

2016 BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

January 25, 2016

Gorham Public Library at 5:00 pm

Members Present: Mike Waddell, Diane Bouthot, Glen Eastman,, Robert Demers, Reuben Rajala, Dan McCrum, Terry Oliver, Denise Vallee, Dave Patry, Superintendent Water Department, Jessica Jacques, Water Commissioners: Lee Carroll, Roger Goulette, Ted Miller, Gorham Public Library representatives Elizabeth Thompson, Librarian, David Graham., & Clint Emmett.

Excused: Patrick Lefebvre, Dennis Arguin, Todd Lamarque

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

WATER & SEWER DEPARTMENT: Commissioner Lee Carroll presented the Water and Sewer Department 2016 proposed budget; he provided handouts for the Committee members to follow. Their budget is in great shape. They are projecting to have three (3) projects during the summer months: 1. Berlin-Gorham Road project-all manhole covers being replaced. This project will be in conjunction with the State of New Hampshire. 2. Evans Street – sewer maintenance project; 3. Tinker Brook project – work will be done in conjunction with the Public Works Department and the hired contractors. Lee also told the board that the plant is in great shape for being 36 years old with only minimal repairs. Also noted the current rate will remain in place.

GORHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY: David Graham presented the Gorham Public Library 2016 proposed budget; he provided handouts for the Committee members to follow along with. David told the Committee the Library was requesting a 3% raise increase to cover pay increases and health insurance coverage for one of their qualified employees who has not been offered health insurance coverage. The increase in their budget is approximately \$9,000.00. He went on to say regarding the pay increase they feel it is necessary to bring library staff members up to a more accurate rate of pay comparable with the town employees. The rate of pay is currently under \$8.00 for some employees. David went on to review the capital reserve fund which they already have established and spoke of much needed repairs that they would like to use out of the fund. He stated in the past all repairs have come out of the Murphy Fund. Regarding the Operating Budget Elizabeth stated they had received approximately 6 grants in 2015. Also told the Committee they had a generous donation of \$1800.00 from a quilt that was donated and raffle tickets were sold. Stated this money went to the children's programs.

DISCUSSION: The Committee had questions regarding the upstairs space of the library building and if it was still vacant. Elizabeth stated that yes it is vacant and no changes have been done to the current space. Some of the committee members voiced their opinion of the possibility of the Recreation Department taking vacancy their or possibly the Assessing Department. The Committee agreed quotes would need to be given and other research would need to be done before the possibility of anything new.

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 – Received
6. Spring Road estimates costs - Received
7. Electronic file for the Software Contract from TM Frost - Received
8. Current employee roster with titles- Received
9. List of officers who have left the police department over the past 5 years- Received
10. Current work schedule that the officers are following - Received
11. Mileage and gas used for each of the cruisers - Received

ACTION ITEMS FROM THIS MEETING:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: A Motion to Adjourn was made by Bob with a second from Diane, all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 5:50pm.

The next scheduled Budget Committee Meeting is a work session on January 26, 2016 at 6:00 pm

APPROVED AS WRITTEN 1/26/16