

2016 BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

January 5, 2016

At the Gorham Town Hall at 6:00 pm

Members Present: Mike Waddell, Dennis Arguin, Diane Bouthot, Glen Eastman, Dan McCrum, Robert Demers, Patrick Lefebvre, Town Manager, Robin Frost, Denise Vallee, Grace LaPierre, Selectman, Chad Miller, EMS, Rick Eichler, Gorham Fire Chief

Excused: Terry Oliver, Terry Rhoderick, Reuben Rajala

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

Review and accept minutes from the Budget Committee Meeting held on December 1, 2015. Motion was made by Diane and seconded by Dan, all were in favor.

DISCUSSION:

Bob Demers suggested that all meetings be completed by 8:00 p.m. unless unforeseen circumstances arise. A Motion was then made by Bob and seconded by Patrick. All were in favor.

REVIEW OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES FOR TOWN BUDGETS TO DATE:

Presentation was then made by Denise to bring the board members up to date on the 2016 proposed budget changes. See attached document from Denise's presentation.

01/05/16 Budget Committee Meeting:

2015	2016	Increase	Percentage
Gen Gov't - Operating Budget	1,234,539	1,302,265	67,726 5.486%
Public Safety	1,221,198	1,295,599	74,401 6.092%
Highway	738,330	748,710	10,389 1.407%
Solid Waste	307,275	310,099	2,824 0.919%
Health & Welfare	31,700	31,700	0 0.000%
Culture & Recreation	152,453	159,817	7,364 4.830%
Debt Service	129,107	14,812	-114,295 -88.527%
Transfers to CRFs/Trusts	540,295	723,157	182,862 33.845%
Capital Outlay	319,943	289,943	-30,000 -9.377%
TOTAL	4,675,340	4,876,611	201,271 4.305%
BUDGET: Less Tinker Brook & MOH	4,675,340	4,765,416	90,076 1.927%

Budget includes 2% increase for all employees, with the exception of Dispatch who will receive 3.5% per the Union Contract.

One additional full-time police officer - increase in PD budget.

Personnel Benefits: 2.6% increase in health insurance premium beginning 7/1;

Increase in retirement for 1 additional police officer, and one additional fulltime paramedic in EMS.

Increase in the planning board budget for a Master Plan Update.
Increases in the CRF budget for purchases/upcoming projects \$182,862.
Reductions include: \$10,000 decrease in legal fees.
No longer have the bond to pay on Town Hall - LTD reduced by \$114,295.
Capital Outlay (including Agency Fund Requests) is down by \$3

REVIEW OF FIRE & EMS BUDGETS:

Chief Eichler presented his final budget as he is retiring on July 31, 2016. He reported that the grant for the fire truck last year did not go through and that they would not be applying for another grant this year. He reviewed his budget which showed a minor increase. The board had a number of questions about succession. TM Frost reported to the board that a committee is studying the combining of Fire & EMS. Various members expressed concern about financial and operational impacts. The Chair asked the TM provide the Budget Committee with a copy of the finished report after the Selectmen receive it.

EMS:

Chad Miller reviewed for the Board the events of 2015 including the addition of a fulltime paramedic and the addition of a third ambulance, both of which were not approved by the Budget Committee last year. He explained the rational and the causes that required the town to do those things. The consensus of the Budget Committee was that his reasons were understandable, but also foreseeable and that we hope to not have this occur again. Chad also informed the Board that his revenues are up dramatically by over one hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000.00) the board discussed the wear and tear on the existing ambulances which were a primary cause of the need to buy the third ambulance last year. Chad assured the Board that with the new ambulance and a contribution to the Capital Reserve of one hundred thousand dollars for a future ambulance that we should be okay for this year. Chad also discussed at length the pros and cons of consolidating Fire and EMS. Chad also provided the Board with a written report which explained in detail the events of last year. See attached.

ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

Library: The Chair reported that the library is now on the town's accounting format.

ACTION ITEMS FROM THIS MEETING:

1. Complete breakout of benefit costs per department;
2. Complete Fire/EMS Report on department consolidation
3. GLHA settlement

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

None

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

The next scheduled Budget Committee Meeting is Thursday, January 7, 2016 at 6:00 pm. Presentation and review of the Recreation and Parks Dept. 2016 proposed Budget