



**SELECT BOARD BUDGET MEETING**  
**Town of Southwest Harbor**  
**Town Office & Via Zoom\***  
**6:00 p.m. ~ Wednesday, January 21, 2026**

**BUDGET MINUTES**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Ball called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Carolyn Ball, Dan Norwood, and Natasha Johnson present in person. Chair Noah Burby, Vice Chair Chapin McFarland, and Town Manager Karen Reddersen via Zoom. Finance Manager Becky Gatcomb present to take minutes.
  - A. **Excused Absences** (*if any*) None.
3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** *Request of the Town Manager for a motion to adopt the agenda as presented.*

Johnson motioned to adopt the agenda. Seconded by Norwood. Vote: 5-0-0.

Norwood recused himself from any voting on the Ambulance Service due to his wife's involvement with the organization.

**4. BUDGET REVIEW:**

*6:00 p.m. SWH/Tremont Nursing Association (Ambulance Service)*

Andrew Cline gave a presentation of the Association's current operations, detailing that 326 of 485 calls in 2025 were in Southwest Harbor, and that they averaged a 9.3-minute response time. He updated the board on the success of the two-provider model and announced the new hire of an Executive Director. Ball asked what the main reasons would be for the \$58,000 increase in the budget request, and Cline noted that the two-provider model had previously been partially funded by a grant, but that the association would now need to fund the position in full. He also attributed the new Executive Director position to this increase and explained the benefits of having these positions. The board members and Cline discussed potential options to increase revenue or reduce operational costs, funding sustainability and grant opportunities, billing practices (including non-transports) and opportunities for collaboration with other agencies/fire departments. A resident, Mark Sullivan, also spoke in support of the Ambulance Service and its funding request.

*7:00 p.m. Contract Services*

\* *To access the meeting using Zoom, please click the meeting link on the home page of the Town's website [www.southwestharbormaine.org](http://www.southwestharbormaine.org)*

Reddersen gave an overview of Contracted Services, including assessing services, electricity, water hydrants, and landscaping. Jim Vallette spoke about solid waste and recycling, explaining the costs incurred from EMR, Casella, and Municipal Waste Hub.

7:30 p.m. Boards & Committee

➤ *Presentation by the Conservation Commission*

Katherine Lindquist and Ann Judd spoke on behalf of the Conservation Commission. They gave an overview of operations and budget requests. The board noted that the request for the Rhoades Park Reserve should increase to reflect the Water/Sewer increase of 15% this year; \$135 was added.

➤ *Presentation by the Historical Cemetery Committee*

Julie Fernald and Joan Terry spoke on behalf of the Historical Cemetery Committee. They gave an update on current and future projects, and explained the budget request for FY27.

➤ *Discussion of other committees*

The board briefly reviewed other committee requests but there have been no changes from FY26.

- 5. NEXT MEETING DATE:** *Adoption of a motion to confirm the date of the next Budget meeting for Monday January 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at the Town Office Meeting room.*

Johnson motioned to confirm the next meeting date of January 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at the Town Office. Seconded by Norwood. Vote: 5-0-0.

**6. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**Personnel Matter:** *Possible adoption of a motion for the Select Board to find that public discussion of this personnel matter could be reasonably expected to violate the employee's reputation or right to privacy, and therefore, to go into executive session to discuss the appointment of an individual, as permitted by 1 MRSA 405.6.A.*

Johnson motioned to enter executive session at 8:00 p.m., pursuant to 1 MRSA 405 (6) (A) for discussion of a personnel matter related to the employment of an individual wherein the discussion of this personnel matter could be reasonably expected to violate the employee's reputation or right to privacy. Seconded by Norwood. Vote: 5-0-0.

Johnson motioned to exit Executive Session at 9:17 p.m. Seconded by Norwood. Vote: 5-0-0.


**7. ADJOURNMENT:**


Johnson motioned to adjourn at 9:17 p.m. Seconded by Norwood. Vote: 5-0-0.

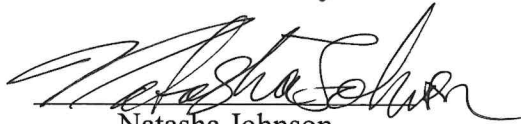
Respectfully Submitted,

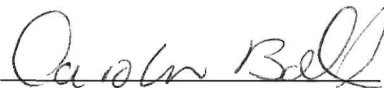
Becky Gatcomb  
Finance Manager

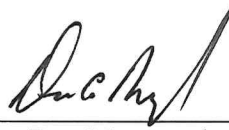
**APPROVED**

  
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Noah Burby, Chair

  
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Chapin McFarland, Vice Chair

  
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Natasha Johnson

  
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Carolyn Ball

  
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Dan Norwood