

Town of South Thomaston, Maine: Budget Committee minutes #1

Tuesday January 22, 2013

Present:

Selectmen – Robert Branco and Jeff Northgraves

Budget committee members – Chuck Hartman, Gayle Gallant, Moira Paddock, Becky Geesey, Donna Withington and Dorothy Meriwether Absent: Kennedy Wilson

Town Administration – Barbara Black, Michelle Ames and Terri Baines

Guests – George Chappell, Bryan Calderwood, Gerald Harjula, David Elwell and Bert Taylor

Moira Paddock was nominated to chair the committee and Donna Withington to recording secretary. Moira called the meeting to order at 6:45pm.

Jeff Northgraves gave a general overview of the budget, noting that an across the board cost of living increase of 1.7% was given by the selectmen. He also noted that possible budget changes as a result of proposed state revenue sharing would be dealt with when needed.

Barbara Black noted that ambulance revenues should increase for the second year due to better billing practices, also, the vehicle registration fee charged by the town was increased from \$3.00 to \$4.00.

George Chappell of the Courier-Gazette requested a copy of the proposed budget.

All budgets will receive a preliminary approval until the committee hears all budgets.

Fire Department (570):

Fire Chief Bryan Calderwood presented the budget. There were discussions regarding the replacement of the broken Thermal Imaging Camera, trading and selling existing trailers to purchase a new trailer, a possible MMA grant for confined space equipment and using Fail Safe for hose testing. There was also discussion as to how to report a catastrophe, budget wise.

Becky Geesey moved to approve the preliminary budget.

Donna Withington seconded.

Motion passed 4-2

Asst. Fire Chief Gerald Harjula and Deputy Fire Chief David Elwell presented a 30-year plan for purchasing fire trucks. The plan has been submitted to the selectmen and is on the town warrant. The selectmen have recommended the plan. The Fire Department is asking for budget committee endorsement.

As a result the budget committee recommended a change from \$50,000 to \$45,000 to the Reserves budget-690 line 52-fire truck reserve.

Chuck Hartman moved to approve the preliminary budget 690-52 at \$45,000.

Donna Withington seconded

Motion passed 6-0

Gayle Gallant motioned to approve the preliminary budget 690-53 at 0.
Chuck Hartman seconded.
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Motion passed 6-0
Chuck Hartman moved for budget committee support of the town warrant to purchase a new truck.
Gayle Gallant seconded.
Motion passed 4-1-1 abstained.

Assessor (520)
Bert Taylor presented the budget. Bert reported that town evaluation is at 94%.
Chuck Hartman motioned to approve the preliminary budget.
Gayle Gallant seconded
Motion passed 6-0

Administration (510)
Barbara Black presented the budget. She reports that the office is now at full staff.
Donna Withington moved to approve the preliminary budget.
Becky Geesey seconded
Motion passed 6-0

Planning Board/Board of Appeals (530)
Becky Geesey moved to approve the preliminary budget
Donna Withington seconded
Motion passed 6-0

Town Landing (550)
Barbara Black presented. A question was asked about the lobster traps remaining on the landing.
Chuck Hartman moved to approve the preliminary budget
Donna Withington seconded
Motion passed 6-0

Street Lights (600)
Barbara Black presented.
Donna Withington moved to approve the preliminary budget
Becky Geesey seconded
Motion passed 6-0

Welfare (640)
Barbara Black presented. She reported that no one who applied qualified for assistance.
Donna Withington moved to approve the preliminary budget.
Becky Geesey seconded.

Motion passed 6-0

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Recreation (660)

Chuck Hartman moved to approve the preliminary budget.

Donna Withington seconded.

Motion passed 6-0

Moira Paddock moved to adjourn at 8:46pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 23, 2013 at 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Withington