

2016 BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

January 14, 2016

At the Gorham Town Hall at 6:00 pm

Members Present: Mike Waddell, Diane Bouthot, Glen Eastman,, Robert Demers, Patrick Lefebvre, Terry Oliver, Town Manager, Robin Frost, Denise Vallee, Finance, Chief of Police PJ Cyr, Grace LaPierre, Selectman, Michelle Lutz, Assessing Department

Excused: Reuben Rajala

Absent: Terry Rhoderick

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

POLICE DEPARTMENT/DISPATCH:

Presentation of 2016 proposed budget by Chief PJ Cyr. The Chief told the committee he had 29 line items in his budget, noting the increase due to overtime and lack of police officers. He stated he had recently hired a newly trained officer from Groveton to his roster, but that he is still one man short of a 7 man roster. He stated he recently received a letter of resignation from Officer Benjamin who was going to Berlin Police Dept. The Chief noted that past interviews had been discouraging with poor turnouts and recruits who were unable to pass both of the exams, written & physical. The Chief went on to state some of the problems he was having keeping officers in the Town which included poor work schedule (not enough time off due to shortage in staffing) and lack of increased training and schooling for the officers to name a few. The Chair asked the Chief to give an example of the current work schedule; The chief will forward a copy of the current schedule they are using for the officers at this time. The committee had questions regarding the current police cruisers being used and mileage. He then went on to review his dispatcher budget. He said they are in need of new dispatch equipment that would come out of the CRF and the current asking price for such equipment is approximately \$21,667.00. The Chief would also like to purchase body cameras for the safety of his officers. The cameras and software are approximately \$1200.00 per camera unit.

FINANCE:

Denise began her presentation with the proposed new office software contract provided by Patriot Properties. She went into full detail about the software program and the all around better performance the program would provide. Denise provided members with a hard copy of the contract for their review. Denise will continue the Finance presentation on 1/19/16 as time ran short.

ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

1. Electronic copy of Great Lakes Hydro Settlement document from Robin – Received
2. Benefits breakdown by Department – Received.
3. Fire/EMS Report – Received
4. Quotes from Jeff for new plow truck and fencing at Libby Recreational Facility
5. Engineering Reports & Costs PDF form from TM Frost
6. Spring Road estimates costs
7. Electronic file for the Software Contract from TM Frost

ACTION ITEMS FROM THIS MEETING:

1. Current employee roster with titles;
2. List of officers who have left the police department over the past 5 years;
3. Current work schedule that the officers are following;
4. Mileage and gas used for each of the cruisers

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: A Motion to Adjourn was made by Pat with a second from Terry, all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

The next scheduled Budget Committee Meeting is Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at 6:00 pm with presentation and review of Finance/Capital Reserve/Tax Collecting/Assessing 2016 budgets.

APPROVED AS IS 1/19/16