



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

Budget Committee Meeting

January 25, 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), Pat Dougherty, Rich Norman

Meeting Opened at 6:00 PM.

Prior meetings minutes reviewed. Donna Withington moved to approve the minutes, Sonja Sleeper seconded: **Motion Passed 7-0.**

Ambulance Service (580): (128,783) Director Pat Dougherty and Asst Director Rich Norman presented the budget. Noted that the increase of 2% had not been added to the Stipends. Correcting these figures changed the total Salary & Stipends from \$4,794 to \$4,890 and the Fica amount from \$5,569 to \$5,576. Rich Norman presented a write-up of the wages calculation. Selectboard was asked about write-offs of uncollectable ambulance fees and it was determined that the accounts had been reviewed and 2 write-offs had been done. No specific amounts given, but the feeling was that the town was keeping the receivables current. Pat stated that they were getting a much larger amount of assist calls (57 of the 151 calls were for assists). These are not billable calls. When we need coverage from Rockland they do charge the town \$500 to send their ambulance even if it is just for an assist. St George also charges but at a much lower rate, \$125. This could be an issue starting in October while the bridge is out since we will need coverage from Rockland on their side of the bridge. It was estimated that as much as \$6,000 of the Assistance Charges in the budget could be due to this situation. In order to keep track of which charges are due to the bridge replacement for historical purposes it was decided to split the Assistance Charges line in two, one for normal usage (\$10,000) and one for the October charges (\$6,000). Recommendation made to fund the \$6,000 from the Surplus. Pat requested an increase in the maintenance of the Life Pak 12 line from \$1,000 to \$1,561 because they had changed service provider. Donna Withington moved to preliminarily approve \$129,447 (original request plus the 2% increase to stipends and the \$561 for the Life Pak 12 maint.), Sonja Sleeper seconded: **Motion Passed 7-0.**



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Ambulance Defibulator Reserve (690): (5,000) Pat stated they are going to need to purchase a new defibulator at a cost of around \$30,000 shortly. Since the current reserve balance is 26,890, the current request of \$5,000 should be adequate. Donna Withington moved to preliminarily approve the reserve amount of \$5,000, Sonja Sleeper seconded: **Motion Passed 7-0.**

Ambulance Reserve (690): (10,000) No discussion. Donna Withington moved to preliminarily approve the reserve amount of \$10,000, Sonja Sleeper seconded: **Motion Passed 7-0.**

Debt Services (670): (\$26,406). Town Administrator Terri-Lynn Baines presented the budget. Fire truck is now paid off. Donna Withington moved to preliminarily approve the budget request of \$26,406, Sonja Sleeper seconded: **Motion Passed 7-0.**

Town Administrator Terri-Lynn Baines presented the anticipated revenue. Moira Paddock brought up the fact that there were 3 different approaches to the amount of surplus that should be carried by a town. Jeff Northgraves presented historical charts showing the history of prior years use of surplus which showed how we had done in the past related to all three methods. This was all informational at this time since funding will not be discussed until after all budgets have been presented and final approved budgets are determined.

Motion to adjourn was made by Donna Withington and seconded by Gayle Gallant. **Motion Passed 7-0.** Meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM

Respectfully submitted Gayle Gallant