

The January 29, 2015 meeting of The Town of South Thomaston's Budget Committee.

Minutes

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Present at the meeting:

Budget Committee:

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

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

Administrative Assistant: John Spear

Guests: Brian Calderwood, Fire Chief

Meeting opened at 6:00 pm.

Item 570 – Fire Department

Brian Calderwood, Fire Chief, presented the fire department budget.

Gayle Gallant asks about the cold weather gear, line 625 for \$1,500, 4 @ \$375. To replace older equipment donated by the coast guard. How often is it used? 2-3 times in training.

Walter Reitz asks how much is driven by new staff versus equipment replacement? Brian Calderwood says it is about 50/50. The fire department has seven new firefighters; each needs their own face mask, pager, turn out gear. Chief Calderwood is working on rotation of equipment to prevent spikes in the budget.

Chief Calderwood is not requesting a wage increase due to other priorities and equipment needs. Chief Calderwood reported 94 calls total - 3 were structure fires. 36 of the calls were all on one day, November 2, the big ice storm and resulting power outages.

Gayle Gallant made a motion to approve \$102,564.

Donna Withington seconds.

Sonja questions the conversion for \$6,400.

No further discussion.

Motion passed 6 -1.

Item 690 – Operating Transfers to Reserve Funds

52 – Fire Truck Reserve

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Discussion ensues questioning should we put \$30,000 in the reserve while there is still two years of debt outstanding on the fire truck just purchased.

Gayle Gallant made a motion to approve \$30,000 for the Fire Truck Reserve as requested.

Donna Withington Seconds.

No discussion.

Motion Passed 6-1

53 – Fire Equipment Reserve

Gayle Gallant made a motion to reduce fire equipment reserve by \$3,000 from requested \$5,000 to \$2,000.

Donna Withington seconded.

No discussion.

Motion passes 7-0.

62 – Fire Truck Repairs

Discussion ensues. The reserve was added last year with \$1000 to start putting aside monies for repairs. In the past large repairs were taken out of Surplus funds and did not show up as a budget overrun.

Gayle Gallant made a motion to accept \$1,000.

Donna Withington seconded.

No discussion.

Motion passes 7-0.

Some discussion to clear up a couple items passed during the course of the meetings, agree vs disagree.

Revisited Item 660 – Recreation

Budget committee still has no opinion

Committee agrees 6-1

Revisit Item 550 Town Landing

Gayle made a motion to correct amount requested by increasing request by \$500 to \$1,000 for line 523 Miscellaneous repairs and correct some addition errors to bring the total to \$7,595.

Donna Withington seconds.

No Discussion.

Motion passed 7-0.

John Spear presented an updated summary of the budget using the selectmen's numbers:

Budget : \$1,144,818

Funding:

Appropriation: \$600,729

Anticipated Revenue: \$136,615

Excise: \$329,000

Reserve: \$65,887

Surplus: \$12,587

This would bring the budget in at \$14,694 under the LD#1 Tax Levy Limit.

Selectmen's budget differs from Budget Committee's recommendation by Fire Truck Reserve:

Selectmen \$15,000 / Budget Committee \$30,000

Final Review

Item 510 – Administration

Gayle Gallant made a motion to accept Select Boards increase of \$1,000 for line 382 legal fees, now \$4,000. New total \$184,080.

Donna Withington seconded.

No discussion.

Motion passes 7-0.

Item 520 – Assessors

In agreement

Gayle Gallant made a motion to accept \$37,255.

Donna Withington seconded.

No discussion.

Motion passes 7-0.

Item 530 – Planning and Appeals Boards

In agreement

Gayle Gallant made a motion to accept \$1,000.

Donna Withington seconded.

No discussion.

Motion passes 7-0.

Item 540 – Building & Grounds

In agreement

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

Donna Withington seconded.

No discussion.

Motion passes 7-0.

Item 550 – Town Landing

In agreement

Gayle Gallant made a motion to accept \$7,595.

Donna Withington seconded.

No discussion.

Motion passes 7-0.

Item 560 – CEO & Plumbing Inspector

In agreement

Gayle Gallant made a motion to accept \$19,585.

Donna Withington seconded.

No discussion.

Motion passes 7-0.

Item 570 – Fire Department

In agreement

Gayle Gallant made a motion to accept \$102,564.

Donna Withington seconded.

No discussion.

Motion passes 7-0.

Item 580 – Ambulance Service totals do not agree, difference is in wages, New amount \$110,767.

Gayle Gallants makes motion to accept the revised Ambulance Service budget of \$110,767.

Donna Withington Seconds.

No discussion.

Motion passes 7-0

Item 590 – Unclassified

In agreement

Gayle Gallant made a motion to accept \$27,427.

Donna Withington seconded.

No discussion.

Motion passes 7-0.

Item 600 – Street Lights

In agreement

Gayle Gallant made a motion to accept \$7,000.

Donna Withington seconded.

No discussion.

Motion passes 7-0.

Item 610 – Town Roads

Gayle Gallant makes a motion to accept \$247,218 increase of \$102,277 for paving. \$52,277 from reserves and \$45,000 added to budget line for paving.

Donna Withington seconded.

Discussion - Motion advanced to stipulate that monies pulled from reserves and appropriated are returned to reserves if no paving is done.

Gayle Gallant makes amended motion to include stipulation.

Donna Withington seconds.

No further discussion.

Motion passes 7-0.

Item 630 – Solid Waste Disposal

In agreement

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

Donna Withington seconded.

No discussion.

Motion passes 7-0.

Item 640 – Social Services

In agreement

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

Donna Withington seconded.

No discussion.

Motion passes 7-0.

Item 650 – Library

In agreement

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

Donna Withington seconded.

No discussion.

Motion passes 7-0.

Item 660 – Recreation

Budget committee has no opinion

Committee agrees 6-1

Item 670 – Debt Services

In agreement

Gayle Gallant made a motion to accept \$50,967.

Donna Withington seconded.

No discussion.

Motion passes 7-0.

690 Operating Transfer Reserves

52- fire Truck Reserve.

Select Board reduced amount to \$15,000.

Gayle Gallant made a motion to keep the reserve at \$30,000.

Donna Withington seconds.

No discussion.

Motion passes 6-1.

Balance of reserves in agreement.

Gayle Gallant made a motion to accept the total balance of reserve of \$99,000

Donna Withington seconded.

No discussion.

Motion passes 7-0.

Item 695 – Cemetery - Geo. River Shellfish - Veterans

In agreement

Gayle Gallant made a motion to accept \$22,156.

Donna Withington seconded.

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No discussion.

Motion passes 7-0.

Next Meet February 4, 2015 to discuss and approve meeting minutes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonja Sleeper