

Town of South Thomaston, ME
Budget Committee Meeting
On Monday, Feb. 2, 2009

The third session of the 2009 Budget Committee was held February 2, called to order at 6:30 PM by Committee Chair John Duncan. Present were Selectmen Pennie Alley and Jeff Northgraves; Committee members Chuck Hartman, John Duncan, Becky Geesey, Kennedy Wilson, Moira Paddock, Gayle Gallant, and Patrick Florance; Administrative Assistant: Barbara Black, Code Enforcement Officer & Plumbing Inspector: Larry Terrio and guest Dorothy Meriwether.

Minutes were approved from the January 26 & 27 meetings after Barbara updated the cost of the copier maintenance contract. She also explained the breakdown of Fire Department (570) wages into Training and Calls.

The first department examined was Code Enforcement and Plumbing Inspector (560), which was tentatively approved with no changes.

Health & Sanitation (630) generated a discussion on ways to increase recycling and therefore cut expenses. Finally the Budget Committee requested a Warrant Article requesting that selectmen investigate options for future reduction of solid waste disposal costs.

Unclassified (695) was little changed except for a request for \$2000 to start planting an avenue of cedar trees on Field Street separating the cemetery from the daycare center across the road. It was suggested that the tree request be halved to 1,000 and the budget was tentatively approved with that change.

At this point there was one budget line left to review, reserves (690), but it was agreed that another session was needed to fill in some blanks and to follow up on the Fire Department's timeline for replacing equipment.

Pennie Alley suggested that she'd like to revisit the Fire Department's expectation of obtaining an ATV with a full grant. She pointed out that the ATV and the trailer requested to transport it would both require maintenance, insurance and eventually replacement. If the ATV was not obtained, would there still be a trailer needed in the budget? If so, why was the squad truck purchased earlier not sufficient? The discussion then turned to the turn-out gear requested by the Fire Department for use at the airport (gear known as silvers) and not suitable for fighting regular fires. All agreed that those questions needed answers before the budget was tentatively approved.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Geesey

