



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

Budget Committee Meeting
April 5, 2022

Attendees:

Budget Committee

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

Select Persons

Walter Reitz
John Spear
Jeff Northgraves

Town Administrator

Terri Baines

Director of Ambulance Service

Amy Drinkwater

**Assistant Director of Ambulance Service, and
Deputy Chief of Fire Department**

David Elwell

Library Director

Pennie Alley

Select Meeting opened at 6:00 PM.

Budget Committee Meeting opened at 6:00 PM.

Moira Paddock led a discussion about the minutes from the April 4th meeting. Bob Baines moved to accept the minutes as amended. Beverly St. Clair seconded: **Motion Passed 5 – 1.** (1 abstained, as they were not present for the 4/4/2022 meeting)

Ambulance Service (580): (\$277,813)
Amy Drinkwater presented the budget.



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Moira Paddock thanked Amy Drinkwater for the summary that was provided on the department. Calls were up in 2021 vs. 2020.

Moira Paddock asked about line 662, Assistance Charges. Amy Drinkwater suggested we keep it at \$5,000.

Moira Paddock asked about line 677, Medical Shots & Tests. Amy Drinkwater suggested we keep it at \$250 in case someone doesn't have insurance.

Moira Paddock asked about line 693, Pharmacy. Amy Drinkwater suggested we keep it at \$1,500 because the hospital is charging for the drugs and this is a change.

Moira Paddock asked about COVID supplies. Amy Drinkwater explained those expenses have been put into Medical Supplies now, which accounts for the increase. COVID supplies are now included in Medical Supplies so there is no need for a budget number under "COVID Supplies."

The Select Board mentioned that revenues were up for the Ambulance Dept to help offset the increase in the budget.

Beverly St. Clair moved to preliminarily approve **\$277,813**. Sondra Wallace seconded:
Motion Passed 6 – 0.

Ambulance Defibulator Reserve (line 1227): (\$5,000)

Amy Drinkwater presented the budget.

Bob Baines asked how much money is in the reserves now. Moira Paddock answered \$16,704.29.

Bob Baines moved to preliminarily approve **\$5,000**. Sondra Wallace seconded: **Motion Passed 6 – 0.**

Solid Waste Disposal (630): (\$282,051)

John Spear presented the budget. Walter Reitz presented the Transfer Station section of the budget.

Moira Paddock asked if an Operator has been hired. Answer: No.

Beverly St. Clair asked if Demo Removal has gone out to bid. Answer: Not in awhile.



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Walter Reitz explained the history of the Transfer Station. South Thomaston is now responsible for a higher percentage of the fees based on our current population. \$180,753 is currently a placeholder number until the budget is discussed Friday, April 8th. Walter Reitz then explained there has been a 63 % increase year-over-year in Single Stream Recycling. The 3 towns are doing well on recycling, but it costs more to recycle.

Beverly St. Clair confirmed if there was a \$150k increase across all three towns (South Thomaston, Thomaston, Owl's Head). Answer: Yes.

Moira Paddock asked what the town spent the PERC money on. Walter Reitz answered \$103,131 was spent on new compactors.

Moira Paddock asked what the Select Board is charging the private haulers. Answer: \$650.

Moira Paddock asked the Select Board what was going on with the remaining \$635.08 in the Transfer Station Reserve? This was set up for the money that was returned from PERC. Answer: The Select Board said that that will need to be addressed by the auditor .

Bob Baines asked if the town would be increasing the sticker fees? Answer: Yes, from \$18 to \$20.

John Spear asked if we had enough money in the budget for the Transfer Station. Moira Paddock asked if we will know after Friday, April 8th. Answer: Yes.

Bob Baines asked if the \$50k contingency is in the budget number. Answer: Yes.

Sondra Wallace moved to preliminarily approve **\$282,051**. Bob Baines seconded:
Motion Passed 6 – 0.

CEO & Plumbing Inspector (560): (\$31,100)

Terri Baines presented the budget.

Terri Baines explained that the town moved the Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) and Plumbing Inspector (PI) costs from Salary & Stipends into the Wages section.

John Spear explained the difficulty in hiring a consistent Code Enforcement Officer. The town increased the wages to attract talent.



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Beverly St. Clair asked what the CEO/PI hours will be. Answer: Regular hours on Tuesdays. The Select Board also assumed in the budget that over the course of the year the CEO would work 14 hours/week, and PI 48/year, 2 hours per permit.

Moira Paddock asked if there would be an ordinance for enforcement. Answer: No, this was put to the side.

Bob Baines moved to preliminarily approve **\$31,100**. Sondra Wallace seconded: **Motion Passed 6 – 0.**

Planning & Appeals Boards (530): (\$2,745)

Terri Baines presented the budget.

Moira Paddock asked if we are having a solar farm? Answer: Permitted 1, another is working through the system.

Moira Paddock asked if the wedding venue barn will open this year. Answer: Yes.

Sondra Wallace moved to preliminarily approve **\$2,745**. Bob Baines seconded: **Motion Passed 6 – 0.**

Assessors (520): (\$50,475)

Terri Baines presented the budget.

Bob Baines moved to preliminarily approve **\$50,475**. Sondra Wallace seconded: **Motion Passed 6 – 0.**

Revaluation Reserve (line 1223) (\$10,000)

Terri Baines presented the budget.

Bob Baines moved to preliminarily approve **\$10,000**. Beverly St. Clair seconded: **Motion Passed 6 – 0.**

Library (650): (\$4,513)

Pennie Alley presented the budget. There is an increase in the budget due to the Minerva Catalog Program, which would replace the inter-library loan program. The library is expecting more patrons due to the larger library space and extended hours.



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Moira Paddock asked Pennie Alley was how much more would she be spending in 2022 for relocation on top of the \$1105.00 that was spent in 2021. Answer: \$0.

Moira Paddock asked how much money is in the donation fund? Answer: \$1,900

Moira Paddock asked where the Minerva Catalog Program delivers? Answer: The library, not to homes

Sondra Wallace asked if Pennie Alley would like a raise. Answer: No, they are happy being a volunteer library.

Beverly St. Clair moved to preliminarily approve **\$4,513**. Sondra Wallace seconded:
Motion Passed 6 – 0.

Cemetery/Geo. River/Shellfish/Veterans (695): (\$31,794)

Pennie Alley presented the budget.

Moira Paddock asked how much a stone repair lasts. Answer: They will hold beyond Pennie's time as overseer.

Moira Paddock asked why mowing for Thorndike isn't included with the other mowing category. Answer: Can't use the zero-turn mowers in this old cemetery. The folks behind the cemetery take care of it—it's best to separate this care from the contract.

Beverly St. Clair asked if the budget will have actuals on supplies by end of May? Answer: End of June.

Moira Paddock asked if the volunteer coverage is enough. Answer: Yes, 2 dedicated cemetery volunteers. Pennie Alley says the list might increase.

Moira Paddock asked why no workers comp has been budgeted. Answer: Sometimes the number produced by the formula is so low it comes to zero.

Moira Paddock asked about Flag Holders because there was no actual amount spent in 2020 or 2021, but \$500 was budgeted for in 2021 and \$250 in 2023. Pennie Alley's answer was they were still using inventory from past years, and now would need to order new stock.

Moira Paddock asks about the gravel budget. Answer: The money was put in for Avenue 8 construction. There was a lengthy discussion about the lot plan.



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Beverly St. Clair moved to preliminarily approve **\$31,794**. Bob Baines seconded: **Motion Passed 6 – 0.**

Cemetery Reserve/Trust (line 1231): (\$1,000)
Pennie Alley presented the budget.

Beverly St. Clair moved to preliminarily approve **\$1,000**. Bob Baines seconded: **Motion Passed 6 – 0.**

This ended the agenda items.

Beverly St. Clair motioned to adjourn. Moira Paddock seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 8:29 PM

Respectfully submitted by Katie-Lyn Greene-Rackliff