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, Catherine Bendheim, Marcia Turner, Bettyjane Surabian, Robert Surabian, Kathleen Florence and Anne Norman

# Meeting Opened at 6:02 PM.

Discussion on the minutes from January 29th meeting

Donna Withington moved to accept the minutes as amended. Alan Hall seconded: **Motion Passed 8-0.**

Noted a change to the next meeting date and time. In place of Friday Jan. 31st at 6:00 PM, the next meeting would take place on Saturday Feb. 1st at 1:00 PM.

**Library (650)** ; ($2,099)

Penny Alley presented the budget. Noted that the library had received two of the old town office computers for use by the public.

Donna Withington moved to preliminarily approve **$2,099.** Katie-Lyn Greene-Rackliff seconded: **Motion Passed 8-0.**

**Cemetery - Geo. River Shellfish - Veterans (695):** ($20,621)

Penny Alley presented the budget for the Cemetery and Veterans and Cheryl Waterman presented the GRSF budget. The addition of one new cemetery, Williams, was noted. Also discussed was bringing in outside help to do a week long extensive repair to headstones.

Jeff Northgraves moved to preliminarily approve **$20,621,** Donna Withington seconded: **Motion Passed 8-0.**

**Cemetery Reserve (690)**: ($1,000)

Donna Withington moved to preliminarily approve **$1,000.** Jeff Northgraves seconded: **Motion Passed 8-0.**

**General Public Safety (590)**: ($59,511)

Owen Casas presented the budget.

Donna Withington moved to preliminarily approve **$59,511,** Alan Hall seconded: **Motion Passed 8-0.**

**Emergency Disaster Reserve (690)**: ($0)

No funding was requested for the Emergency Disaster Reserve.

**Social Services (640)**: ($1,500)

Owen Casas presented the budget. This year town received 6 requests for services, but only two qualified. 70% of the amount awarded was reimbursed by the state, but was not received until January 2020.

Donna Withington moved to preliminarily approve **$1,500,** Camille Minikis seconded: **Motion Passed 8-0.**

**Debt Services (670)**: ($62,085)

Owen Casas presented the budget. Includes the first of 4 repayments for the ambulance.

Donna Withington moved to preliminarily approve **$62,085,** Alan Hall seconded: **Motion Passed 8-0.**

Reviewed the list of Reserve accounts to make sure all had been covered. Total of requested reserves $213,179. All had been covered at the time of the budget review for the related departments.

**Capital Expense (702)** ; ($0)

The selectboard had removed the original amount of requested expenses in favor of using a separate warrant for all things related to the Gilbert Butler Building. Only a preliminary draft of the warrant had been formulated. In general the warrant would contain three choices for the town to vote on. The first was the ‘Do No Harm’ option for $14,795. This was the option contained within the Building and Grounds budget which the budget committee and selectboard had recommended. The second was to fund renovations to make it suitable for housing the library/community center on a temporary basis at a cost of $73,200. The third option was to fund demolishing the build at a cost of $75,000.

Jeff Northgraves made a motion to preliminarily approve $0, Donna Withington seconded. **Motion Passed 8-0.**

Penny Alley requested to be allowed to speak to the budget committee in favor of funding renovations needed to move the library/community center into the GBS building. She had an informal letter which contained 53 signatures for South Thomaston residences in favor of the move. Plus a few other signatures from non-residences who also wished to sign the letter. No specific amount could be determined for the request. She did say that there was a $30,000 Randell Hopkins Trust fund that could be used to help fund the temporary occupancy.

Anne Norman and Kathy Florence also spoke in favor of the temporary occupancy.

Jeff Northgraves commented that in his opinion the necessary renovations could be done for $20,000.

Jan Gaudio’s suggestion was to hold off for a year.

Jeff Northgraves made a motion to recommend to the selectboard that the portion of the warrant which the selectboard is drafting related to doing renovations to the GBS needed to make the building suitable for temporary occupancy by the library/community center be limited to $20,000.

Motion was seconded by Alan Hall. : **Motion Passed 5-3.**

**Building and Grounds (540):**  ($58,711)

Revised numbers for FICA, Utilities Maint – GBS and Insurance caused an increase of $1,644. The budget committee had originally preliminarily approved $57,067.

Donna Withington moved to preliminarily approve $58,711**,** Gayle Gallant seconded: **Motion Passed 7-1.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:49 PM

Respectfully submitted Gayle Gallant