6-0.**
11. **Unclassified (Cemetery-Georges River Shellfish-Veterans) (695):** (\$25,153) Cemetery Overseer Pennie Alley presented the cemetery portion of this budget. Selectwoman Cheryl Waterman presented the Georges River Shellfish portion of this budget. The Selectboard had also requested contingency money (\$3,000) be included in this budget (tentatively for use to develop merit pay incentives) and after discussion



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decided to move it to the Administration budget. Donna Withington moved to approve **\$22,157** (added \$4 to the Anderson Cemetery Road repair to match the offset of using/emptying the existing Anderson Cemetery Reserve), Gayle Galant seconded: **Motion Passed 6-0.**

**Cemetery Reserve (690):** (\$1,000). Donna Withington moved to approve **\$1,000**, Gayle Galant seconded: **Motion Passed 6-0.**

Chair, without objection, took the short/quick/easy budgets out of order to try to keep the meeting to four hours, as a courtesy to the attendees. Administrator Terri-Lynn Baines will adjust the future agendas.

3. **Planning and Appeal Boards (530):** (\$1,000). Jeff Northgraves moved to approve **\$1,000**, Donna Withington seconded: **Motion Passed 6-0.**

9. **Street Lights (600):** (\$8,200). Discussed the \$1,200 increase in this item (last year's actual and this year's budget request). Sonya Sleeper asked Administrative Assistant to check with CMP to see if they had any explanation for the increase. (subsequent to the meeting Ms. Baines reported she had contacted CMP and they indicated the price/lightpole is a set amount (not metered) and it had gone up over the last couple of years, in addition the delivery costs have also risen). Donna Withington moved to approve **\$8,200**, Gayle Gallant seconded: **Motion Passed 6-0.**

7. **Recreation (660):** (\$360). Donna Withington moved to approve **\$360**, Gayle Gallant seconded: **Motion Passed 6-0.**

(Note: Agenda budgets: Assessors, Code Enforcement/Plumbing, General Assistance and Debt Service were not addressed and subsequently moved to Tuesday and Wednesday agendas).

Donna Withington moved to adjourn at 10pm, Gayle Gallant seconded: **Motion Passed 6-0.**

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approved  
1/26/16

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