

2016 BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

January 19, 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, Carol Porter, Tax Collector, Elaine Riendeau, Deputy Tax Collector, Michelle Lutz, Assessing Department, Chief PJ Cyr

Absent: Terry Rhoderick

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

Review and accept the minutes from the meetings held on 1/12/16 and 1/14/16. A Motion was made by Patrick with a 2nd from Diane to approve as presented. All were in favor. Reuben abstained from the 1/14/16 vote as he was absent from the meeting.

The Board asked if Terry Rhoderick was still a member. The Chair stated he had not received his official written resignation as of date. The Chair did state that he had a possible candidate to replace Terry if he did resign.

FINANCE:

Denise Vallee. Denise continued her Finance presentation as she ran short on time at the previous meeting. In reference to the software proposal she concluded by saying that BMSI is very outdated and will become obsolete. The new software is a priority and a necessity for quality work performance.

TAX COLLECTOR:

Carol Porter. Carol also expressed her support for the new software proposal as it would be a great asset for her department. Carol brought before the Board the tax liabilities as they currently exist: One Million Dollars for the paper mill unpaid, roughly half a Million for the Munce properties, and 70,000 +/- for the Gleason property. So far as is known right now, the town will continue to encumber roughly One Million Dollars to cover the unpaid taxes.

ASSESSING:

Michelle Lutz. Michelle presented the board with a spreadsheet showing approximately Nine Million Dollars in lost valuations. The Board discussed the various properties involved.

Michelle spoke in support of the proposed new software package also and said she researched with other towns who stated that have had excellent results with the software.

DISCUSSION:

The Chair advised the Board that the loss valuation would equal roughly One Dollar on the tax rate and that the roads article which was brought to the Board tonight would be another One Dollar fifty-one cents on the tax rate and the budget as presented is an additional thirty-three cents on the tax rate for a total of \$2.83.

The Chair also informed the Board that he was contacted by Arthur Perry of the Gorham Fire Dept. who wished to come in and give his take on the merger of the Fire and EMS Departments. After some discussion the Board agreed to hear from Mr. Perry and anyone else who appeared at our next meeting. Discussion was also had regarding the meeting scheduled for 1/25/16 for the Water and Sewer Dept. Budget and the Library Budget. A time change in the start of the meeting was requested so that members may attend the 6:00 scheduled Selectman's Meeting at the town hall. All members agreed this was a good idea. The Chair stated he would contact Dave Patry, Superintendent of the Water Department and Elizabeth Thompson, Librarian to see if they concur with the time change. If all agree, the meeting will begin at 5:00 p.m. at the Gorham Public Library.

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

ACTION ITEMS FROM THIS MEETING:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: A Motion to Adjourn was made by Pat with a second from Jerry, all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

The next scheduled Budget Committee Meeting is Thursday, January 21, 2016 at 6:00 pm where Paul Bousquet, Superintendent of Schools will speak to the Budget Committee.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED 1/27/16