

Town of South Thomaston, Maine: Budget Committee minutes Meeting #3 - final

Wednesday January 29, 2014

Present:

Selectmen - Robert Branco, Dorothy Meriwether, Absent: Dianne Darling

Budget committee members - Moira Paddock, Gayle Gallant, Donna Withington, Gary Skarka, Don Proth eroe. Absent: Rebecca Geesey and Ray Wooster

Town Administration - John Spear

Guests - Adelbert Elliot, Edith Elliot, Wayne Brown, Elsie Brown, Sonja Sleeper, David Elwell, Todd Butler, Bryan Calderwood

The meeting was called to order at 6:02pm. Minutes from the 1-28-2014 meeting were reviewed.

Gayle Gallant moved to approve the minutes as amended.

Moira Paddock seconded.

Motion passed 5-0.

Each budget will receive a preliminary approval until the committee hears all budgets

Fire Department (570)

Bryan Calderwood presented the budget. The original (proposed) budget was \$115,325.00, the chief reduced it to \$103,964.00. Chief Calderwood requested the 1.5% cola increase be stricken from the budget. He also reduced the firefighters hours from 70 to 60. After much discussion the budget committee accepted his decision. Contract Services will be high in 2014 due to \$16,000.00 for E1 pump repairs and \$8,000.00 for possible E5 pump repairs. There was a discussion for moving the \$8,000.00 (possible E5 repairs) into the Fire Truck Reserve account.

There were 83 calls in 2013 requiring across the board use of all equipment.

Chief Calderwood applied for and was granted approximately \$34,000.00 in grants for the purchase of equipment in 2013.

Donna Withington moved to approve the preliminary budget of \$103,964.00.

Gayle Gallant seconded.

Motion passed 5-0.

Fire Truck Reserve (690-52)

The fire department is requesting the replacement of the 1989 pumper (E5). With reserve amounts, a \$5,000.00 trade-in on E5 and \$10,000.00 from the Former Firemen's Assoc. finance is expected to be less than \$100,000.00 (needed for optimal finance).

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Gayle Gallant moved to approve the preliminary budget of \$46,200.00 to ensure the expected finance is below \$100,000.00.

Donna Withington seconded.

Motion passed 4-1.

Fire Equipment Reserve (690-53)

The chief lowered the original reserve budget from \$4,500.00 to \$3,300.00.

Gayle Gallant moved to approve the preliminary budget of \$3,300.00.

Donna Withington seconded.

Motion passed 5-0.

Fire Truck Repair Reserve (690-62)

This is a new reserve account to be used specifically for fire truck repair.

Gayle Gallant moved to approve the preliminary budget of \$1,000.00.

Donna Withington seconded.

Motion passed 5-0.

Town Roads (610)

John Spear presented the budget. Gayle Gallant presented a spread sheet explaining the allocation of spending in a year (2014) in which the town is paving. The spread sheet demonstrates the need to strike the \$35,000.00 present in the paving reserves budget.

Donna Withington moved to approve the preliminary budget of \$258,028.00.

Gayle Gallant seconded.

Motion passed 5-0.

Solid Waste Disposal (630)

John Spear and Moira Paddock presented the budget.

The transfer station has an \$11,196.00 increase due to increases for building costs, insurance, trucking fees, septic pumping(new tanks), dues, a bank loan, wells, snowplowing and electric.

Donna Withington moved to approve the preliminary budget of \$205,525.00.

Gayle Gallant seconded.

Motion passed 5-0.

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Debt Services (670)

John Spears presented the budget. A new Prin Lease Purchase Debt (670--40) was added and discussed. The administration office is updating their outdated computers.

Donna Withington moved to approve the preliminary budget of \$7,880.00.

Gayle Gallant seconded.

Motion passed 5-0.

Moirra Paddock moved to adjourn at 9:03pm. Meeting #4 will be held January 30 at 6pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Withington