



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

Budget Committee Meeting April 4, 2022

Attendees:

Budget Committee

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

Select Persons

Walter Reitz
John Spear
Jeff Northgraves

Town Administrator

Terri Baines

Select Meeting opened at 6:00 PM.

Budget Committee Meeting opened at 6:01 PM.

Moira Paddock led a discussion about the minutes from the March 31st meeting. Bob Baines moved to accept the minutes as amended. Beverly St. Clair seconded: **Motion Passed 5 - 0.**

The meeting began with the Select Board explaining the Surplus numbers. The Select Board believes surplus will increase from about \$627k at the end of December 2020, to roughly \$734k. The Select Board explained a lot of assumptions were made because the town doesn't have real numbers from an auditor. Due to the change in the fiscal year the audit will not be done till July 2022.

Town Roads (610): (\$356,794)

John Spear presented the budget as a volunteer road commissioner (South Thomaston's commissioner retired in January).



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Moira Paddock asked if the Select Board believes the Road Commissioner wage is accurate. Answer: They are unsure.

Beverly St. Clair asked who the Select Board received estimates from? Answer: Jim Kalloch and Hoppe Tree Service

Moira Paddock wanted to confirm that \$40k will come out of the Paving Reserve for the already approved paving of the Island Road. Moira Paddock noted there will not be enough reserves left.

Bob Baines asks if the town will be refilling the Paving Reserve this year. Answer: No, the town doesn't fund reserves the same year the town uses the reserves.

Beverly St. Clair moved to preliminarily approve **\$356,794**. Bob Baines seconded: **Motion Passed 5 – 0.**

Moira Paddock noted that because we are paving, there are no requests for Paving Reserves this year.

Town Landing (550): (\$3,615)
Terri Baines presented the budget.

Katie-Lyn Greene-Rackliff asked what the “Miscellaneous” account is for since the town doesn't seem to have those accounts in other departments. John Spear explains it's for abandoned boats, potentially, for example.

Sondra Wallace asked why trash removal is so low this year. Terri Baines explained the 2020 number was categorized differently than how the town does it now.

Bob Baines moved to preliminarily approve **\$3,615**. Beverly St. Clair seconded: **Motion Passed 5 – 0.**

Town Landing Reserve (line 1228): (\$3,385)

Bob Baines asked why the town is funding the reserve if there is money in it already. John Spear explains the town must fund it, legally, from boat excise taxes.

Beverly St. Clair moved to preliminarily approve **\$3,385**. Bob Baines seconded: **Motion Passed 5 – 0.**



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Administration (510): (\$278,735)

Terri Baines presented the budget. Terri Baines explained that salaries and stipends have increased 5.9% (same as social security and VA), and that health insurance has increased. Also, South Thomaston's Tech Support contractor is increasing rates 10%, and the PO Box rental, mail costs, and postage have increased.

Beverly St. Clair asked if the town can carry over the legal fees from last year. Jeff Northgraves explained that the Select Board and the town do not carry over monies, but when money is not spent in a budget the money goes into surplus at year end. The auditor provides the surplus number. The Select Board's practice has been to take money from surplus that was unspent in the specific budget and fund that budget.

Beverly St. Clair moved to preliminarily approve **\$278,735**. Bob Baines seconded:
Motion Passed 5 – 0.

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

Terri Baines presented the budget.

Moira Paddock asked if the state is still repaying the town 70%? Answer: Yes.

Bob Baines moved to preliminarily approve **\$1,500**. Beverly St. Clair seconded: **Motion Passed 5 – 0.**

Debt Services (670): (\$68,296)

Terri Baines presented the budget. The Select Board and Terri Baines reduced the interest on the TAN because the town might not need to borrow as much money to cover cash flow due to collecting property taxes 2 times per year.

Bob Baines moved to preliminarily approve **\$68,296**. Beverly St. Clair seconded: **Motion Passed 5 – 0.**

Recreation (680): (\$2,020)

Terrie Baines presented the budget.

Moira Paddock asked about the budget history of the tennis and basketball courts. John Spear explained the town received a grant for \$17,090 (the town was approved for \$34,180), and that the town paid \$10,000 and raised roughly \$7,267 for court resurfacing. Now, the town is finding it difficult to find a contractor to do the work. It will likely be a



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cost for next fiscal year, and the town will likely need more money because costs have increased.

Beverly St. Clair asked how long the town has the grant money. Answer: 2 years. Beverly St. Clair also asked when the grant was approved. Answer: Late Fall of 2021.

John Spear then explained \$420 was included in the budget for tennis court nets.

Moira Paddock asked about the Skateboard Park. The Select Board does not know how much the town would need to repair the park, but acknowledged it needs repairs. Therefore, there is no budget specified.

The Select Board fears that shutting it down will lead to issues because people will continue to use it, and therefore, the town would need to light it and police it.

Beverly St. Clair suggested a meeting with the founders to get their input. Beverly St. Clair volunteered to try and set the meeting up.

Sondra Wallace suggested getting the skater's parents involved to see if they want to take this on.

Beverly St. Clair moved to preliminarily approve **\$2,020**. Bob Baines seconded: **Motion Passed 5 – 0.**

Recreation Reserves (line 1235): (\$5,000)

Moira Paddock explained that this is a NEW reserve account for the skate park, playground, and courts.

Beverly St. Clair moved to preliminarily approve **\$5,000**. Bob Baines seconded: **Motion Passed 5 – 0.**

Conservation Commission (535): (\$809)

Sondra Wallace presented the budget.

The Budget Committee had a lengthy discussion, and the major concern was that the town's web site was not being used as a platform for the commission's site.

Bob Baines moved to preliminarily approve **\$709**. Beverly St. Clair seconded. **Motion Failed 1 – 4.**



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Beverly St. Clair suggested the budget be:

Email - \$70

Dues + Fees - \$195

Insurance - \$14

Supplies - \$221

Beverly St. Clair motioned to amend the original motion and to instead preliminarily approve **\$500**. Bob Baines seconded. **Motion Passed 5 – 0.**

This ended the agenda items.

Beverly St. Clair motioned to adjourn. Bob Baines seconded.
Meeting adjourned at 8:49 PM

Respectfully submitted by Katie-Lyn Greene-Rackliff