



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

Budget Committee Meeting January 23, 2017

Moira Paddock, Chair (present)	Gayle Gallant (present)	Jeff Northgraves (present)
A Bosica (present)	Sonja Sleeper (present)	Alan Hall (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.

Meeting Opened at 6:03 PM.

Election of officers for 2017 (Moira Paddock elected 6-0 as Chair and Gayle Gallant elected 6 - 0 as Secretary) followed by introduction of two new budget committee members, A Bosica and Alan Hall.

Selectman Walter Reitz gave an overview of the selectboard's recommendations to the department heads for a 2% increase to wages. A request was made that next year the Selectboard does an initial review of all department budgets prior to the start of the budget committee review.

As in past years, all budget approvals will be considered preliminary pending review of the entire budget.

If a reserve account is associated with a particular department, that reserve account will be reviewed immediately following the department budget review.

Fire Department (570): Chief Calderwood presented his budget (\$157,768) giving a detailed description of training requirements, services performed and equipment requested. A lengthy discussion followed related to the need for the substantial increase in wages (2016 actuals 26,503 - 2017 budget request 57,105), made up of Training and Fires/Maint. Chief Calderwood agreed to come back at a later date with a detailed/possibly revised wage figure. This was followed by a discussion of where in the budget some of the Vehicle maint/repairs should be presented (fire dept. budget vs. Fire Truck Repair reserve). It was noted that the Fire Truck Repair reserve can be used with just selectboard approval - no need for a special town meeting. Chief Calderwood agreed that after this discussion he would review this and possibly present new numbers when he returns to review the above wage issues. A request was also made to Chief Calderwood to prioritize the equipment requests for his return review.



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It was agreed to table a preliminary approval vote on this budget until after the revised budget is presented. A tentative date for this review is Thursday January 26, 2017.

Fire Truck Reserve (690): (\$39,675). Chief Calderwood requested the increase of 5,175 over last year to keep the reserve at a level where when the next fire truck is needed that reserve will have enough funds to cover the full cost.

Fire Equipment Reserve (690): (\$0). Chief Calderwood has requested that a portion of this reserve be used to purchase needed equipment. Discussion followed as to the proper accounting for these purchases. It was determined that the request for the equipment should be part of the fire dept. budget with a note that it should be funded from the reserve. Chief Calderwood to make these changes for the above mentioned return review.

Fire Truck Repair Reserve (690): (\$8,000). Chief Calderwood stated that he would like to see this reserve increased over the next three years to an amount of around \$25,000 as this would be the minimum amount which we should have in case of an major unplanned repair.

It was agreed to table a preliminary approval vote on the 3 fire dept. reserve budgets until after the revised fire dept. budget is presented.

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. A request was made to move the smaller department budgets ahead of the fire department budget review in future year agendas but still keeping the fire department on the first night.

Library (650): (\$1,500). Library Director Penny Alley presented this budget. Penny stated that money to repaint the library was going to be done by fund raising and therefore not included in the budget. Donna Withington moved to preliminarily approve Director's request **(\$1,500)**, Sonja Sleeper seconded: **Motion Passed 7-0.**



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Unclassified (Cemetery-Georges River Shellfish-Veterans) (695):

(\$20,542) Cemetery Overseer Pennie Alley presented the cemetery portion of this budget. \$4,000 requested was for equipment to continue repair of the roadways and some stone resets.

Town Administrator Terri-Lynn Baines presented the balance of this budget. The increase in the mowing request was an estimate because contract bidding had not been completed. The GRSF Law Enforcement Liability costs should be reimbursed from GRSF.

Donna Withington moved to preliminarily approve \$20,542, Sonja Sleeper seconded: **Motion Passed 7-0.**

Cemetery Reserve (690): (\$1,000). Donna Withington moved to preliminarily approve \$1,000, Sonja Sleeper seconded: **Motion Passed 7-0.**

Assessors (520): (\$62,947) Town Administrator Terri-Lynn Baines presented the budget. Lengthy discussion followed about requested quarterly reviews by an outside firm, to be completed by 2018 in preparation for an eventual revaluation. The selectmen decided to table this discussion until they could review this on their own.

It was agreed to table a preliminary approval vote on this budget until after the revised budget is presented. A tentative date for this review is Thursday January 26, 2017.

Revaluation Reserve (690): (\$0) With the above discussion it was agreed that if the Assessors budget is changed that changes may be needed to this reserve.

It was agreed to table a preliminary approval vote on the reserve until after the revised assessors budget is presented.

Planning and Appeal Boards (530): (\$1,500). Town Administrator Terri-Lynn Baines presented the budget assisted by Jeff Northgraves. The main change is more training. Donna Withington moved to preliminarily approve \$1,500, Sonja Sleeper seconded: **Motion Passed 7-0.**



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CEO & Plumbing Inspector (560): (\$20,255). Town Administrator Terri-Lynn Baines presented the budget. Much discussion followed related to the purchase of a decibel level meter.

Alan Hall moved to preliminarily approve the \$20,255, Donna Withington seconded. After further discussion Moira Paddock moved to amend to motion to reduce the budget by \$406 - the amount of the decibel level meter - bring the amount to \$19,849, amended motion seconded by Gayle Gallant. **Amended Motion Passed 5-2.**

Recreation (660): (\$810). Town Administrator Terri-Lynn Baines presented the budget. Selectboard requested \$200 be added to repair the skateboard surface for safety reasons.

Donna Withington moved to preliminarily approve **\$1010**, Sonja Sleeper seconded: **Motion Passed 7-0.**

Street Lights (600): (\$8,200). Town Administrator Terri-Lynn Baines presented the budget. Sonya Sleeper asked Town Administrator to check with CMP to determine if a better amount could be negotiated. Donna Withington moved to preliminarily approve **\$8,200**, Sonja Sleeper seconded: **Motion Passed 7-0.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM

Respectfully submitted Gayle Gallant