



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

**Minutes**  
**Board of Selectmen**  
**Budget Review With**  
**Budget Committee**

**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024    **Time:** 4:00 pm    **Place:** Municipal Building    **REV:0**

**South Thomaston Selectboard Present:** Jeff Northgraves, Sue Snow, John Spear  
**Budget Committee Members Present:** Walter Reitz, Pennie Alley, Linda Maltais, Kate Green, Bob Baines  
**Others Present:** Terri-Lynn Baines, Hannah Moholland, Betty Thomas via zoom.

**I. Call to Order**

Northgraves called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm.  
Reitz called the Budget committee meeting to order 4:01 pm.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Northgraves led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. Adjustments to Agenda**

The General Public Safety budget will be reviewed first.

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

There was no public comment.

**V. Approval of Minutes**

The Budget Committee approved the minutes of April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> as amended.

**Motion passed 6-0.**

**VI. 2024-2025 Budget Review**

**a. Conservation Commission (line #234) Forest Preserve (line # 1174)**

Wallace provided a handout with information for the Forest Preserve Reserve account.

*The Budget Committee preliminarily approved the Conservation Commission budget in the amount of \$618.*

**Motion passed 6-0.**

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### **Forest Preserve Reserve**

This is a new Reserve Account.

The Conservation Commission has applied for a grant to hopefully get funds to reimburse the Town for the purchase price of the land.

This Reserve could/will be used for expenses that the town may have to incur to satisfy grant requirements, if the application makes it through the first round. For example a survey and a yellow book appraisal, an environmental site evaluation, legal fees, clear title, and title insurance.

The Budget Committee asked several questions of Wallace. There was a lengthy conversation on the costs associated with the grant and the grant process. Wallace also reviewed the future costs such as trails and a forest management plan.

*The Budget Committee preliminarily approved the Forest Preserve Reserve in the amount of \$20,000.*

### **Motion passed 6-0.**

#### **b. Solid Waste (line #923)**

After the budget was put together we received notification of a cost increase from D M & J, the Town's hauling company.

We may start hauling our brush away as opposed to burning the brush.

Roll off service will go up approximately 18%. The Selectboard increased this line to \$40,000

The Selectboard increased the container rental line to \$30,000.

The Disposal fee is okay as budgeted.

*Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion to amend line 938 to \$40,000, line 939 to \$30,000. This increases the Solid Waste Budget to \$435,840.*

### **Motion passed 3-0.**

There was no increase in the transfer station payment. The payment was kept flat by raising the cost of the transfer station sticker to \$45 for two years.

*The Budget Committee preliminarily approved the Solid Waste budget in the amount of \$345,840.*

### **Motion passed 6-0.**

#### **c. Library (line # 1038)**

Alley presented the Library budget. The only increase in the budget is the 3.2% COLA.

Alley said they receive a lot in donations to help supplement the library budget. The Minerva Catalog Program is still a work in progress. Currently the South Thomaston Library belongs to the Lending Library, but this involves shipping books back. The Minerva Catalog Program brings books reserved through the program to the library once a week and picks up books that are being returned. Once the

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program is up and running it will be a cost saver. Currently the cost to return books to the lending library is approximately \$5 a book.

*The Budget Committee preliminarily approved the Library Budget in the amount of \$5,079.*

**Motion passed 6-0.**

**d. Recreation (line #1093, Recreation Reserve line #1173)**

*The Budget Committee preliminarily approved the Recreation Budget in the amount of \$1,600.*

**Motion passed 6-0.**

The west court will be paved soon, then after 20 days acrylic paint can be put down, then lines for one tennis court and two pickle ball courts can be painted on. The East court is in much worse shape and will be a later project.

\$360 for mulch for the playground was added to the budget.

*Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion to add \$360 to line 1112.*

**Motion passed 3-0.**

*The Budget Committee preliminarily approved to add \$360 to the Recreation Budget.*

**Motion passed 6-0.**

*The Budget Committee preliminarily approved the Recreation Reserve in the amount of \$5000.*

**Motion passed 6-0.**

**e. Georges River Shellfish/Veterans/Cemetery (line #1195, Cemetery Reserve line #1169)**

There is damage to Avenue 8 in the Village Cemetery. No money has been budgeted, but there is money for repairs in the current budget.

The mowing line was increased due to the new mowing contract.

*The Budget Committee preliminarily approved the budget at \$34,468.*

**Motion passed 6-0.**

*Spear moved and Snow seconded a motion that the Selectboard approve the Georges River Shellfish/Veterans/Cemetery Budget in the amount of \$34,468.*

**Motion passed 3-0.**

*The Budget Committee preliminarily approved the Cemetery Reserve in the amount of \$1000.*

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**Motion passed 6-0.**

**f. General Public Safety (line #721)**

The EMA Director, Betty Thomas, was available to answer questions. The EMA budget has no increase. The budget is basically for supplies.

There was a discussion on the dispatch fee paid to Knox County.

Thomas gave a brief overview of the Emergency Alert System.

*The Budget Committee preliminarily approved the General Public Safety Budget in the amount of \$81,914.*

**Motion passed 6-0.**

Thomas had asked to put \$5,000 into the Emergency Disaster Reserve. The Selectboard did not approve the amount when they reviewed budgets with Department Heads. Thomas is asking the Selectboard to reconsider. Storms are getting worse, and she expects there will be more damage in the future. The Emergency Disaster Reserve fund can be used for repairs without going to the feds for money for repairs.

The reason money was not added because it has reached the projected amount the fund was originally set up to reach.

There was a lengthy discussion on FEMA, reimbursement, damage done in the January storms and how long it may take to get all the repairs done.

There was a lengthy discussion on the purpose of the Emergency Management Reserve and whether to fund it or not.

*The Budget Committee preliminarily approved not to fund the Emergency Reserve.*

**Motion passed 6-0.**

**g. Debt Services (line #1129)**

*The Budget Committee preliminarily approved the Debt Service budget in the amount of \$32,661.*

**Motion passed 6-0.**

**h. Social Services (line #1025)**

*The Budget Committee preliminarily approved the Social Services budget in the amount of \$1,500.*

**Motion passed 6-0.**

**VII. Adjournment**

Without objection the Selectboard adjourned at 6:11 pm.

Without objection the Budget Committee at 6:12 pm.

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Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 873 9700 4021

Passcode: 937756

**Selectboard approved April 23, 2024**