

Town of South Thomaston
Budget Committee Meeting
January 27, 2010

The second session of the 2010 Budget Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Ken Wilson at 6:30 PM.

Present: Committee Members John Duncan, Mike Florance, Gayle Gallant, Becky Geesey, Chuck Hartman, Moira Paddock, and Ken Wilson. Selectmen Dorothy Meriwether, Jeff Northgraves, and Pennie Alley. Administrator Barbara Black. Ambulance Chair Richard Norman, Assistant Chair, Pat Dougherty; and Code Officer Larry Terrio.

After a brief discussion over whether to work thru the remainder of the budget or end at 8:45 in order to see the State of the Union Address, the decision was made to try to wind up the business that night. Minutes for January 26 were approved with two corrections.

Ambulance Service (580) was the first topic. Mr. Norman announced his resignation as soon as another option could be worked out. Although the service has not missed a call in the last two years, he feels that the present per diem arrangement is not the best for the town. After a great deal of discussion, the budget was tentatively approved, with per diem wages reduced by \$5,000. Specifics will almost certainly change. Rich did state that he feels another arrangement is likely to save a little money. He then spoke to the reserves, saying that neither the defibrillation nor the ambulance reserve was a necessary line item this year, in his perspective.

Code Enforcement and Licensed Plumbing (560) was quickly reviewed and tentatively approved.

Public Works (610) received careful scrutiny, with a major change being that the \$77,000 had been put off for a year by the Road Commissioner. This was the major change in bringing the total budget much closer to the LD1 limit. Jeff Northgraves spoke to the need to keep a paving reserve up so that when it does occur it's not disastrous to the budget. That same point had been made about fire engine reserves, and the reserve situation came up frequently this evening.

The Health & Sanitation/Demo Debris (630) projection is down this year because of plans to cut the stump dump hours to twice a week. Barbara projects that this will also cut the amount of commercial dumping there, causing less pick-up necessary. No changes were projected for transfer station payments. Tentatively approved.

Cemeteries (695) was tentatively approved as presented. The tree project, it was announced, will be taken over by a to-be-named Cemetery Committee.

Reserves (690 came in for a great deal of discussion, tied in as it was to the question of how to handle the LD1 limit overage. Differing opinions on the need to continue to fund capital expenses every year were expressed.

At 10:30 PM the meeting was adjourned after it was agreed that the Reserve/LD1 questions should be continued after an overnight thinking time.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Geesey
Secretary