

**-Draft-
Minutes**

Gorham Budget Committee Meeting

1/21/2014

Present: Mike Waddell, Reuben Rajala, Glen Eastman, Bob Demers, Bill Jackson, Dan McCrum, Denise Vallee, Robin Frost, Michele , Chad Miller

Absent: Terry Oliver, Terry Rhoderick

Chairman Mike Waddell opened the meeting at 6 PM. He suggested that we discuss any issues, information needed and what Department heads, if any, that we might wish to call back for further discussion. Water and Sewer Dept. will be next Thursday, along with call backs.

Glen Eastman expressed concern about revolving funds, both the existing Recreation Department Revolving Fund and the proposed Ambulance Revolving Fund. Dan McCrum stated that the lack of a cap with the Recreation Revolving Fund, an unclear purpose, questions about how the fund is and whether or not they could tap into it more come to mind.

Robin Frost and Denise Vallee spoke about the concept of helping some departments to become more self-funding. Glen Eastman and Reuben Rajala said that this was simply not possible, when the income for the Recreation Department is only \$80K and the expenses are \$220K+.

Mike Waddell mentioned that in the past, Selectmen had the option of tapping revenue from Recreation and other sources to offset losses or expense overages in other department. This is not possible when essentially all Recreation revenue is placed in the Revolving Fund.

There also were questions about whether or not the Moose Tours Bus Capital Reserve Fund would be continued or if such purchases would come of the Revolving Fun.

Robin was asked about the proposed Ambulance Revolving Fund. She stated that the warrant article was not yet written but that she would do so soon. It's expected to have a cap of \$20K to help offset unexpected expense overages as we seen in 2013. The Ambulance Budget went over \$40K, which was expected to be offset by additional revenues, but delayed reimbursements put the budget in the red.

It was explained that our contracts with Shelburne and Randolph as based on an older formula using a 3 year rolling average of services provided. This formula most likely needs to be revised.

There was a brief discussion of the Dredging/Steam Bank Capital Reserve Fund. Bill Jackson spoke of their being an internal agreement that it not be larger than \$70K.

Fire Chief Rick Eichler then took a seat front and center to answer questions about the Cascade Fire Station. He said that no one from the paper mill had come forward yet with comments about the possible closure of the Cascade Fire Station.

The Committee asked about past wage increases and what is currently being considered. For comparison, Supervisory Administrative Union (SAU) 20 has requested 3%. The Gorham Randolph Shelburne Cooperative School Board will make a recommendation soon re any Support Staff contract. Teachers were previously awarded \$2% for 2013 at last year's School Meeting.

Denise passed out a revised 2014 Town of Gorham Proposed Pay Increases, with Ambulance staff still in Group 1 with the current lower retirement funding contribution, as requested at an earlier meeting.

Mike Waddell reported that Carol Porter is working on a spreadsheet of current unpaid tax liabilities, as well as other information.

Glen Eastman questioned whether or not anyone among Town staff was trying to secure surplus equipment, as former Highway Department head, Roger Guillmette often did. Robin reported that Buddy Holmes is monitoring this but that little if often available via the State. Glen suggested exploring Federal surplus equipment.

Dan McCrum asked if Robin and Denise, working with Department heads to review a 4 year actual expense average, had been able to fine-tune and reduce some budget requests? Denise said that they had.

Bill Jackson made a motion to adjourn at 7:35 PM, which was seconded by Bob Demers.

Respectfully submitted,

Reuben Rajala