**Minutes**

**Board of Selectmen**

**Budget Review With**

**Budget Committee**

**Date: Wednesday , April 10, 2024 Time: 4:00 pm Place: Municipal Building**

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

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

**Budget Committee Members Present**: Walter Reitz, Pennie Alley, Linda Maltais, Kate Green, Bob Baines, Sondra Wallace

**Others Present**: Terri-Lynn Baines, Hannah Moholland, Fire Chief /Deputy Ambulance Director

David Elwell, Ambulance Director, Amy Drinkwater, Assistant Ambulance Director Ryan Colson,

Deputy Fire Chief Jerry Harjula

1. **Call to Order**

Northgraves called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Northgraves led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. **Adjustments to Agenda**

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

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

There was no public comment.

1. **2024-2025 Budget Review**
   1. **Ambulance Service (line #603, Ambulance Equipment Reserve line #1165, Ambulance Reserve #1164)**

Drinkwater presented the ambulance budget. Drinkwater had provided the Selectboard and Budget Committee with a handout for her presentation.

Wages increase in positions and nightshift pay. There are 20 people on the roster, 12 are active.

Calls are down a bit. If South Thomaston doesn’t have a medic on call St. George is called. The cost for a medic from St. George responding to a South Thomaston call is $125.

With this wage increase we are more on par with surrounding areas.

Drinkwater talked about the Stabilization Grant the Ambulance Service will receive. The first amount the service will receive is $41,784. Of the first amount expected, $21,784 will go to the Ambulance reserve account and $20,000 towards wages.

Revenues are on target.

*The Budget Committee preliminarily approved the Ambulance budget in the amount of $380,989.*

**Motion passed 6-0.**

**Ambulance Reserve**

The proposed amount in the budget is $61,784. Today, we learned there will be a second tranche from the Stabilization grant. This means up to $50,000 could go to the Ambulance Reserve account.

There was a discussion on the cost of a new ambulance and questions about if we are putting away enough money. There were questions about maintenance on the current ambulance.

*The Budget Committee preliminarily approved adding $90,000 to the Ambulance Reserve. $50,000 would be from the Stabilization Grant, $40,000 from appropriation or surplus.*

**Motion passed 6-0.**

Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion to do the same as the Budget Committee.

**Motion passed 3-0.**

*The Budget committee recommended funding the Ambulance Equipment Reserve account in the amount of $5000.*

**Motion passed 6-0.**

* 1. **Fire Department (line #446, Fire Pond Maintenace Reserve line #1160, Fire Truck Reserve line #1162, Fire Equipment Reserve line #1163,Fire Truck Repair Reserve # 1171)**

Fire Chief Elwell presented the Fire Department budget.

Wage categories are Fire, Maintenance and Training.

Fire calls are up. Fire calls are not just fires, they include all times the fire department leave the station.

The maintenance line has increased.

The new utility truck is scheduled to arrive in May. The tanker truck is scheduled to arrive in September.

The hose in the Department Head budget that is not in the Selectboard Budget will be taken out of reserve.

Chief Elwell brought up the fact that fire fighter’s private vehicles are not covered by the town’s insurance. A rider can be added to the personal policies, at a cost to the fire fighter. There was a discussion at what times the fire fighters would use their own vehicles. Could this be a reimbursable expense? This could also affect other employees of the town that use their personal vehicles when working.

*The Budget Committee preliminarily approved the Fire Department budget in the amount of $167,850.*

**Motion passed 6-0.**

**Fire Truck Reserve**

The Fire Truck Reserve will be used for the new trucks that are arriving in May/September. There was a lengthy discussion on the cost and purchase of the new fire trucks. A fire truck will last approximately 30 years.

*The Budget Committee preliminarily approved funding the Fire Truck Reserve in the amount of $60,000.*

**Motion passed 6-0.**

**Fire Equipment Reserve**

*The Budget Committee preliminarily approved the Fire Equipment Reserve in the amount of $10,000.*

**Motion passed 6-0.**

**Fire Pond Maintenance**

*The Budget Committee preliminarily approved the Fire Pond Maintenance Reserve in the amount of $5,000.*

**Motion passed 6-0.**

**Fire Truck Repair Reserve**

*The Budget Committee preliminarily approved the Fire Truck Repair Reserve in the amount of $3,240.*

**Motion passed 6-0.**

The Fire Marshal gave Chief Elwell the recommendations for smoke/fire detectors placement in the municipal building. We are required to have hard wired interconnected smoke alarms. Alarms/Detectors are required to be in the sleeping area, outside of each sleeping area, each level including basement.

1. **Adjournment**

Without objection the budget committee adjourned at 5:27.

Without objection the Selectboard adjourned at 5:27.

Join Zoom Meeting   
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87397004021?pwd=bk1aR1A1OHhEdHAza0tQWnpiYXdtdz09>

Meeting ID: 873 9700 4021   
Passcode: 937756

**Selectboard approved April 23, 2024**