

2014 BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

At the Gorham Town Hall at 6:00 pm

Members Present: Mike Waddell, Glen Eastman, Robert Demers, Reuben Rajala, Dan McCrum

Others: Town Manager Frost, Denise Vallee, Jeff Schall, Grace LaPierre, Terry Oliver, Paul Bousquet, Superintendent of SAU 20, and Diane Bouthot.

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

1. Review and accept minutes from the Budget Committee Meeting held on September 24, 2014:

A Motion to Accept the meeting Minutes of September 24, 2014 was made by Glen with a second from Dan, all were in favor. Robert Demers abstained.

2. Board vacancies and Board restructure:

Discussion was had with the members present and TM Frost regarding board vacancies & restructure. Diane Bouthot was in attendance at the meeting as she had submitted a letter of interest of becoming a member of the Budget Committee. A Motion to Accept Diane Bouthot as a new voting member of the Budget Committee was made by Glen and received a 2nd from Terry. All were in favor. TM Frost also made mention of a second possible committee member that she was waiting to hear from.

3. Budget review:

A. Current town status:

Denise presented the budget review to the Budget Committee. She stated that the 2015 tax rate had been set at \$30.68 which is a decrease from 2014. Denise stated that \$200,000 will be used to offset the tax rate. This figure was agreed upon by the Selectmen. Jeff Schall stated they were also advised by the state to retain approximately \$704,000.00 in the fund balance. The overlay account had approximately \$300,000.00 at the beginning of the year and there is currently 58,962.25 in overlay at the present time. There is a Million dollars in deferred revenues that have been set aside for unpaid taxes. The town will be receiving approximately \$275,000.00 in back taxes from the sale of the Currier property.

B. Current school district statistics 2015

Paul Bousquet, Superintendent of SAU 20 was on hand and provided an overview of the school's 2014/2015 budget and their budget process for the 2015/2016 budget. Discussion was given to the need to share resources and to cooperate where possible. The Superintendent offered and the Town accepted his assistance in getting a low price on fuel oil.

C. Budget schedule 2015:

Meeting dates for budget reviews are scheduled below. All meeting times are 6:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted:

Tuesday:	1/6/15	2015 Budget Committee Goals & Objectives
Thursday:	1/8/15	Police/Dispatch/Fire/EMS/ Recreation
Tuesday:	1/13/15	Public Works: Highway/Cemetery/ MSW-Recycling

Thursday: 1/15/15	2014 Fourth Quarter Budget Review/Capital Reserves/Finance, Tax Collector, Assessing
Thursday: 1/22/15	Work session if needed
Monday: 1/26/15 -	Library/Water & Sewer *at Gorham Public Library
Tuesday: 1/27/15 -	School, Paul Bousquet, Superintendent SAU 20; work session if needed
Wednesday: 1/28/15 -	School Budget Public Hearing 7:00 @ GM/HS Cafeteria
Thursday: 1/29/15 -	Work session if needed
Tuesday: 2/10/15 -	Public Hearing for the 2015 Budget - Medallion Opera House 6:30 pm
Tuesday: 3/10/15 -	Town Meeting @ GM/HS Gym @ 7:00 p.m.

4. Old Business:

The Chairman requested that when the Recreation Dept. presents their budget to be prepared to present the revolving fund information at the same time so it is clear and easy for the board members to understand. He would also like the revolving fund information to be included in the Annual Report.

The Chairman is requesting further information from the EMS Dept. regarding statistics of number of calls and locations that they have responded to for services.

5. New Business:

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

The need for Goals and objectives for the Budget Committee was discussed and it was agreed that we would look at this at our next meeting. The following items were given as examples of questions that should be addressed.

- a. If the town is losing revenue should the budget be offset with budget cuts to the expense side?
- b. How did Gorham's tax rate go up \$8 per thousand in five years?
- c. What should Gorham's tax rate be & how do we get to said tax rate.
- d. Discuss what a 5 year plan for the Town of Gorham would look like.

Denise agreed to prepare and present a narrative on the Town's recent, 5-years, history of tax increases.

6. Set date for next Budget Committee meeting:

January 6, 2015 6:00 p.m Goals and Objectives.

7. Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn was made by Bob with a second from Glen. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

APPROVED AS NOTED ON JANUARY 6, 2015