

2013 Gorham Town Budget Hearing  
2/12/2013

Attending: Jeff Schall, Reuben Rajala, Bob Demers, Terry Rhoderick, Terry Oliver, David Graham, Lisa Kardell, Mike Waddell, Glen Eastman

Robin Frost, Denise Vallee, Department Heads, many Town employees and a modest number of the public

At 6:30 PM Jeff Schall, Chairman of the Gorham Budget Committee began a Powerpoint presentation comprised of spreadsheets and charts that gave good overall details of the Town Budget. This included comparisons between the 2013 proposed Town budget and the approved and actual 2012 Town budgets, both with Department breakdowns. The charts also gave percentages that each Department represented as a portion of the overall Town budget and the portion of the tax rate.

At 6:51 PM Chairman Schall asked if anyone in attendance had any questions or comments re the 2013 Proposed Town Budget. There were no questions but Ted Miller, from the Water Sewer Commission, requested a correction in that the one Commission member position open for 2013 is for 3 years, not 1 year as written.

After several more requests for any questions or comments, Chairman Schall asked for a motion to adjourn the budget hearing.

Motion at 6:55 PM: To adjourn the 2013 Town Budget Hearing. Moved by Mike Waddell, seconded by Terry Oliver.

At 7 PM Chairman Schall opened the Budget Committee meeting, asking for recommendations re each of the proposed 2013 warrant articles.

Article #9: Moved as written by Mike Waddell, seconded by Glen Eastman.  
Vote was unanimous to recommend.

Article #10 and 11: Moved to combine the two articles, as written, by Mike Waddell, seconded by Glen Eastman.  
Vote was unanimous to recommend.

Article #12: Moved as written by David Graham, seconded by Mike Waddell.  
Vote was unanimous to recommend.

Article #13: Not a concern of the Budget Committee per Chairman Schall

Article #14: Moved as written by Glen Eastman, seconded by Mike Waddell.  
Vote was to recommend, with one vote against (Terry Rhoderick).

Article #15: Moved as written by Glen Eastman, seconded by Mike Waddell.  
Vote was unanimous to recommend.

Article #16: Moved as written by Glen Eastman, seconded by Mike Waddell.  
Vote was unanimous to recommend.

**Article #17:** There was some discussion about both the history of the funding for the annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration and typical income and expenses. The Town used to provide \$10,000 for the event. For 2013 they are proposing \$10,900, with \$5000 for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee and the remainder to cover expenses for water/sewer, police, payroll and emergency services. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee, now a separate formal 501 C3 organization, raises funds for the bands, fireworks, parade, carnival, etc. from ads in their 40 page promotional booklet, carnival revenues and via the annual Town contribution.

Moved as written by Mike Waddell, seconded by Glen Eastman.  
Vote to recommend, with one vote against (Terry Rhoderick).

**Article #18:** Moved as written by Glen Eastman, seconded by Mike Waddell.  
Vote was unanimous to recommend.

**Article #19:** There was some discussion about the need for a new Ambulance Capital Reserve account. Emergency Services Director Chad Miller explained that they have special equipment worth approximately \$250K and much of it is replaced on a rotating basis, often costing \$20-30K. The goal is to build up the CRF to \$25K eventually, to help lessen the impact of such purchases on the operating budget and to be sure that resources are available.

Moved as written by Reuben Rajala, seconded by Terry Oliver.  
Voted to recommend, with one recusal (Jeff Schall) and one no vote (Bob Demers).

**Article #20:** There was some discussion about the age, condition and use of the Cascade fire truck. Chief Eichler reminded everyone that when the time comes to finally replace it, they would look at all options including used equipment. He also stated that it had been used on two fires at the paper mill and that the presence of the truck and station in Cascade helps to keep insurance rates down in that part of town.

Moved as written by Bob Demers, seconded by Terry Oliver.  
Voted to recommend, with one no vote (Terry Rhoderick).

**Article 21:** There was some discussion about the need for improved insulation and a new roof for the Town Garage and eventual replacement of the Highway Department offices. Robin Frost reported that she is working on estimates.

Moved to recommend as written by Glen Eastman, seconded by Mike Waddell.  
Voted to recommend, unanimously.

**Article 22:** There was some discussion about the age of the two ambulances and expected lifespan.

Moved to recommend as written by Glen Eastman, seconded by Mike Waddell.  
Voted to recommend, with one recusal (Jeff Schall).

**Article 23:** There was some discussion about the age of the two Recreation Department buses and expected replacement date 2-3 years away.

Moved as written by Mike Waddell, seconded by Bob Demers.  
Voted to recommend, unanimously.

**Article 24:** Moved to recommend as written by Mike Waddell, seconded by Glen Eastman.  
Voted to recommend, unanimously.

**Article 25:** Moved to recommend as written by Mike Waddell, seconded by Glen Eastman. Voted to recommend, unanimously.

**Article 26:** Chief Cyr reported that they expect to replace one cruiser in 2 years.  
Motion to recommend as written by Glen Eastman, seconded by Mike Waddell.  
Voted to recommend, unanimously.

**Article 27:** Moved to recommend as written by Glen Eastman, seconded by Mike Waddell. Voted to recommend, unanimously.

**Article 28:** There was some discussion about the uses for the Opera House Capital Reserve Fund, prompted by the lack of heat and plastic over the Meeting Room windows. Robin Frost reported that the heating system for the Opera House needed to be fixed as it was not activating. Plastic had been put over the Meeting Room windows as the replacement glass is only double pane.  
Moved to recommend as written by Glen Eastman, seconded by Mike Waddell.  
Voted to recommend, unanimously.

**Article 29:** Chief Eichler responded to questions about the amounts and types of gear typically replaced via this CRF.  
Moved to recommend as written by Glen Eastman, seconded by Mike Waddell.  
Voted to recommend, unanimously.

**Article 30:** There was some discussion about expected tax abatement cases expected in 2013, as compared to 2012.  
Moved to recommend as written by Glen Eastman, seconded by Terry Oliver.  
Voted to recommend with one recusal (Mike Waddell) and one opposed (Lisa Kardell).

**Article 31:** Moved to recommend as written by Glen Eastman, seconded by Mike Waddell.  
Voted to recommend, unanimously.

**Article 32:** Chief Cyr outlined likely Police Department CRF expenses for 2013, including the purchase of a number of long weapons, repeater expenses, etc. Terry Rhoderick expressed an opinion against the purchase of assault weapons.  
Moved to recommend as written by Reuben Rajala, seconded by .  
Voted to recommend, unanimously.

**Article 33:** Moved to recommend as written by Mike Waddell, seconded by Glen Eastman.  
Voted to recommend with one opposed (Lisa Kardell).

**Article 34:** Moved to recommend as written by Glen Eastman, seconded by Mike Waddell.  
Voted to recommend, unanimously.

**Article 35:** Denise Vallee responded to questions about what this account is used for, saying that funds are used to cover deductions and physicals.  
Moved to recommend as written, by Glen Eastman and Mike Waddell.  
Voted to recommend, unanimously.

**Article 36:** Moved to recommend as written by Glen Eastman, seconded by Mike Waddell.  
Voted to recommend, unanimously.

**Article 37:** Moved to recommend as written by Glen Eastman, seconded by Mike Waddell.  
Voted to recommend, unanimously.

**Article 38:** Moved to recommend as written by Glen Eastman, seconded by Mike Waddell.  
Voted to recommend, unanimously.

**Article 39:** Moved to recommend as written by Glen Eastman, seconded by Mike Waddell.  
Voted to recommend, unanimously.

**Article 40:** There was some discussion about where funds for this economic development effort would reside, since Max Makaitis was no longer working for TCCAP. Robin Frost and Max talked about the new Gorham Economic Development Committee and their current efforts. They will find an agency or organization to serve as the funding manager.

Moved to recommend as written by David Graham, seconded by Terry Oliver.  
Voted to recommend, with two opposed (Mike Waddell and Terry Rhoderick).

**Article 41:** There was some discussion about the Gorham Community Learning Center's programs, fee structure, etc.

Moved to recommend as written by Terry Oliver, seconded by Mike Waddell.

Voted to recommend, with three opposed (Lisa Kardell, Terry Rhoderick and Bob Demers) and one recusal (David Graham).

**Article 42:** Reuben Rajala answered questions about the Gorham Historical Society request, citing long-time support from the Town given the limited season of operation and small membership for the organization. Glen Eastman expressed support for continued support, given the importance of the museum as a popular attraction.

Moved to recommend as written by Mike Waddell, seconded by Glen Eastman.

Voted to recommend with one recusal (Reuben Rajala) and one opposed (David Graham).

**Article 43:** Comments were made that even though the Family Resource Center is nearly a \$1 million dollar organization, modest contributions from all participating towns are important, especially when it comes to seeking grants and donations.

Moved to recommend as written by Glen Eastman, seconded by Terry Oliver.

Voted to recommend, with one recusal (David Graham) and one opposed (Lisa Kardell).

**Article 44:** Some discussion occurred as to repeated suggestions around Town about exploring any and all options to provide as good if not better service for less cost. There are many examples of different approaches throughout the State and region.

Moved to recommend as written by Mike Waddell, seconded by Reuben Rajala.

Voted to recommend, with one opposed (Terry Rhoderick).

**Article 45:** Jeff Schall spoke about efforts to expand Time Warner Cable to approximately 10 homes in the Stony Brook development. Time Warner is looking for a partial contribution from the property owners or Town. Jeff spoke in favor of not burdening property owners in the development, some of whom pay very high tax rates already. Plus if some homeowners declined to participate, the entire

neighborhood would be without, one of the few in Town without cable and internet service. Mike Waddell and others spoke about the challenges of the Town paying for something that the developer or homeowners traditionally cover.

Moved as written by Reuben Rajala, seconded by Terry Oliver.

Voted to recommend, with one recusal (Jeff Schall) and three opposed (Mike Waddell, Glen Eastman and David Graham). Copies of the approved Town Budget were passed around for signatures.

At 8:45 PM a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Glen Eastman, seconded by Terry Oliver.

Respectfully Submitted by:  
Reuben Rajala

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