

Meeting Minutes: for the January 26, 2015 meeting of The Town of South Thomaston's Budget Committee.

Present:

Budget Committee: Moira Paddock, Gayle Gallant, Donna Withington, Don Protheroe, Sonja Sleeper

Absent: Gary Skarka

Members of the South Thomaston Select Board: Dianne Darling, Cheryl Waterman, and Dorothy Meriwether

Administrative Assistant: John Spear

Guests: Colin Grierson, Walter Reitz

Meeting opened at 6:10 pm.

New committee member replaces Becky Geesey on the budget committee. Her good service was noted. New member is Walter Reitz.

Moira Paddock was nominated to be this year's chair by Donna Withington and seconded by Gayle Gallant.

Motion passed 6-0.

Sonja Sleeper was nominated to be Secretary by Gayle Gallant and seconded by Donna Withington. Motioned passed 6-0.

John Spear presented the highlights of his budget overview from Jan. 21st. He emphasized that the selectmen were seeing the budget for the first time, a departure from past practices.

Gayle Gallant requested clarification on the revenue page, asking if numbers included the municipal revenue sharing. Moira Paddock then expressed concern regarding The Waldo Tyler home inclusion, as this was not a budget item. John Spear replied that the revenue sharing number would not be known for a couple months, awaiting developments at the state level. The Waldo Tyler home was included at the request of the Select Board, wishing to have our opinion on the matter.

Each Budget is addressed. These are the recommendations of the budget committee. All motions are preliminary.

Item 510 - Administration

John Spears presented the budget for administration. Discussion followed. Don Protheroe asked if enough was budgeted for legal fees. In the past expenses were less than \$2,000. Don Protheroe then made a motion to increase legal fees to \$4,000. There was no second. The motion died.

Gayle Gallant then made the motion to approve item 510 at \$183,080

Donna Withington seconded

Motion passed 6-0

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Item 520 – the Assessors Budget

Gayle Gallant made a motion to approve \$ 37,255
Donna Withington Seconded
No Discussion
Motion passed 6-0

Item 530 – Planning and Appeals Board

Gayle Gallant made a motion to approve \$ 1,000
Donna Withington Seconded
No Discussion
Motion passed 6-0

Item 560 - Code Enforcement Officer & Plumbing Inspector

Donna Withington expressed some confusion on numbers why different from last year, did we over pay? John Spear clarified that there were two people paid because plumbing inspector needs to be certified and past inspector doing work until new inspector obtains certification. Salary confusion concerned 2014 actuals and resulted from Terrio's resignation and question as to whether or not he was paid monthly in advance for the past 27 years.

Gayle Gallant made a motion to approve \$ 19,585.
Donna Withington seconded
No further discussion
Motion passed 6-0

Item 590 - Unclassified Public Safety

Included in this is the purchase of a generator for library to be designated as a warming shelter.

Discussion ensued regarding management of shelter and generator, some cost to be covered from an EMA grant and further clarification promised.

Gayle Gallant motioned to approve \$27, 427
Donna Withington Seconded
No discussion
Motion passed 5-1

Item 600 - Street lights

Gayle Gallant made a motion to approve \$7,000
Donna Withington seconded
No Discussion
Motion passed 6 -0

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Item 640 – General Assistance

Discussion ensued that there had been actual usage in 2014.

Gayle Gallant made a motion to approve \$1,500.

Donna Withington seconded

No Discussion

Motion passed 6-0

Item 695 – Cemetery – Geo-River Shellfish – Veterans

Colin Grierson presented the Cemetery budget. Discussion ensued on Markers and Caps.

Discussion continued on all the needed work to be done in the cemeteries.

Gayle Gallant made a motion to approve \$ 21,141.

Donna Withington seconded.

No further discussion.

Motion passed 6-0

Item 690 – Reserve lines 59 and 58 -The Cemetery Reserve and the Anderson Reserve

Gayle Gallant made a motion to approve \$1,000 for the Cemetery reserve.

Donna Withington seconded.

No further discussion.

Motion passed 6-0

Discussion ensued related to transferring \$1,015 from line 58-Anderson Reserve Fund to be used towards road repair at the Anderson Cemetery.

Gayle Gallant made a motion to use the \$1,015 to fund the increase to the 695- Cemetery budget.

Donna Withington seconded.

No further discussion.

Motion passed 6-0

Item 695 – Cemetery – Geo River Shellfish – Veterans

Motion made by Gayle Gallant to approve an increase of \$1,015 to budgeted amount of \$21,141 for a total of \$22, 156 to be funded by the Anderson Reserve Fund.

Donna Withington seconded

No Discussion

Motion passed 6-0

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Item 660 – Recreation

Discussion ensued related to the amount of usage the tennis courts get.

Item tabled for consideration for Wednesday after discussion regarding the \$ 7,785 cost to repair the tennis courts.

Motion to table made by Gayle Gallant

Donna Withington seconded

No Discussion

Motion passed 6-0

Item 650 – Library

Some discussion, Sonja Sleeper asks where are operating expenses? John Spear replies those costs included in Item 540 - Building and Grounds

Gayle Gallant made a motion to approve \$1,500

Donna Withington seconded

No discussion

Motion passed 6-0

Item 670 – Debt Services

Gayle Gallant made a motion approve \$50,967

Donna Withington seconded

No Discussion

Motion passed 6-0

Discussion item on Waldo Tyler House

Discussion ensued on the pros and cons of expenditure of \$20,000 for Waldo Tyler House.

- Elimination of public eyesore

- Public safety hazard next to Gilford Butler School

- Not a buildable lot

- Impact if Gilford Butler School closes

- Why should the town purchase

A motion was made by Sonja Sleeper to amend amount to \$10,000 to pay for razing if owner donates property to the town. Don Protheroe Seconded.

Discussion continued

Motion failed 6-0

Gayle Gallant made motion to offer no opinion on the matter

Meeting Minutes: for the January 26, 2015 meeting of The Town of South Thomaston's Budget Committee.

Donna Withington seconded

No further discussion

Motion passed 6-0

Gayle Gallant made motion to adjourn the meeting, Donna Withington seconded,

No discussion,

Motion carries 6-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonja Sleeper