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

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

# Alan Hall (present) Camille Minikis (present) 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, Beverly St. Clair, Penney Alley, and Richard Norman

# Meeting Opened at 6:02 PM.

Discussion on the minutes from January 28th meeting

Donna Withington moved to accept the minutes as amended. Alan Hall seconded: **Motion Passed 7-0.**

Public Comment - Penney Alley requested that since we had discussed the Capitol Expenditures for the $73,000 for the GBS the previous evening even though it was not on the agenda, that she would like to reopen discussions since she wanted to be part of the discussion. Moira Paddock said that we had not in fact done the Capitol Expenditures budget yet – this would be discussed on Thursday night, so there was no need to open a discussion on this budget.

**Town Roads (610)** ; ($286,293)

Owen Casas presented the budget. Requesting $1,000 to cover ½ the cost of an internship to do a full survey of all the roads and culverts in the town. Discussion followed about Westbrook Street and the $40,000 request for bushing/limbing. Since discussion brought out a number of issues with the street, it was decided to reduce this amount to just a limbing amount of $1,500 and increase the amount of the internship to $2,700 to be sure we get a full picture of the conditions of the roads and culverts and wait to after this survey to determine the best course of action to address all town road issues.

Discussion then followed related to the Island Road Project and paving requests. It was decided to remove the paving request, and move all costs related to the Island Road Project from the EMA budget request, totaling $46,000, to this budget, since they are all road construction costs.

Gayle Gallant moved to preliminarily approve $286,293. Seconded by Donna Withington **Motion Passed 8-0.**

**Paving Reserve (690)**: ($0).

An original request for $50,000 was removed in anticipation of using some of this reserve to fund the Island Road Project.

Donna Withington moved to preliminarily remove any request for funding this reserve**.** Alan Hall seconded: **Motion Passed 8-0.**

**Town Landing (550):** ($8,000)

Owen Casas presented the budget. Selectman Jan Gaudio stated that since the town was involved in so many other projects this year that requested amount of $3,000 be used to continue work on the 3 phased project that had begun last year. All funding comes from boat excise tax.

Donna Withington moved to preliminarily approve **$8,000**. Alan Hall seconded: **Motion Passed 8-0.**

**Town Landing Reserve (690)**: ($0).

 No discussion – no request made this year.

**Solid Waste Disposal (630):** ($221,983)

Owen Casas presented the budget. Discussion on wage for the Demo Debris Attendant. Noted that a 3% increase would not even bring this up to the state minimum rate. Suggested to increase this position to equal the voting clerks rate of $13/hour.

Donna Withington moved to preliminarily approve **$221,983,** Jeff Northgraves seconded: **Motion Passed 8-0.**

**Transfer Station Reserve (690)**:

Request to create a reserve for the costs associated with improvements expected for the transfer station; to be funded by the $153,479 amount collected from the MRC, Municipal Review Committee, dismantling last year. This amount is currently earmarked in the Surplus account for this purpose.

Jeff Northgraves moved to preliminarily approve **$153,479**. Alan Hall seconded: **Motion Passed 8-0.**

**Street Lights (600):** ($9,300).

Owen Casas presented the budget. There were no funds requested in the original budget presented. However, Owen explained the project/ funding being investigated to purchase the 54 street lights currently being leased from CMP and replace them with LED lights with smart control technology. Expected cost to be approximately $35,000 over 4.5 years. Jan Gaudio suggested that we approve $9,300 for this year to cover costs for the leasing till we actually do this project. Any balance would go towards the financing of the project funding.

Jeff Northgraves moved to preliminarily approve **$9,300**. Donna Withington seconded: **Motion Passed 8-0.**

**Building and Grounds (540):**  ($57,067)

Owen Casas presented the budget. Title for ownership the GBS had been received by the town today, effective Jan. 23,2020. Budget request included all costs to for the building at a “Do No Harm” level. Amounts for this totaled $13,895. Costs to insure the building had been reduced from $3,400 to $2,500.

Donna Withington moved to preliminarily approve **$57,067**. Alan Hall seconded: **Motion Passed 8-0.**

**Building Reserve (690)**: ($0).

Owen Casas stated he had heard of a possible future request for a metal building to house supplies. Selectman Jan Gaudio stated that the main reason for the reserve was to replacement of the boiler in the town office. Since the balance was already large enough to accomplish this, he suggested we do not fund this account this year. We may want to use some of the reserve to fund some of this year’s requests.

Jeff Northgraves moved to preliminarily remove any funding for this reserve. Donna Withington seconded: **Motion Passed 8-0.**

**Recreation (660):** ($12,670)

Owen Casas presented the budget. An estimate to repair the tennis courts had been received for $20,000. Owen submitting a request for a 50/50 grant to cover these costs. Original estimate was higher. Much discussion about how much use it would have. Discussion followed to fund fee reimbursement for Little League participation by South Thomaston youth.

Jeff Northgraves moved to preliminarily approve **$12,670,** Camille Minikis seconded: **Motion Passed 6-2.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM

Respectfully submitted Gayle Gallant