



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

Budget Committee Meeting **January 24, 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), Emergency Management Director Betty Thomas

Meeting Opened at 6:00 PM.

Selectman Walter Reitz opened a discussion of the overall state of the budget and how it should be funded - appropriations vs. town surplus. This was not meant for final decisions - just informational as we review each departments budgets over the next few days. There was a request for how much was in surplus and a discussion on how much we need in surplus. Terri will ask the accountant and follow up.

Terri Baines reported that she had followed up with CMP on the request from the budget committee to see if we could negotiate a better rate for the town street lights without success.

Unclassified Public Safety (590): (28,329) Emergency Management Director Betty Thomas presented the EMA portion of the budget. Betty first noted that the grants which we have used in the past to help fund these expenses are no longer available. Because of the lack of available funds (state and federal), a request to begin funding a reserve amount for Disaster Relief has been added to the budget, \$5,000. It was agreed that this should become part of the Reserve(690) budget. Betty then advised that the NOAA Emergency Radio fund request should be reduced by \$100. Donna Withington moved to preliminarily approve \$23,229 (original request less the 5,000 moved to the reserve account and the \$100 reduction), Sonja Sleeper seconded: **Motion Passed 7-0.**

Emergency Disaster Relief Reserve (690): Creation of a new reserve for the above requested funds. Donna Withington moved to preliminarily approve the reserve amount of \$5,000, Sonja Sleeper seconded: **Motion Passed 6-1.**



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

Budget Committee Meeting

January 24, 2017

Since the 2% wage increase was a guideline of the selectboard, it was agreed to bypass discussion on the wage increases as we review each budget unless a question was raised by either a budget member or a select person.

Town Roads (610): (\$216,819). Town Administrator Terri-Lynn Baines presented the budget. Donna Withington moved to preliminarily approve the budget request of \$216,819, Alan Hall seconded: **Motion Passed 7-0.**

Paving Reserve (690): (\$50,000) Discussion related to funding both paving expenses in the Town Roads budget and the reserve. In the past only one or the other was funded to keep an even flow of expenses from year to year. Gayle Gallant moved to preliminarily approve bringing this budget amount to \$0, Moira Paddock seconded: **Motion Passed 7 - 0.**

Town Landing (695): (\$4,100) Town Administrator Terri-Lynn Baines presented the budget. It was noted that this budget is funded by the Boat Excise collections. Donna Withington moved to preliminarily approve \$4,100, Alan Hall seconded: **Motion Passed 7-0.**

Town Landing Reserve (690): (\$3,900). Requested amount is the balance of the anticipated Boat Excise Tax collection. Donna Withington moved to preliminarily approve \$3,900, Sonja Sleeper seconded: **Motion Passed 7-0.**

Solid Waste Disposal (630): (\$208,562) Town Administrator Terri-Lynn Baines presented the solid waste portion of the budget. Selectman Jan Gaudio presented the transfer station portion of the budget. There was a request to have a note in the budget that \$9320 of surplus was used in 2016 for the transfer station budget approved at the town meeting due to a calculation error discovered after Budget Meetings.

Donna Withington moved to preliminarily approve \$208,562, Sonja Sleeper seconded: **Motion Passed 7-0.**

Building & Grounds (540): (\$45,547). Town Administrator Terri-Lynn Baines presented the budget. The budget had included a request for \$10,049 for Facility Improvements. It was decided that this was a Capital Expense and should be moved to that account. Sonja Sleeper asked if Terri could provide some information on the fire insurance coverage we have for the



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

Budget Committee Meeting
January 24, 2017

building. Terri to get back to committee. Donna Withington moved to preliminarily approve **\$35,498**, original amount less the capital improvement, Sonja Sleeper seconded: **Motion Passed 7-0.**

Capital Expense (702): (\$0). The capital expense from building and grounds (\$10,049) was moved with a discussion of funding related to the \$8,352 which was left over from the original building improvements loan. It was suggested that the \$8,352 be added to the Building Reserve account and that this capital expense be funded from the building reserve. Donna Withington moved to preliminarily approve **\$10,049**, Sonja Sleeper seconded: **Motion Passed 7-0.**

Administration (510): (\$198,264). Town Administrator Terri-Lynn Baines presented the budget. Discussion related to the overall increase of 2% wages related to non town employees such as Election Clerks. Selectboard agreed that in the future they would take into consideration exceptions to overall rate increases. Discussion of the possibility of Federal Overtime ruling and its effect on this budget.

Donna Withington moved to preliminarily approve **\$198,264**, Sonja Sleeper seconded: **Motion Passed 7-0.**

General Assistance/Social Services (640): (\$1,500). Town Administrator Terri-Lynn Baines presented the budget. Donna Withington moved to preliminarily approve **\$1,500**, Sonja Sleeper seconded: **Motion Passed 7-0.**

Selectman Jan Gaudio mentioned the possibility of purchasing some land near the town landing. If this happens it would be funded by the Town Landing Reserve.

Selectman Walter Reitz discussed the possibly of additional expenses this year due to the expected removal of the bridge on route 73 for 35 days while it is being replaced. This will be felt mostly by the Ambulance department because there is a cost to having coverage from other cities/towns.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM

Respectfully submitted Gayle Gallant