



**Town of South Thomaston, Maine**  
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**Selectboard:**  
John Spear  
Jeff Northgraves  
Sue Snow

Selectboard Minutes  
Date: February 15, 2023, 3:30 PM at the Municipal Building  
**Items Are Often Taken Out of Order to Accommodate Schedules**

Rev 0

**Note: A listing as present does not denote attendance for the entire meeting.**

**Selectboard Present:** John Spear, Jeff Northgraves, Sue Snow

**Others Present:** Terri-Lynn Baines, Pennie Alley, Fire Chief David Elwell, Assistant Fire Chief Gerry Harjula, Fire Captain Todd Butler, Ralph Demmons, Ambulance Director Amy Drinkwater, Ryan Colson.

**I. Call to Order**

Northgraves called the meeting at 3:34 pm.

**II. Adjustments to Agenda**

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

**III. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda**

There was no public comment.

**IV. New Business**

**a. Budget Discussions with Department Heads**

**Library**

Alley presented the Library budget. There was a brief discussion on the Librarian's stipend.

*Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion to accept the library budget as presented with the exception of increasing the librarian's stipend to \$1000.00.*

**Motion passed 3-0.**

**Cemetery/GRSF/Veterans**

Alley presented the Cemetery portion of the budget. There was a discussion on stone repairs and gravel for the avenues.

There was no increase in the Georges River Shellfish annual fee.

*Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion to approve the Cemetery/GRSF/Veterans budget as presented with the addition of \$1,500 under gravel for cemetery avenues.*

**Motion passed 3-0.**

## **Ambulance**

Ambulance Director Drinkwater presented the ambulance budget.

Drinkwater mentioned the three increases in the budget. Wages, fuel, and medical supplies. Drinkwater provided a pay spreadsheet showing pay in the surrounding towns. She included towns in Knox, Lincoln and Waldo Counties.

Night shift pay was not increased from last year's budget, only hourly wages were increased. Coverage remains the same. Drinkwater requested a raise in the Captain stipend, because he has taken on more responsibility. There was a lengthy discussion on wages, night shift pay and wages in surrounding towns. Also discussed was that the billing expense may need to be increased with the new rate increases being implemented March 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Selectboard reviewed the remaining budget lines with Drinkwater.

To date Ambulance Revenues are \$69,408 plus \$6,250 from billing Vinalhaven and North Haven. Increased billing rates should generate more revenue.

*Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion to approve the Ambulance Budget as presented with the wage discussion and fica increase discussed, with the understanding the billing number will be increased.*

**Motion passed 3-0.**

## **Ambulance Equipment Reserve**

There was a discussion on changing the name of the reserve account to the Ambulance Equipment Reserve account vs Ambulance Defib Reserve. This was changed on the budget sheets and needs to be changed on the warrant for town meeting.

*Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion to put \$5000 into the Ambulance Equipment Reserve.*

**Motion passed 3-0.**

## **Fire Department**

Fire Chief Elwell presented the fire department budget.

Chief Elwell proposed the following hourly pay scale:

Chief	\$17
Captain	\$16.50
Lieutenant	\$16
Interior FF	\$15
Exterior FF	\$15

The Selectboard and the Chief discussed training wages, the chief's stipend and wages, and separating the fire/training line into two lines. They then reviewed the Contracted Services part of the budget. Elwell and the Selectboard discussed fire pond maintenance and the fire pond reserve account.

The Verizon line on the budget is for tablets in the fire vehicles and the ambulance. The ambulance portion is paid for out of the ambulance budget. With the former chief's phone no longer on the bill, the bill will be lower.

There was a discussion on adding a fast sled to the equipment line of the budget. The cost for the sled is \$3,500. It was decided to purchase the sled with funds from the fire equipment reserve fund.

*Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion to table until Chief Elwell reviewed the dues/training lines of the budget.*

**Motion passed 3-0.**

#### **Fire Truck Reserve**

There was a brief discussion on the amount approved at the town meeting to purchase the fire trucks.

*Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion to approve \$60,835 for the fire truck reserve account.*

**Motion passed 3-0.**

#### **Fire Equipment Reserve**

*Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion to approve \$10,000 for the Fire Equipment Reserve account.*

**Motion passed 3-0.**

#### **Social Service**

Baines presented the Social Service Budget.

*Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion to accept the budget as presented.*

**Motion passed 3-0.**

#### **Debt Service**

The Selectboard reviewed the budget. There was a discussion on the TAN line and when the last payment of the street light loan would be.

*Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion to table until after the Town Roads budget.*

**Motion passed 3-0.**

#### **Street Lights**

\$875 was removed from the Dues/fees/travel line of the budget because the Selectboard approved a 3-year contract at their January 28<sup>th</sup> meeting that will begin this March.

*Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion to approve the Streetlights budget in the amount of \$4,300.*

**Motion passed 3-0.**

## **Planning Board**

Baines presented the Planning Board Budget.

*Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion to approve the Planning Board budget in the amount of \$2826.*

**Motion passed 3-0.**

## **CEO/LPI**

Baines presented the CEO/LPI budget.

The budget remained mostly the same except for the addition of iworQ, which is a software program that can be used to issue permits from beginning to end and track all the necessary paperwork for each permit. The annual cost is \$2000, but there is a one time set up fee of \$1200. After a discussion on the software and the overall budget, it was decided that as there is money in this year's CEO/LPI budget the software could be purchased this year.

*Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion to strike \$3200 from the CEO/LPI budget and approve it in the amount of \$33,623.*

**Motion passed 3-0.**

## **Assessor**

The Selectboard reviewed the Assessor Budget.

The budget has decreased because a portion of the Administrative Assistant is no longer in this budget. It has been moved to the Administration Budget.

*Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion to accept the Assessor budget as presented.*

**Motion passed 3-0.**

## **Recreation**

The Selectboard discussed the need for a new tennis court net. There is money in this year's Budget for a net. Baines will look into the cost of a new net.

The Selectboard also discussed the need of repairs at the skateboard park. The Selectboard tentatively agreed to carry the balance forward from this year if someone can't be found to do the work on the skateboard park before the current budget ends.

*Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion to approve the Recreation budget in the amount of \$2,450.*

**Motion passed 3-0.**

## **Recreation Reserve**

There was a discussion on the amount to fund the recreation reserve with.

*Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion to approve the Recreation Reserve account in the amount of \$10,000.*

**Motion passed 3-0.**

**XI. Adjourn**

*Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion to adjourn at 6:12 pm.*

**Motion passed 3-0.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86181881787?pwd=R2d5VlpNVzluSWpEdGRGak1vSlBiZz09>

Meeting ID: 861 8188 1787

Passcode: 887369

Selectboard Approved March 9, 2023