

2015 BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

January 22, 2015

At the Gorham Town Hall at 6:00 pm

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

Excused:

Others: Town Manager Frost, Denise Vallee, Jeff Stewart, Parks & Recreation

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

Review and accept minutes from the Budget Committee Meeting held on January 15, 2015:

DISCUSSION:

Selectmen Representative Terry Oliver wanted to discuss the first paragraph of the 1/15/15 Minutes regarding a discussion that took place between the Chair and TM Frost. Terry stated that he did not agree with the way the paragraph was written. The Chair asked how he would like the paragraph to read? Terry said that it was his intention to end a discussion that he believed was becoming heated. Glen stated that Terry shouldn't have interrupted the discussion. Pat suggested removing the paragraph. The Chair concurred and asked for a motion to amend the minutes.

A Motion to Strike Paragraph One of the 1/15/15 Minutes was made by Patrick with a 2nd by Bob. All were in favor. Diane abstained as she was absent at the last meeting.

A Motion to Accept the Amended Meeting Minutes of January 15, 2015 was made by Terry with a second from

Action items from previous meetings that still need to be provided:

- A. The Cascade playground town/mill agreement; an old Lease Agreement from 1981 was found, but did not contain the information the Committee is looking for. This matter will be brought to the Selectmen's attention for review and recommendations. Ongoing.
- B. EMS roster of personnel and how many hours each worked in 2014, hard copies. Denise stated the WS's are completed and the 1099's are being processed at this time.
- C. Moose River information. Information has been given to the Selectmen to review and make a recommendation. Ongoing.
- D. Outside Contracts: Still need information regarding Randolph and Shelburne. No new information at this time. Ongoing.
- E. Updated review of values (Accountant's information) from Denise-hard copy. Denise provided "rough" estimates of the amounts in the Fund Balance and Deferred Revenue balance. She expects to have the exact figures from the Town Accountant in early February. Ongoing.
- F. Property Appeals spreadsheet from Assessor Lutz – hard copies.

Continuation of the 4th Quarter Budget Review:

Continuation of the 4th Quarter Budget was presented by the Finance Director, Denise Vallee. Denise advised that the town is scheduled to receive the FEMA reimbursement for the damages done by Hurricane Irene; the approximate refund is \$97,000.00. The Fund Balance was discussed in detail as well as Revenues, Capital Reserve funds, and the Overlay account. Denise will confirm the total amounts after she receives the final figures from the Town Auditor. Denise announced that the Town Hall Bond will be paid in full in April, 2015. Denise stated the estimated tax impact is .49cents. She stated the estimated tax rate is \$11.50; this figure is down .40 cents from last year. She did reveal that there is a \$7,000.00 line item in their budget at this time for merit increases.

Parks and Recreation Budget Review:

The Parks & Recreation Director presented his budget, he stated there were no major changes and that is budget is down from the prior year. He stated he would like to purchase a new bus in 2015 the approximate cost is \$51,000.00 and that a portion of the funds would come out of the Capital Reserve line and a portion from the Revolving Fund. He is also looking to update necessary changes at the information booth that are very much needed. He stated the funding for this project would come out of his Field Maintenance line. Jeff explained that the Revolving Fund operates like a savings account would. You deposit money into the account and when you need money for purchases you take the money out. The committee had questions for Jeff regarding the Recreation Departments Revolving Budget. Jeff was asked if there is a cap amount on his Revolving Budget at this time. He stated not at this time. The committee also asked Jeff about purchasing the nearby funeral home for the new recreation department. Jeff stated he had no information on it at this time and that all questions will need to be answered by the TM and the Selectmen. TM & Selectmen Representative Oliver stated that they have placed a bid on said building, but at this time they have no new information and did not reveal the purchase bid that the town placed. TM Frost stated this purchase would require a Warrant Article of course.

General review:

A general discussion and review by the budget committee members of the budget that was presented tonight. Questions were raised regarding the rumor of the town purchasing the funeral home that is located next door to the town hall. They also have concerns regarding the Moose River project and Stony Brook issues that need looking into. The committee agreed that the following will need to be Warrant Articles: The possible purchase of the funeral home; The \$75,000.00 figure for asphalt projects (to be used for Tinker Brook repairs) the other \$100,000.00 for the Tinker Brook repair would come out of the **Fund Balance**.

Old Business:

- January 27, 2015: EMS will be back to answer further questions.
- January 29, 2015: The Chair is requesting a final budget review and consensus on the budget as presented to date. The Chair asked Robin to have the DRA budget form prepared for this night.

New Business:

Monday, January 26, 2015 Library budget and Water & Sewer budget presentations

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn was made by Terry with a second from Patrick. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.