

Meeting Minutes: for the January 28, 2015 meeting of The Town of South Thomaston's Budget Committee.

Present:

Budget Committee: Moira Paddock, Gayle Gallant, Donna Withington, Don Protheroe, Sonja Sleeper  
Walter Reitz and Gary Skarka.

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

Administrative Assistant: John Spear

Guests: Richard Norman, Pat Dougherty, and Assistant Chief Gerald Harjula

Meeting opened at 6:04 pm.

Moira Paddock amended the agenda to approve the meeting minutes. After discussion, Gayle Gallant made a motion to postpone approval of minutes pending some revisions until the January 29 meeting. Donna Withington seconded.  
Motion passed 7-0.

#### **Item 540 – Building and Grounds**

Discussion ensued concerning the \$11,450 for electrical upgrades to the town office and fire station. Walter Reitz asked why capitol expenses were listed in operating budget. John Spear replied always confusion on where those number go but can be changed if so moved. Electrical work was a verbal quote from Ed Alley Electric. Dorothy Meriwether said we should have written estimates.

John spear breaks the \$11,450 down into three parts, \$5,000 for a new electrical panel for the building, electrical work for charging fire trucks and the installation of two new outdoor lights for the front of the building. Gerry Harjula provided explanations for requests. New fire truck uses an AC system to charge batteries and our current system is DC and has been experiencing problems. Loss of at least \$1,000 in batteries due to a fault in the line. The new fire truck is expected to arrive in the May/July time frame.

John Hanson presented the municipal building remodel proposal. A lengthy discussion ensued on pros and cons. Requested exhaust system comes into discussion at this point, Moira Paddock questions what was wrong with the current system which was purchased just a few years ago and was apparently designed to meet needs for the next 10 years. John Hanson concedes system is adequate with modifications.

Gayle Gallant made a motion to approval \$44,505.

Donna Withington seconds.

Moira Paddock asks for a stipulation, that 3 estimates are obtained and that someone oversees the work to be sure properly done.

Gayle Gallant amends the motion and asks for approval of \$44,505.

Donna Withington seconds

No Discussion

Motion passed 6-1

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**Item 690 Operating Transfers to Reserves 60- Building Reserves**

There was a lengthy discussion on the cost of the potential remodel. Gayle Gallant requested we confine discussion to line item, the \$17,000 transfer.

Gayle Gallant made a motion to accept the \$17,000 transfer to Reserves.

Gary Skarka seconds the motion.

No further discussion.

Motion passed 7-0.

**Item 580 – Ambulance Service**

Pat Dougherty presented the ambulance budget. She outlined request for salary increases as follows: Paramedics \$14/hr, Intermediates \$13/hr, Basic \$12/hr and Drivers \$11/hr.

This request was not part of the original budget presented. There were 158 service calls this past year.

Gayle Gallant made a motion to table item 580 until Select Board renders their salary decision.

Donna Withington seconded.

Motion passes 7-0.

**Item 690 – Operating Transfers to Reserve funds Ambulance Service**

**Line 54 - Ambulance Reserve - \$ 5,000**

Discussion – Gayle Gallant asks how old is ambulance? Pat Dougherty replies about 3-4 years. Sonja Sleeper asked what would the expected life of the ambulance. Pat Dougherty replies about 10 years, last one lasted 13 years. Don Protheroe what is the trade value – town received \$7,500 for the last ambulance. Cost of a new basic unit is about \$ 140,000.

Gayle Gallant makes a preliminary motion to accept the \$5,000

Donna Withington seconds.

No further discussion.

Motion passed 7-0.

**Line 55 Defibrillator Reserve - \$3,000**

Discussion ensued related to the equipment manufacturer discontinuing the current model. Estimated 3 more years of service, cost of a new one is \$30,000 to \$35,000.

Gayle Gallant made a motion to increase the amount to \$5,000 for transfer to reserves.

Donna Withington seconds.

No further discussion.

Motion passed 6-0, one abstain

**Item 550 - Town Landing**

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Discussion ensued concerning \$500 sufficient for miscellaneous costs? Items are signs, clean up and boat removal. Budget is fully funded by Boat Excise Tax.

Gayle Gallant made a motion to increase line item 523 from \$500 to \$1,000 which increases overall budget for item 550 to 6,260.

Donna Withington seconds.

No further discussion.

Motion passed 7-0

### **Item 690 - Operating Transfers to Reserves – Town Landing Line 56 \$8,000**

Some discussion on purpose of current reserves at \$148, 674. Keeping for purchase of shore access property if opportunity arises. Monies derived from boat excise taxes.

Gayle Gallant made a motion to accept \$8000 transfer to Reserves

Donna Withington seconds.

No further discussion.

Motion passed 7-0.

### **Item 630 – Solid Waste Disposal**

Discussion ensued on solid waste budget up \$3,104. Moira Paddock asked rep where increases were - no explanation given.

Donna Withington asks why is it that the stump dump does not accept logs larger than 6". John Spear replies: because they do not burn.

Discussion ensues concerning the \$13,000 request for improvements. Cost is \$11,000 for fill to create a two foot pad 66 feet by 66 feet above ledge material as prescribed by environmental law requested by Maine DEP to protect soil and \$2,000 for a guardrail. Don Protheroe suggests looking for another burn site on town property at the stump dump.

Gayle Gallant made a motion to accept the \$222, 198 budget

Donna Withington seconds.

No further discussion.

Motion passed 6-1

### **Item 610 – Town Roads**

John Spear suggests that we consider adding money to line 776 for paving. John Spear believes cost for materials will never be cheaper due to the low oil prices and that this is a good opportunity to get some

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needed work done. Gayle Gallant asks if this would throw off road work schedule. John Spear, no this would help get ahead of needed work.

Gayle Gallant made a motion to accept \$144,941.

Donna Withington seconds.

No further discussion.

Motion passed 7-0.

#### **Item 690 – Operating Transfers to Reserves - Line 57 Paving Reserve**

Gayle Gallant made a motion to accept \$45,000 operating transfer to paving reserve funds.

Donna Withington seconds.

No discussion.

Motion passed 7-0.

#### **Item 660 - Recreation**

Resume discussion of tabled item.

Previous repair was August of 2011 and repairs were supposed to last 5 years at a cost of \$6,100.

John Spear reported on possible alternatives to tennis court repairs other than the original requested budget of \$7,785.

Most expensive: filling cracks at \$30 a linear foot, total repair estimates \$15,000 to \$20,000. Repair to last 10 to 12 years. Cheapest option \$3,500 fill cracks and spot paint as necessary. Will last up to 5 years.

Other options rebuild or tear down.

Don Protheroe made a motion to accept \$7,785

Gary Skarka seconds.

No further discussion.

Motion fails 4-3

Sonja Sleeper makes preliminary motion to accept \$3,500, no second.

No further motions, committee has no recommendation.

Gayle Gallant makes a motion to adjourn the meeting

Donna Withington seconds

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No discussion  
Motion passes 7-0

Meeting adjourned at 10:15PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Sonja Sleeper