



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

Budget Committee Meeting

January 26, 2016

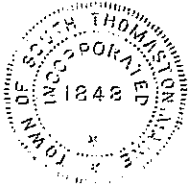
Moira Paddock, Chair (present)	Gayle Gallant (present)	Jeff Northgraves (present)
Walter Reitz (present)	Gary Skarka (absent)	Sonja Sleeper (present)
Donna Withington (present)		

Also present: Selectboard (Budget Meetings are 'joint' meetings of the Selectboard and Budget Committee), Fire Chief Bryan Calderwood.

Chair called the meeting to order at 6:03pm

Donna Withington **moved to approve minutes** from January 25, 2016, with name spelling corrections and addition of other individuals present, Gayle Gallant seconded: **Motion Passed 6-0.**

- 1. Administration (510):** (\$197,649). Administrator presented this budget. Selectboard and Administrator responded to questions about the legal fees line and the Trio maintenance costs. Donna Withington moved to approve the request (**\$197,649**), Gayle Gallant seconded: **Motion Passed 6-0.**
- 2. Building and Grounds (540):** (\$64,281). Administrator presented this budget. Significant discussions over the "Facility Improvements" line of \$33,396. \$18,396 of this expense was recommended by the Building Renovations Committee and \$15,000 (for turnout gear cabinets) was recommended by the Fire Chief because the bids for Building Renovations (approved at last year's town meeting) came in significantly over the estimate/approved budget. These items (and others) were cut from the contract to keep the contract below the approved budget. Discussions involved where this line item should be posted in the budget. Members of the Selectboard argued \$18,396 of this item should remain in the Building and Grounds budget and the \$15,000 should either be deleted or moved to the Fire Department budget. Jeff Northgraves argued the entire line should be a stand-alone budget, suggesting it be moved to a Capital Improvement (702) line so it can be presented to the town in its own right, rather than buried in either the Building and Grounds budget or the Fire Department budget. He explained, the town had approved a plan and a budget for the renovations and cost overruns and plan changes should also be presented to the town for their consideration.
 - Jeff Northgraves made a motion to move the **\$33,396** to Capital Improvements (702), Sonja Sleeper seconded: **Motion Passed 5-1.**



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- Paving Reserve (690):** (\$50,000). Committee discussed the increase over previous years and also suggested the lower cost of paving might indicate we could decrease the amount we put into this reserve. Donna Withington moved to decrease this line to \$35,000, Gayle Gallant seconded: Vote was 3-3. Following the Selectboard action on this item, Jeff Northgraves moved to change this line to **\$40,000**, Moira Paddock seconded: **Motion Passed 5-1.**
5. **Health and Sanitation (Solid Waste Disposal) (630):** (\$198,021). Administrator presented this budget. The Selectboard has initiated a new process at the 'stump dump'. Demolition Debris will no longer be burned, eliminating the costs of ash testing and hauling saving \$1,665. They have also built an outhouse on site, eliminating a \$1,298 cost to rent a portable latrine. Even the Transfer Station's costs to the towns is lower this year by \$6,145. It was still noted, garbage disposal is still the highest town cost (except town roads). Donna Withington moved to approve the request (**\$198,021**), Gayle Gallant seconded: **Motion Passed 6-0.**
6. **General Assistance (Social Services) (640):** (\$1,500) Administrator presented this budget. Jeff Northgraves moved to approve the request (**\$1,500**), Gayle Gallant seconded: **Motion Passed 6-0.**
7. **Debt Services (670):** (\$75,873). Administrator presented this budget. It was noted, \$49,467 of this (Fire Truck purchase and Administration Computer purchases) will not be on/in future budgets. Donna Withington moved to approved this request (**\$75,873**), Gayle Gallant seconded: **Motion Passed 6-0.**
8. **Capital Improvement (702):** (\$33,396). This budget line was added to the agenda when the committee approved moving the building renovation 'fixes' to this line. The Fire Chief had also indicated he had researched the cost of the \$15,000 cabinets and the updated cost is \$10,500. Jeff Northgraves moved to change this line to **\$28,896**, Gayle Gallant seconded: **Motion Passed 5-1.**
- Donna Withington moved to adjourn at **8:58pm**, Gayle Gallant seconded: **Motion Passed 6-0.**

Respectfully submitted -- NS