Moira Paddock, Chair (present) Gayle Gallant (present) Jeff Northgraves (present)

# Donna Withington (present) Katie-Lyn Greene-Rackliff (present)

# Alan Hall (present) Camille Minikis (absent) Cliff Retzlaff (present)

# Also present: Selectboard members Jan Gaudio, Walter Reitz and Cheryl Waterman (Budget Meetings are ‘joint’ meetings of the Selectboard and Budget Committee), Town Administrator Owen Casas and Beverly St. Clair

# Meeting Opened at 6:03 PM.

Received the updated Town of South Thomaston Budget Committee Policy.

Discussion on the minutes from January 27th meeting. One amendment noted.

Jeff Northgraves moved to accept the minutes as amended. Donna Withington seconded.

Further discussion followed and a second change recommended. Voted on first motion: **Motion Failed 2 - 5.**

New motion made by Gayle Gallant to accept the minutes with the 2 amendments included. Donna Withington seconded: **Motion Passed 6-1.**

**Administration (510):** ($226,136) Town Administrator Owen Casas presented the budget. Discussion on the way the increase in compensation was spread over some salaries/wages. Overall net 3% suggested increase in total.

Owen noted that some of the Benefits and Insurance amounts are not final numbers, but he would have the final numbers to us prior to the finalization of the budgets on Thursday.

Discussion on changing from a fiscal year to a calendar year. Pros and Cons and procedures to accomplish this discussed, but no action suggested at this time.

Donna Withington moved to preliminarily approve **$226,136.** Gayle Gallant seconded: **Motion Passed 7 - 0.**

**Assessors (520):** ($42,398) Town Administrator Owen Casas presented the budget. Owen Casas explained that the Assistant to Administrator wages were split between Administration (75%) and Assessors (25%) since one person was filling the two roles.

Donna Withington moved to preliminarily approve **$42,398,** Alan Hall seconded: **Motion Passed 7-0.**

**Revaluation Reserve (690)**: ($0)

Original request was for $1,000; however, Owen Casas said this request should have been for $10,000. After discussion it was decided that the current balance in this account, $62,216.18 was sufficient for the time being since it does not appear that a revaluation will be needed anytime soon.

Jeff Northgraves moved to preliminarily approve **$0.** Donna Withington seconded: **Motion Passed 7-0.**

**Planning and Appeal Boards (530):** ($920). Owen Casas presented the budget. Requested funding of $300 for a Note Taker for these meetings. Many issues are complex and need full attention of the board members.

Donna Withington moved to preliminarily approve **$920,**  Jeff Northgraves seconded: **Motion Passed 7-0.**

**CEO & Plumbing Inspector (560)**: ($27028)

Owen Casas presented the budget. New CEO has been hired at a lower rate.

Donna Withington moved to preliminarily approve **$27,028,** Alan Hall seconded: **Motion Passed 7-0.**

This ended the agenda items. Since it was still early it was decided to do a few more departments.

**Building and Grounds (540):**  ($58,312)

Owen Casas presented the budget. Several of the lines contain amounts for the Gilford Butler School maintenance. Discussion by the selectboard on need to include these charges and it was determined that further discussion on this department should be tabled until the selectboard had made some decisions.

At this time the meeting switched over to a selectboard meeting to continue this discussion. During this meeting, they voted to remove the requested $73,200 related to the GBS renovation costs from the budget.

Meeting then switched back over to the Budget Committee meeting.

Discussion on the issue of keeping or removing the $73,200 from the budget related to the renovation costs for Gilbert Butler School building followed.

Donna Withington made a motion to remove the $73,200 from the budget, Alan Hall seconded. **Motion Passed 5 – 2.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:22 PM

Respectfully submitted Gayle Gallant