

Minutes of Gorham Public Library Trustees Meeting: January 5, 2016

Trustees Present:

Aaron Gorban, Gail Wigler, Clint Emmett, David Graham

Staff / Others Present:

Elizabeth Thompson, Director; Robin Frost, Gorham Town Manager

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Aaron Gorban at 6:00PM.

This meeting was scheduled to discuss the status of our 2016 budget request after being informed that the selectmen had voted not to recommend our budget on the Town Warrant article. All articles contain recommendations from the selectmen and the budget committee.

The initial indication was that the selectmen took this position for the following reasons:

1. We budgeted a 3% for staff raise, which is higher than the amount budgeted for all town employees, which was 2%.
2. We budgeted health insurance for an employee working 30+ hours a week. Apparently the selectmen felt that we should consider cutting the hours to less than 29 to avoid paying the mandated insurance requirement.
3. There was a suggestion that our request for a capital reserve allocation go through the petition process, similar to non-profits.

Gorham Town Manager Robin Frost kindly offered to attend this meeting to explain the selectmen's positions and listen to our concerns. The Trustees appreciated her being present, despite having a budget meeting this evening.

Town Manager Frost discussed the prior deliberations at the recent selectmen's meeting. She feels that the selectmen were anxious to complete their agenda and there was limited time for questions and complete discussion. She felt that it might be helpful to meet with the selectmen again to further explain our positions.

A good back and forth discussion ensued. Robin mentioned that this year there will be a new line item in the budget for \$ 12,000 for merit raises. Unfortunately, the GPL and Water & Sewer will not be eligible for this. This will obviously result in more than a 2% raise for those who receive merit raises.

It was pointed out that the GPL has the lowest paid hourly workers in the Town at about \$ 8.50 per hour, and a 3% raise will increase this by about \$.25. Robin felt these were the types of issues that should be brought to the selectmen's attention.

After our discussion Robin left to attend her budget meeting at Town Hall. All present thanked her for her time and input.

The Trustees discussed these matters and it was agreed that we would request to appear at the 1-11 meeting and submit a written statement outlining our positions. Aaron will draft this and circulate it to everyone for review. It was noted that the difference between 2% & 3% was about \$ 750 total. The Capital Reserve issue was also discussed. It was established in 1998 and received yearly amounts of \$5,000.00 until 2006 (the last year that we requested any money for that purpose.) The fund was used by the Trustees and "zeroed" out. The fund is still active in the town accounting system. We need more information on this. Aaron will contact the LGC if needed. All agree we should not be required to submit a petition.

The RFP request was reviewed and approved.
Minutes of the December meeting were approved.

Other Business:

None.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at 6:00PM

A Motion to Adjourn passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:10PM.