

# 2015 BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

January 8, 2015

At the Gorham Town Hall at 6:00 pm

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

**Others:** Town Manager Frost, Denise Vallee, Grace Lapierre, Rick Eichler, Chad Miller, PJ Cyr, Dana Horne

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

## **Review and accept minutes from the Budget Committee Meeting held on January 6, 2015:**

A Motion to Accept the meeting Minutes of January 6, 2015 was made by Glen with a second from Bob, all were in favor. Reuben abstained as he was absent at the last meeting.

### **Appointment of vacancy:**

A motion to appoint Patrick Lefebvre to serve as a Budget Committee member was made by Terry with a second from Glen. All were in favor. Patrick's term will run until March 10, 2015.

### **Action items from January 6, 2015 meeting that still need to be provided:**

- A. Outside EMS Contracts with background information from TM Frost
- B. The Assessing costs that were given to the Selectmen at their last meeting
- C. A report on the current health costs with a clear breakdown of plans provided to town employees
- D. The Cascade playground town/mill agreement

### **Action list from January 8, 2015 meeting:**

- A. Fire truck information regarding grant money and Capital Reserve Fund amounts
- B. Complete roster of fulltime and part time Police Officers, EMS personnel, and Fire Dept, and their titles
- C. Hard copies of Chad's presentation for the Budget Committee to have in hand
- D. Total fuel consumption for the past three years from the Fire Dept., Police Dept., and EMS Dept.
- E. A report on the current health costs with a clear breakdown of plans provided to town employees.
- F. Hard copies of the EMS outside contracts and associated spreadsheets and other documentation.

### **Police Dept. Budget review:**

Chief PJ Cyr presented his 2015 expense, revenue & capital budgets for the Police Department and Dispatchers. He noted that his budget is up approximately \$19,000 from last year. This budget includes bringing the two part time officers up to par with the other patrolmen in hourly wages and increasing their hours. The budget also includes a new mountain bike for approximately \$1000 for foot patrol, a replacement of the 2008 cruiser, a new generator and 24hr monitoring system for the repeater building located on Pine Mountain and the filling of the vacant police officer position.

### **Fire Dept. Budget review:**

Chief Rick Eichler presented his 2015 expense, revenue, & capital budgets for the Fire Department. He is looking to replace six sets of equipment/gear that are outdated for his firemen. He would also like to purchase a new fire engine that would retire the outdated fire engine currently located at the Cascade Fire Dept. He is working on grant that would help fund the new fire engine with additional money appropriated from the Capital Reserve Fund to purchase said new engine. The new engine would cost approximately \$280-300,000. There was confusion between the Fire Chief and Officer Dana Horne and the Town Manager regarding funding for this item if the grant is unsuccessful. The TM represented that if the grant failed nothing would be appropriated. This was not the understanding of the Fire Company. This is to be worked out at the next Selectman's meeting Monday the 12<sup>th</sup>.

**EMS Budget review:**

EMS Director Chad Miller presented his 2015 expense, revenue, & capital budgets for the EMS Department. He stated his budget is in great shape due to the amount of revenue the EMS Department is bringing in from transfers and the new billing system is working great for his department. He gave a breakdown of transfers for 2014: 104 from AVH, 29 from Colebrook, 12 from Weeks, 22 from Memorial, and 24 other types of transfers. He stated he has approximately 35 members on his staff with 20 of them being active employees. Chad stated he is not looking to purchase a third ambulance at this time.

**General review:**

A general discussion and review by the budget committee members of the budgets that were presented tonight. The Committee identified a number of unanswered questions and expressed concerns about as yet unbudgeted or inadequately budgeted items. The Chair pointed out that the Tinker Brook Hill repair, Fire Engine, Funeral Home purchase, Outside EMS Contracts, Union Contract, and Moose River work could add as much as \$500,000 to the \$100,000 that is currently projected for an increase. The TM stated that these issues would be discussed at the next Selectman's Meeting.

**Old Business:**

Warrant Article setting the number of members to nine which would include an ex officio was discussed again. The Chair informed that Committee that he had spoken with Lee Carroll and that in Lee's memory the Water and Sewer representative was an elected member not Ex Officio. That said the Chair asked the TM to prepare a Warrant article that would set the membership of the Committee to One Ex Officio (Selectman) and 8 elected members. The TM stated that the elections this year would be based on the existing arrangement which is one Ex Officio and 9 elected members.

**New Business:**

The next Budget Committee meeting is scheduled for January 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. which will include the budget review for the Highway Department.

**Adjourn:**

Motion to adjourn was made by Bob with a second from Terry. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

APPROVED AS NOTED 01/11/15