



Town of South Thomaston, Maine
125 Spruce Head RD
P.O. Box 147
South Thomaston, ME 04858-0147

Budget Committee Meeting
March 31, 2022

Attendees:

Budget Committee

Moira Paddock (Chair)
Katie-Lyn Greene-Rackliff (Secretary)
Linda Maltais
Beverly St. Clair
Sondra Wallace
Bob Baines
Camille Minikis (via Zoom)

Select Persons

Walter Reitz
John Spear
Jeff Northgraves

Town Administrator

Terri Baines

Chief of Fire Department

Chief Calderwood (virtual)

EMA Director

Betty Thomas (virtual)

Town Members

Julia Obrien (virtual)

Select Meeting opened at 6:03 PM.

Election of officers for 2022:

Moira Paddock elected as Chair **5 – 0** (1 abstained, Camille Minikis absent from vote)
Katie-Lyn Greene-Rackliff elected as Secretary **5 – 0** (1 abstained, Camille Minikis absent from vote)

Budget Summary:

Moira Paddock asked the SB for a summary of the budget. Paddock asked how much the budget was over the LD1 since the budget committee was not provided the sheet. Paddock also asked what was in the Reserves since that was also not provided. Paddock also asked if there was a COLA increase and how much was it.



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Jeff Northgraves explained we have a higher budget this year because costs have increased in general. We have also hired new town employees, and have a lot of road work to handle. He also mentioned it has been hard to compare this budget to last year because of the unique 18-month budget. We don't have the reality we normally do, especially in terms of surplus. In the past, the budget was done after the fiscal year was completed.

Walter Reitz mentioned we won't have an audit report until August.

John Spear explained that the budget is higher due to inflationary pressures from the outside—fuel, electricity, labor, materials, and solid waste. Also, they cannot fill town positions and keep the talent because our wages are not up to par.

Jeff Northgraves also mentioned we can overwrite and reset the LD1 with a town vote. The town voted last year to override LD1 when we had an 18-month budget.

In summary:

Solid waste increases

Paving increases

Fire Department increases

Electricity and fuel increases

Increase in salaries of 5.9% (same as social security and VA)

Budget Committee Meeting opened at 6:28 PM.

Fire Department (570): (\$157,465)

Chief Calderwood recapped the past year of calls. The Fire Dept has 18 members, there were 147 fire/accident calls in the past year and the Fire Dept conducted 37 trainings. He made a point of explaining he secured a \$60k grant from FEMA, and \$10k from the Steven King Foundation. He has applied for a Leary Foundation grant.

Chief Calderwood then presented the budget.

Bob Baines asked what percentage the town would owe on the 2 FEMA grants. Chief Calderwood answered 5% of overall cost (cost is \$600k).

Moira Paddock asked about the PPE, and where that cost is coming from. Calderwood explains that it's the same thing as Turn Out Gear and the PPE and Turn Out Gear costs can be combined.



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Bob Baines moved to preliminarily approve **\$157,465**. Sondra Wallace seconded.

Jeff Northgraves explained they put everyone's wants in the budget, but there is room for discussion to be more prudent.

Bob Baines motioned to amend his original motion to approve \$157,465 and to take away \$28,571 for the AFG Apparatus. The new preliminarily approved cost would be **\$128,894**. Sondra Wallace seconded: **Motion Passed 7 - 0**. (Camille Minikis now present)

Fire Pond Maintenance Reserve (line 1222): (\$5,500)

Chief explained there are 20 fire ponds in town and what needs to be done to maintain them.

Katie-Lyn Greene-Rackliff moved to preliminarily approve **\$5,500**. Camille Minikis seconded: **Motion Passed 7 - 0**.

Fire Truck Reserve (line 1224): (\$60,835)

Lengthy discussion of the number of trucks needed with mutual aid in the county. Katie-Lyn Greene-Rackliff moved to preliminarily approve **\$60,835**. Camille Minikis seconded: **Motion Passed 7 - 0**.

Fire Equipment Reserve (line 1225): (\$10,000)

Katie-Lyn Greene-Rackliff moved to preliminarily approve **\$10,000**. Camille Minikis seconded: **Motion Passed 7 - 0**.

General Public Safety (590): (\$67,397)

Jeff Northgraves presented the budget.

Bob Baines moved to preliminarily approve **\$67,397**. Sondra Wallace seconded: **Motion Passed 7 - 0**.

After Selectboard discussed the budget, money was added for mileage and Moira Paddock asked for a new motion. Bob Baines made a new motion to preliminarily approve **\$67,597**. Sondra Wallace seconded: **Motion Passed 6 - 0**. (Camille was not present for this vote)



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Emergency Disaster Reserve (line 1234): (\$10,000)

Betty Thomas presented the budget.

Bob Baines moved to preliminarily approve **\$5,000** (reduced from \$10,000). Beverly St. Clair seconded: **Motion Failed 3 – 4.**

Katie-Lyn Greene-Rackliff moved to preliminarily approve **\$10,000**. Linda Maltais seconded: **Motion Passed 4 – 3.**

Building & Grounds (540): (\$90,811)

Terri Baines presented the budget. The budget is increased due to paving the Fire Dept parking lot, Bay Door maintenance, and fuel.

Beverly St. Clair moved to preliminarily approve **\$90,811**. Bob Baines seconded: **Motion Passed 7 – 0.**

Streetlights (600): (\$3,925)

Terri Baines presented the budget.

Discussion was had if the new LED lights were saving money and if there were any issues.

Bob Baines moved to preliminarily approve **\$3,925**. Sondra Wallace seconded: **Motion Passed 7 – 0.**

Capital Expense (702): (\$15,743)

Terri Baines presented the budget. The capitol expenses budget is for Replace server, PC for ambulance and phone system.

Linda Maltais moved to preliminarily approve **\$15,743**. Bob Baines seconded: **Motion Passed 7 – 0.**

This ended the agenda items.

Bob Baines motioned to adjourn. Moira Paddock seconded.
Meeting adjourned at 9:06 PM

Respectfully submitted by Katie-Lyn Greene-Rackliff