

2016 BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

January 26, 2016

Gorham Town Hall at 6:00 pm

Members Present: Mike Waddell, Diane Bouthot, Glen Eastman,, Robert Demers, Reuben Rajala, Dan McCrum, Terry Oliver, Patrick Lefebvre, Todd Lamarque, Denise Vallee, PJ Cyr, David, Graham, Elizabeth Thompson, Grace LaPierre, Michelle Lutz, Gail, Wigler, Carol Porter, Rick Eichler

Excused: Dennis Arguin

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

Review and accept the minutes of 1/19, 1/21, and 1/25/16. A motion was made by Glen with a second from Dan to accept all three sets of meeting minutes with the exception of a minor change to be made to the minutes of 1/21/16 (Paul Bousquet's presentation) all were in favor. Robin will correct the 1/25/16 meeting minutes and forward them to the committee members.

DISCUSSION:

Denise distributed handouts the 2016 Town Warrant, and the 2015 MS1 form and a MS1 form adjusted to the valuation as we know it today for a 2015-2016 comparison. Town Manager Frost opened the meeting by informing the Committee of the changes that the Selectmen agreed upon regarding cuts to the proposed budget. Regarding the Capital Reserves and Capital Outlay changes that have been made to each department. She stated the cuts were necessary to improve the proposed 2016 budget. She also informed the Committee of a new line item number that has been added # 1-4915-1-986 entitled Road Resurfacing & Reconstruction where \$200,000.00 has been placed in this line instead of the original standalone engineering Warrant Article.

After much discussion the consensus of the Committee was that the selectmen's reductions were satisfactory. The Chair asked the TM where we stood with these reductions and reduced valuation. She informed the Committee that we were a \$1.01 above last year's tax rate. The Chair informed the Committee that with the Fund Balance of almost one million dollars less one hundred and ten thousand for Tinker Brook the fund could comfortably take an additional reduction of \$1.00 or \$277 thousand. The Committee and Selectmen present agreed that if town finances remain more or less as they are this should happen and there should be no tax increase next year with this budget.

The Chair asked if there were any line items or articles that needed further discussion or clarification. There was discussion regarding the dredging fund, the Cascade playground, the library building capital reserve, the police department budget, the recreation revolving fund as it pertains to purchasing the funeral home, and a general discussion about petition warrant articles. The consensus of the Committee was to not change any of the selectmen's recommended budget items. The Committee was concerned about some of the petitioned articles and expressed the need for those making such requests to be present at the Public Hearing.

The Chair asked one last time if we were ready to go to the Public Hearing and if people were comfortable with the budgets as it currently exists. The consensus was yes and the meeting was adjourned.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: A Motion to Adjourn was made by Diane with a second from Bob, all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

The next scheduled Budget Committee Meeting is the Public Hearing scheduled for Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 6:30 at the Medallion Opera House.