



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

**Tel:** 207-596-6584  
**Fax:** 207-596-7529  
**E-mail:** sthomstn@midcoast.com  
**Website:** @town.south-thomaston.me.us

**Selectmen:**  
Jeffrey Northgraves  
Robert Branco  
Patrick Florance

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## Board of Selectmen's Agenda Minutes

**Tuesday, January 10th, 2012**

Present: Selectmen- Jeffrey Northgraves, Robert Branco and Mike Florance  
Fire Department: Bryan Calderwood, Gerald Harjula, David Elwell and Todd Butler  
Administrative Assistant: Barbara Black

Called to Order: 5:00 p.m.

### **I. Budget Workshop 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

The proposed 2012 budget as submitted by department heads totaled \$1,059,107.00, compared to \$950,438.00 in 2011. Anticipated revenues increased from \$92,050.00 in 2011 to \$120,050.00 for 2012. Vehicle excise tax increased from \$252,000.00 in 2011 to \$270,000.00 in 2012.

Notable increases are the Fire Department Budget increasing from \$97,992.00 in 2011 to \$182,187.00 proposed for 2012 and the Reserves Budget increasing from \$35,500.00 in 2011 to \$118,000.00 proposed for 2012. The Public Works Budget had a significant decrease from \$240,075.00 in 2011 to \$162,444.00 for 2012. With no paving in the proposed budget the Board recommended increasing the Paving Reserve amount from \$50,000.00 to \$90,000.00, so there would not be a spike in the 2013 budget.

The Select Board recommended a pay increase of 3.6% for the Assessor's Agent, Administrative Staff and Cleaning Lady.

The Select Board will hold another Budget Workshop on January 19<sup>th</sup>, to consider/recommend changes within the proposed 2012 budget.

### **Selectmen's Meeting: 6:00 p.m.**

Called to Order: 6:00 p.m.

#### **I. Recognize Guests:**

None

#### **II. Recognize Departments:**

##### **a) Fire Department**

Chief Calderwood requested to purchase and or lease a new Fire Truck in 2012, to be placed on the Annual Town Warrant. Mr. Calderwood said the cost is estimated at \$350,000.00 over ten (10) years for around \$41,000.00 a year. The Select Board recommended presenting the Budget Committee a replacement plan for fire trucks and equipment.

Chief Calderwood discussed the 2012 proposed budget for the Fire Department with the Select Board. An exhaust system for \$43,000.00 was proposed to be moved to Building and Grounds.

#### **III. New Business:**



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a) Set Budget Committee Meetings:

The Board set the dates of January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m.

b) Set Selectmen Meeting(s) for January, 2012:

The Board set the date of January 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. for a budget workshop with a Selectmen's Meeting to follow.

c) Recycler's License- Young's Automotive:

Mike Florance made a motion to authorize the Chairman to sign/execute the Recyclers License for Young's Automotive. Robert Branco seconded the motion.

**Board approved: 3-0.**

d) 2011 Annual Town Report Dedication/Cover:

The dedication and cover was discussed. Mr. Branco was willing to come up with some suggestions for the cover.

**IV. Old Business:**

- a) Mid-Coast Regional Planning Commission – Municipal Membership Form 2012:  
**Tabled**

**V. Other Business:**

a) Review Correspondence:

The Board reviewed a letter written by Mike Florance to Jonathan Eaton, Chairman and the Georges River Joint Shellfish Board. Mr. Florance's letter had the following concerns:

1. Is the warden currently using or has previously used the GRS truck, boat, motor, or any other equipment associated with the performance of the duties required of the GRS warden when he works in Friendship? If so, I would also like to know:
  - a. Who authorized the use of the same since Friendship is not part of GRS?
  - b. Is anyone reimbursing GRS for the additional expenses such as gasoline, wear and tear on the truck, boat, motor and other consumables associated with the job?
  - c. If the warden was not formally authorized by the GRS Board to use said equipment in Friendship, why is he allowed to use it or who allowed him to use it without formal consensus and approval of the GRS Board?
  
2. All equipment used by the GRS warden is municipal property. Given the number of miles accumulated on the truck and trailer for the warden's personal convenience lowers the serviceable life of the equipment much sooner than it would otherwise if the equipment was secured in one of the five towns on a daily basis. Why can't the warden park the truck, boat, and trailer in one of the five towns in a secured environment and use his privately owned vehicle to travel to and from work?

When the GRS Program was started, the primary objectives were to manage and preserve shellfish harvesting in the five town area; thereby providing employment for harvesters and adding to the local economy. After reviewing the past GRS expenditures and current proposed budget with no reserve account, additional expenditures incurred by the warden for use of the vehicle for his convenience, and allowing him to exceed a 35 hours per week work



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schedule for whatever reason, is, in my humble opinion, putting the program viability, sustainability, and intended objectives in jeopardy.

**VI. Administration:**

- a) Approved Selectmen Minutes from December 13<sup>th</sup> 2011:
- b) Reviewed Check Reconciliation for December 2011:
- c) Authorized Treasurer's Warrants:

**VII. Adjournment:**

8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Black  
Administrative Assistant