



Budget Committee Meeting
Town of Gorham
Gorham Town Hall
Public Meeting Room

Minutes of February 13, 2017

Members Present: Michael Waddell, Chairman; Diane Bouthot, Vice Chairman; Reuben Rajala, Secretary; Robert Demers; Lee Carroll; Doug Gralenski; Dan McCrum; Todd Lamarque; Terry Oliver, Selectmen's Rep

Town Staff Present: Robin Frost, Town Manager; Denise Vallee, Director of Finance & Administration; PJ Cyr, Police Chief; Grace LaPierre, Board of Selectman; Michelle Lutz, Assessor; Carol Porter, Town Clerk

Others present: Arthur Perry, Abby Evankow

Minutes Taker: Shelli Fortin

AGENDA ITEMS & DISCUSSION

1. Call to order: 6:00 PM

2. Approve Minutes 2/9/2017: **Motion to approve from Diane Bouthot with a second from Lee Carroll. Voted in the affirmative, with an abstention from Terry Oliver.**

4. **Work Session on Budget Recommendations- Continued from Public Hearing:**

Mike Waddell explained that at the last meeting, Lee Carroll had made a motion to accept the rest of the warrant article as presented including Article 9 as amended, which was seconded by Doug Gralenski, and a vote was never taken on the motion. Amended means that they added \$40,000 to the administration line in Article 9 for a total of \$3,926,467.00. Denise Vallee agreed that this figure was correct. Lee Carroll advised that there is still a motion and a second on the floor. **Lee Carroll again made a motion to accept Article 9 as amended, adding \$40,000 to the salary line, for a total of \$3,926,467.00. Seconded by Reuben Rajala.** Todd Lamarque stated that the committee was just hit with this information on Thursday night and asked why the Selectmen are not putting this in the budget. TM Frost advised that it was because the Selectmen did not know about the petition when the budget was created for this year. Lee Carroll agreed with Frost, stating that it is up to the Selectmen to present the budget, but if there is something they did not know about they can't be responsible for adding that, as the numbers had been submitted prior to the petition being added to the warrant. Bob Demers stated that he felt the committee was overstepping its boundaries. Terry Oliver asked if the money was not added now, and the townspeople eliminate the town manager form of government, could the money be added on the floor at town meeting and was advised it could be. If the money is added and is not needed, it would go back to the unrestricted fund balance. Carroll advised that if it is added and the article does not pass, it could be drawn out on the floor as well. Waddell advised that after speaking with the DRA, the closer the committee stays to what was done at the last meeting, the safer they are. Doug Gralenski felt that if the committee was to vote to do something different than what was decided at the public meeting, then the public may be upset. Terry Oliver agreed,

stating that if the motion fails, they can take the money out on the floor. Lamarque again asked about the money that was moved from the Revolving Fund to the operating budget and if there was a decision on whether the article can stay on the warrant. Denise Vallee advised that it can stay on the warrant, but for discussion purposes only. Lamarque mentioned that for all intents and purposes, it is gone. Reuben Rajala advised Lamarque that he could recommend a lower number on the floor. TM Frost advised that you cannot change the revenues that go into the revolving fund, as that is how it was set up. Frost confirmed that \$21,000 in revenues will go into the fund, and that \$36,000 in expenses was moved back to the operating budget. Carroll suggested that when debating Article 8 on the floor, make a note to the public that when Article 9 is presented, there will be a request to reduce the amount for the Recreation Department based on this. Bob Demers reminded the committee that they did take a vote on reducing the Recreation budget at the last meeting, and it failed. Carroll explained that the original Recreation budget was changed by the committee based on the anticipated changes to the revolving fund. Carroll suggested that the ideal way to handle it is to make a motion on the floor to take out the \$40,000 and \$35,000, if need be. Gralenski stated that he would like to do it at the town meeting, as people in attendance will have the knowledge and understanding of why it is being changed. **Lee Carroll made a motion to call the question. All in favor, except Todd Lamarque. No abstentions. Vote taken on original motion to accept Article 9 as amended with all in favor except Todd Lamarque. No abstentions. Motion passes 8-1.**

The Warrant was signed by all members of the Budget Committee.

5. Old Business

Mike Waddell asked the committee to make a motion to reimburse Bill Jackson for the meeting that he took minutes for in the amount of \$75, plus \$25 for expenses. **Terry Oliver made the motion to reimburse Jackson for the minutes and expenses, seconded by Diane Bouthot. All in favor. Abstention from Todd Lamarque.**

6. New Business

Diane Bouthot stated that she was highly insulted by the remarks from TM Frost in the email that was received by the members of the Budget Committee this afternoon at 4:30. Bouthot stated that she had never worked as hard as she did on this budget, and for Frost to say that they wasted time and strayed from their responsibilities was unacceptable and uncalled for. Bouthot said that they worked so hard because the taxes went up more than \$2 per thousand and this is hard for a lot of the elderly in town. Bouthot stated that she was very upset, felt it was unjustified and uncalled for, and wanted it included in the minutes. TM Frost stated that the committee did work hard and there was a lot of growth, but that there was a lot of time spent on issues that were not within the purview of the budget committee. Bouthot stated that they have the right to ask questions and it was not a waste of time. Frost stated that she respectfully disagreed.

Mike Waddell stated that he felt it was the best Budget Committee that he has ever served on. He stated that the members always show up, they have read the material, and they ask questions, and he thanked them for their service.

7. Date of Next Meeting:

8. Dan McCrum made a motion to adjourn at 6:30 PM, seconded by Diane Bouthot. Voted in the affirmative.

Respectfully Submitted
Shelli Fortin