

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

Budget Committee Meeting

January 27, 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), Administrator Terri Baines, Ambulance Director Pat Dougherty, Assistant Ambulance Director Rich Norman and John Spear.

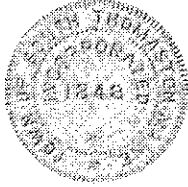
Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

Gayle Gallant **moved to approve minutes** from January 26, 2016, Walter Reitz seconded: **Motion Passed 6-0.**

1. Ambulance (580): (\$114,323). Director Dougherty and Assistant Director Norman presented this budget. A rise in requested wages generated significant discussions. Traditionally this line is underspent (because the budget is based on two per-diems on duty 11 hours, but not all the shifts are filled). The Director did report that some individuals had not reported their time for payment and this request would correct this. It was suggested this line could be lower. The 'Assistance Charges' line appeared to be low. Last year the Town paid \$15,200 for other ambulance services to provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) services, but the Director was only requesting \$13,500. It was suggested this line should be increased. John Spear also advised the 'Billing' line had been calculated in error and this line should be \$1,050 higher. Moira Paddock moved to approve **\$114,140** for this budget, Gayle Gallant seconded: **Motion Passed 4-2.**

Ambulance Reserve (690): (\$5,000). Discussed the replacement plan for the ambulance. The Director indicated the plan is to replace the ambulance every 10 years and the one we are operating is 3 years old. A new ambulance will cost about \$140,000 and we could get \$10,000 for the old ambulance. We currently have \$25,831 in this reserve account. We would need about \$15,000 added each year for the next 7 years to stay on target. Jeff Northgraves moved to approve \$15,000 to be put into this reserve account, Gayle Gallant seconded: **Motion Passed 4-2.**

Ambulance Defibulator Reserve (690): (\$5,000). The current Pak 12 defibulator's last annual service will be in 2017. A new defibulator will be needed in 2018. A new defibulator is estimated to cost \$32,000 and



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there is \$19,304 in this account. Gayle Gallant moved to approve the request (**\$5,000**), Donna Withington seconded: **Motion Passed 6-0.**

2. **Assessors (520):** (\$37,411). Selectboard Chair/Assessor Jan Gaudio presented this budget. Gayle Gallant moved to approve the request (**\$37,411**), Donna Withington seconded: **Motion Passed 6-0.**

Re-evaluation Reserve (690): (\$0). The previous Assessors' Agent had indicated he could, annually, keep up with adjusting the home values and eliminate a need to require a full/costly Re-evaluation (recommended by the State of Maine to be anticipated every 10 years). There is currently \$30,695 in this account. The Administrator was asked to confirm with the new Assessors' Agent that he agrees with this approach, for next year's budget consideration.

3. **CEO & Plumbing Inspector (560):** (\$19,550). Administrator presented this budget. Gayle Gallant moved to approved the request (**\$19,550**), Donna Withington seconded: **Motion Passed 6-0.**
4. **Public Works (Town Roads) (610):** (\$167,928) This budget was added to the agenda, without objection, because the Administrator advised: the Road Commissioner has requested to pave the second half of Watermans Beach Road this year. The cost of oil and the cost of paving are currently very low and this section of road is in need of repaving. Jeff Northgrave moved to increase this budget to **\$207,928** and to change the **Paving Reserve (690):** (\$40,000) budget to **\$0**, Gayle Gallant seconded: **Motion Passed 6-0.**
5. **Revenue:** John Spear reviewed the actual revenues for 2015 and anticipated revenues/proposed fundings for 2016. The undesignated surplus at the end of 2015 is anticipated to be over \$680,000 (last year the surplus was \$597,705). Selectwoman Dorothy Meriwether provided three different standards that estimate indicate how much we should keep in our 'undesignated surplus'. The highest was about \$650,000.
 - Sonja Sleeper moved to apply **\$90,000** of surplus to the budget. No second. Motion Died.
 - Jeff Northgraves moved to apply **\$25,000** if surplus to the budget, Moira Paddock seconded: **Motion Passed 5-1.**

Donna Withington moved to adjourn at 8:20pm, Moira Paddock seconded: **Motion Passed 6-0.**

Respectfully submitted -- NS