



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

Budget Committee Meeting

January 26, 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), Fire Chief Bryan Calderwood.

Meeting Opened at 6:00 PM.

The minutes from the 1/25/17 budget meeting were reviewed and 3 minor changes made. Donna Withington moved to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Sonja Sleeper. **Motion Passed 7-0.**

Fire Department (570): Chief Calderwood presented his revised budget (\$111,536). The wages, Training and Fires/Maint, had been reduced to what the Chief considers the bare minimum needed. The 2016 Actual numbers had been reworked (totals remain the same, but categories changed to reflect how the fire department budgets). This helped to explain the current years requested amounts. The revised budget request down from \$157,768 to \$111,536 contained the addition of the \$6,500 in expenses originally requested in the Fire Equip Reserve account, with a request to fund this amount from the Fire Equip Reserve account. The revised budget also stripped out all requests except for the fire departments top priority needs. Discussion followed related to times when the fire department requests reimbursement for services rendered. According to the Chief this is only done if the call clearly results from the callers major error and it is rare that any reimbursement is actually received. No additional amounts were requested for mutual aide calls which may result from the bridge replacement in October. The fire department will be covered for these costs under their annual \$75 Mutual Aide Agreement. The mutual aide departments have been made aware of the potential for the requests. Discussion followed related to the K-12 saw request which had been removed from the revised request. Jeff Northgraves made a motion to increase the budget request amount to \$114,036 (adding back \$2,500 for the K-12 saw), Donna Withington seconded. **Motion Passed 5-2.**

Sonja Sleeper made a motion to decrease the Vehicle Maint/repairs from \$10,000 to \$6,500. No second. Motion died.

Donna Withington made a motion to preliminary approve \$114,036 with a note to request funding \$7,500 from Surplus and \$6,500 from Fire Equip Reserve, Alan Hall 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 26, 2017

Fire Truck Reserve (690): (\$39,675). Chief Calderwood requested the increase of 5,175 over last year due to the 15% increase in replacement costs. Selectboard is requesting this amount be decreased to \$35,000. Jeff Northgraves made a motion that we preliminarily approve the \$35,000 suggested by the selectboard, Donna Withington seconded. **Motion Passed 7-0.**

Fire Equipment Reserve (690): (\$0). Chief Calderwood has requested that a portion of this reserve be used to purchase needed equipment so no additional funding requested this year. Donna Withington moved to preliminarily approve \$0, Alan Hall seconded. **Motion Passed 7-0.**

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 a major unplanned repair. Donna Withington moved to preliminarily approve \$8,000 to be funded by the selectboards choice, Alan Hall seconded. **Motion Passed 6-1.**

Surplus level requested, Terri stated the audit report had just been received with a Surplus amount at 2016 year end of \$713,486.45.

Assessors (520): (\$39,122) Selectman Jan Gaudio presented the budget. After discussion about the possibility of increasing the Assessor's Agents hours, the decision was made to remove the original requests for Trio Assessing Package and 2 Quarter Reviews from the budget bringing the revised budget request down to \$39,122 from its original amount of \$62,947. In 2016 the town did not receive the allotted hours scheduled by the assessor and both Terri and selectman will follow up on that. Donna Withington moved to preliminarily approve \$39,122, Sonja Sleeper seconded: **Motion Passed 7-0.**

Revaluation Reserve (690): (\$10,000) Having removed the Quarter Reviews from the Assessors budget request, Selectman Jan Gaudio requested the reserve be increased from \$0 to \$10,000. Sooner or later we will need a revaluation and the average cost for a community our size is



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

Budget Committee Meeting

January 26, 2017

\$100,000. Donna Withington moved to preliminarily approve **\$10,000**,
Gayle Gallant seconded.

Reserve (690): Donna Withington moved to preliminarily approve **\$77,900**
for the reserves, Sonja Sleeper seconded

In reviewing the list of the Reserves, the select board noted that we had not
looked at the Building Reserve. This was originally \$0 request and it was
decided to leave it at \$0, As a review, the Reserves now preliminarily total
\$77,900 made up of:

Revaluation Reserve \$10,000

Fire Truck Reserve \$35,000

Ambulance Reserve \$10,000

Amb Defibulator Res \$5,000

Town Landing Reserve \$3,900

Cemetery Reserve \$1,000

Fire Truck Repair Res \$8,000

Emergency Disaster Reserve \$5,000 - new this year

The Anderson Cemetery Reserve was listed with a balance and it was noted
that this reserve had been removed last year and should no longer appear.

Motion Passed 6-1.

After a discussion about when to meet next, Wednesday Feb, 1st at 6:00 PM
was agreed upon.

Selectboard mentioned the possibility of using some surplus as part of
funding the budget. A request was made that by the next meeting they make
available to the budget committee the specifics of how they are planning to
fund the budget. They agreed to do that.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM

Respectfully submitted Gayle Gallant