

Draft

**Minutes
Gorham Budget Committee Meeting
7/23/15**

Present: Mike Waddell, Dennis Arguin, Diane Bouthot, Reuben Rajala, Bob Demers, Glen Eastman, Terry Oliver, Robin Frost, Denise Vallee

Mike opened the meeting at 6 PM.

1) First on the agenda was the review and acceptance of an amendment, written by Reuben Rajala, for minutes of February 10, 2015. Glen Eastman moved that they be accepted, Terry Oliver seconded. Discussion was had and one correction, a typographical error, was noted. The minutes were passed over in order that Reuben Rajala could make a correction, which is below:

Attachment to minutes of Public Hearing 2-10-15

Here are my suggested revisions to the minutes, re article 32. I blended the additions/correction in with the draft text.

Article 32. Reuben stated that he believed the River Maintenance Trust Fund appropriation should be increased. He recommended going from \$5000 to \$75,000, given the current low amount in the Fund and having spent more than \$1 million in the aftermath of storms Irene and Sandy. He also referenced there being numerous pending projects on the Peabody and Moose Rivers, as well as the earlier decision by the Town to force property owners to cover the 20% match for repairs, given inadequate Town Funds and a decision to not even use Town equipment to make the match, as in the past. Finally, he noted that we are funding numerous other capital items but doing little to nothing to deal with flood prevention or repairs. A discussion amongst the Board ensued and the consensus was not to alter the article at this time.

2) A motion was made by Dan McCrum and seconded by Bob Demers, to accept the minutes from the April 2, 2015 minutes with two minor corrections, as made in the first paragraph: "Town Manager Robin Frost volunteered to take the minutes without fee anytime she was present and Lisa was not at the meeting." The second one was in the last paragraph of page 2: "Denise reported that the Town should know whether or not a grant is approved before replacement of one of the fire trucks." Accepted unanimously, with Terry Oliver abstaining.

3) Mike updated everyone on the make-up of the Budget Committee, openings and folks currently interested in serving. Nominees are: Dennis Arguin, Pat Lefevbre and Terry Rhoderick.

Glen Eastman made a motion to accept the appointees will serve until March 2016. Terry Oliver seconded. The vote was unanimous.

4) Mike then turned the meeting over to Denise Vallee and Robin Frost for review of the revenues and expenses of the Town to date.

Highlights are as follows:

-**Page 2**, Denise noted corrections to Motor Vehicle Permit Fees.

-**Page 4**, Denise reported that 80% of the budgeted ambulance revenues have been collected to date. Robin and Denise also reported that contracts have been settled for the County, Randolph and Shelburne. Shelburne signed for ambulance services but not for police, Randolph signed for ambulance and the County contract will be higher.

Bob encouraged contract discussions begin as early as possible and he also expressed concerns about needs to modify the contract fees.

-Dan asked about general revenues from page 1. Robin and Denise reported that the Town has just received payment from Brookfield (\$400K) but had not yet received anything from the paper mill (estimated to owe \$500K).

Munce owed the Town \$400K in back taxes, some of which were paid when some of the properties were sold.

Glen suggested that with the Munce property, perhaps the Town should reduce the backlogged taxes to facilitate sale of the property, with redevelopment and getting it back on the tax rolls in mind.

-On the expense side, Denise and Robin reported that heating oil and electricity costs are up. Figures for these in some of the budgets had been reduced the previous year but with the long cold snowy winter budgets ended up needing adjustments.

-It was reported that the Town got a grant to complete the rest of the Town Hall window repairs, estimated to be \$10K.

-Robin and Denise reported briefly on the status of the Great Lakes Hydro case (Supreme Court), Portland Pipeline (settled), Eversource (settled). Revaluation is currently planned for 2017.

-They reported on the Police Budget having extra overtime expenses to date, given one opening in the roster.

-The Fire Department reports ordering extra wood pellets, given last winter's experience.

-Dispatch has ordered a new chair, necessary for the dispatchers.

-The Highway Department also was affected by the long winter.

-It was reported with excitement that the Town Hall Bond has been paid off!

-Tinker Brook project is underway.

-Other renovations reported on included repairs to the Town Information Booth, Libby Pool's building, a new sign for the Information Booth and the Town Hall windows.

-\$8K was transferred from the Recreation Revolving Fund to the Ed Fenn Gymnasium repairs, in recognition of joint use of the facility by the School District and Town Recreation Department.

-The Town applied for but did not get \$100K reimbursement from the State for Irene repairs.

-The Town has \$1 million in deferred revenues to cover unfunded taxes.

Next Meeting re 3rd Quarter Budget Report: Late October.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM made by Bob Demers, seconded by Diane Bouthot.

Respectfully submitted by Reuben Rajala