

Town of South Thomaston, ME  
Budget Committee Meeting  
January 26, 2009

The first session of the Budget Committee 2009 for the Town of South Thomaston convened at 6:30 PM on January 26. The meeting was called to order by Select Chair John Spear. Attending were selectpersons John Spear, Pennie Alley, and Jeff Northgraves. Committee members were John Duncan, Chuck Hartman, Kennedy Wilson, Becky Geesey, Gayle Gallant, Moira Paddock, and Patrick Florance. Administrative Assistant Barbara Black attended, as did guests Dorothy Meriwether and, from the Fire Department, Bryan Calderwood and Todd Butler.

New members were introduced, and the Committee elected John Duncan, Chairman and Becky Geesey, Secretary. Introductory remarks included the reminder that all decisions of the Committee were provisional; and unless no raises were offered, the figure for wages included a 2% cost of living increase. John Spear reminded the group that our surplus is declining, so that overages from the LD1 tax levy limit are more critical than in years when there was a comfortable surplus from which to draw.

The Fire Department budget (570) was the first considered. More fire calls in 2008 had resulted in wage overages. A prudent budget was presented, and the most discussion centered on the purchase of a closed trailer @ \$7,000 to transport equipment. Discussion also brought out that the department is on call for the Knox County Airport, which requires different and more expensive set-up gear. It was suggested that the trailer funding might come from the fire equipment reserve fund, leading to a look at the reserve funds for both fire equipment and fire trucks. Mr. Butler explained the reserve funds, and the fact that he had been looking into a scheduled replacement plan for equipment and trucks. The selectmen requested a written presentation of such a replacement plans, and no decision will be made until they have more facts to consider. The Committee tentatively approved the Fire Department budget as requested plus \$516 for a Broadband connection under Utilities.

Next the Administration budget (510) was presented. Selectmen were not given salary increases. There was little discussion except the monthly cost of the new copier. Barbara Black will confirm that figure. The Committee tentatively approved that budget.

Building & Grounds (540), Debt Service (670), Recreation (660), and Library (650) all were briefly considered and passed tentatively with no additions or corrections.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM. The next session will be Tuesday, Jan. 27, at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rebecca Geesey

**Budget Committee Meeting**  
**January 27, 2009**

The second session of the South Thomaston Budget Committee for 2009 met at 6:30 PM on January 27. The meeting was called to order by John Spear, whose first order of business was to suggest that the Wednesday Jan. 28 meeting be cancelled because of pending snow. The group agreed to move that meeting to Monday, Feb.2, at 6:30. Present were all committee members, the three selectmen, Town Assessor Bert Taylor, Administrative Assistant, Barbara Black, Richard Norman representing the Ambulance Service, and Dorothy Meriwether.

The agenda was taken out of order, with the first report being the assessor's (520). His budget was tentatively approved, and Selectman John Spear had high praise for the job Bert Taylor has done. His praise was echoed by the rest of those present.

Other departments reviewed included Street Lights (600), Welfare (640), and Town Landing (550), Public Works (610), and Planning Board (530); all were tentatively approved by the Committee as presented with little or no discussion.

Richard Norman walked the group through the Ambulance Budget (580), also tentatively approved as presented. His excellent preparation was noted. Unclassified Public Safety (590) was tentatively changed to reflect two Animal Control Officers, both to be paid wages rather than a stipend. This changed the bottom line of the budget item to \$15,875.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM, with only three departments to be reviewed at the next meeting. A "catch-up" session was discussed, but no date chosen pending the receipt of a few final figures.

Respectfully submitted.

Rebecca Geesey