

2015 BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, February 10, 2015
Public Hearing

Members Present: Mike Waddell, Chairman Terry Oliver, Glen Eastman, Reuben Rajala, Robert Demers, Dan McCrum, Diane Bouthot

Excused: Pat Lefebvre

Others: TM Frost, Denise Vallee, Selectmen Jeff Schall, Grace LaPierre & approximately 40 members of the public and town department heads.

The Public Hearing regarding the 2015 Budget for the Town of Gorham was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair.

REVIEW OF ARTICLES:

The Chair began the review of the articles line by line.

The Chair made it clear to the public that if there were any questions regarding the 2015 budget this would be the time and place to ask them. The Chair then began the review of the 2015 Budget with a power point presentation. He began with an Operating Budget Comparison from 2013 thru 2015. He noted the changes between the 2014 and the 2015 Budgets. The Chair reviewed each of the Warrant Articles individually and at the end of each review he asked the public if there were any questions.

The review of Articles 1-15 were without comment. A question regarding Article 16, 4th of July appropriation was raised by Janet Corrigan. She asked if she could speak on behalf of the 4th of July Committee. She stated that she and the committee were concerned at the way the Article currently reads. She stated that it makes it sound like the 4th of July Committee is receiving \$10,000.00 a year to help with the 4th of July expenses and this is incorrect information. She stated that over the past few years they have been reduced to receiving \$5,000.00 and that the other \$5,000.00 was being given to the Police Dept. and Ambulance Dept. for their expenses to help with the 4th of July festivities. Glen Eastman made a Motion to replace the \$5,000.00 dollars, but the Chair told him he would have to wait until the Public Hearing of the 2015 Budget was completed and the Board was in regular session.

Articles 17-36 were without comment. Article 37 had some concerns by Glen Eastman who stated he was very concerned with the way Tri-County Community Action was being funded. Selectman, Jeff Schall also had questions regarding the increase in the budget in the transportation amount. Patty Stolte, representative for Tri-County Cap was on hand to explain their current funding and operations. She stated she could provide more information if needed before the Town Meeting and there would be a representative from Tri-County Cap at the Town Meeting.

Articles 38-40 were without comment. Article 41: Androscoggin River Athletes: Selectman, Jeff Schall asked how the money from this Article would be used? Pamela Couture & Theresa Letarte spoke on behalf of the Androscoggin River Athletes and the Special Olympics and answered the questions. She stated the money appropriated would go toward the costs associated with sending the athletes to compete.

The Chair concluded the Review of the Articles. He asked the Selectmen if there were any Articles the Selectmen were not recommending and the Selectmen stated "no" and that they were all in favor of the Articles. There being no further questions the Chair closed the public hearing at 7:20 pm.

The Chair recessed the meeting from 7:20 to 7:30 pm.

The Chair called the public meeting of the Gorham Budget Committee to order at 7:30 pm. The first order of business was to review and accept the minutes of the January 26, and January 29, 2015 meetings.

A Motion to Accept the Minutes of January 26, and January 29, 2015 was made by Glen with a second from Diane. All were in favor.

VOTE ON 2015 BUDGET ARTICLES:

The Committee then reviewed the MS-737 2015 Operating Budget Appropriations in order to make their adjustments and to vote on their recommendations for the Town Meeting budget.

The only articles that were brought up for discussion were:

Article 16: It was again reviewed and it was agreed upon by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee to rewrite the Article to read as follows: "To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 for the support of the 4th of July Committee." Tax rate Impact: \$0.04. A Motion to Accept the changes to Article 16 was made by Dan with a 2nd from Terry. All were in favor.

Article 17: Bob Demers stated he was not in favor of the purchase of a new fire engine. The Fire Chief stated that a new truck would not be purchased unless he received grant monies.

Article 32: Reuben stated he believed the River Maintenance Trust Fund appropriation should be increased. A discussion amongst the board ensued and the consensus was not to alter the article at this time.

The Chair asked for a Motion on the 2015 Proposed Budget as amended. Glen made the Motion to Support all the Articles as Amended and received a second from Bob. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

"REVISED DRAFT" 3/15/15