



BUDGET COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF GORHAM
GORHAM TOWN HALL
CONFERENCE ROOM

MINUTES OF APRIL 2, 2019

Members Present: Diane Bouthot, Co-Chairman; Douglas Gralenski, Co-Chairman; Robert Demers; Abigail Evankow (6:20); Mary White; Dan McCrum; Jessica McCreedy; Judith LeBlanc, Selectmen's Representative (6:12)

Absent: Lee Carroll

Town Staff Present: Mark Shea, Town Manager

Minutes Taker: Shelli Fortin

AGENDA ITEMS & DISCUSSION

1. Call to order: 6:00 PM

2. Old Business

3. Approve Minutes 2/12/2019: **Motion to approve from Dan McCrum with a second from Doug Gralenski. Voted in the affirmative.**

4. New Business

Jessica Lawson McCreedy was sworn in before the meeting for one year by Town Clerk Carol Porter. Robert Demers has also been sworn in as a one-year member.

5. Nominations & Voting

On a motion by Robert Demers, seconded by Dan McCrum, the Committee voted unanimously to appoint Doug Gralenski as Chairman.

Doug Gralenski requested a Co-Chairman, as he does not want to be responsible for posting agendas. Gralenski nominated Diane Bouthot, who declined.

On a motion by Diane Bouthot, seconded by Robert Demers, the Committee voted unanimously to appoint Mary White at Co-Chairman.

6. Discussion of Priorities for the Ensuing Year

Doug Gralenski requested that members let him know about any issues they would like to see highlighted in the annual report. Gralenski will email a draft to the members.

Gralenski suggested that members form bonds with department heads to keep updated on any issues affecting their departments. TM Shea advised that it is his responsibility to keep the committee updated with information from the department heads, as well as to bring concerns from the committee to the departments, and that information should be funneled through him. Robert Demers agreed that the committee's responsibility is to be sure the money is well spent.

Robert Demers stated that he would like to see a change in the way the contracts for Dispatch and Ambulance service are calculated, based on population rather than per call. TM Shea will bring

this to the Board of Selectmen. Judy LeBlanc advised that bringing up these issues early will allow them time to research before decisions need to be made.

Diane Bouthot mentioned the road work that needs to be done in town and the substantial cost that it will involve. TM Shea advised that some of the work will be covered by FEMA, and there is some money in the reserve account. TM Shea advised that the current project will be put out to bid soon and will hopefully be done this year.

Robert Demers mentioned the Building and Maintenance CRF, and that the money in there should not be used for landscaping at the town garage for the snow dump project, as that is not a building or repair. TM Shea advised that they have checked with the auditors and the attorney and were advised that it can be used for this purpose. Shea will contact Demers with additional information. Doug Gralenski asked when the town will have a better estimate of the costs involved in the remediation of the vernal pool. TM Shea advised that they did have a conference call with DES, and the numbers were worse than anticipated. They have a presentation scheduled next month with DES.

Jessica McCreedy stressed the importance of communication, as the committee needs to inform the public. Mary White suggested that attending the meetings of the Board of Selectmen is helpful and is a way to stay informed.

Diane Bouthot brought up the concern about non-profit agencies that request money from the town, and there being no time for questions. It was suggested that the committee schedule a time for the agencies to come to a meeting, rather than asking the questions at the public hearing. It was also suggested that the application form be updated to allow for more information to be included. Jessica McCreedy and Mary White will work on questions for a new form before the next meeting.

Diane Bouthot mentioned that the school was a large portion of the tax rate and asked if a budget committee member should also attend the school board meetings. Robert Demers stated that the school is a coop and the town has no control over their budget. Jessica McCreedy shared a concern that few attend the public hearing or school district meeting, and this seems to happen every year. Members were advised that school board minutes are available on the SAU website.

TM Shea passed out a handout on Performance Based Budgeting and suggested that the committee may want to consider this approach.

Mary White advised that she would like to see a breakdown of the patrons of the library by town, how many residents are using it, along with how many from Randolph, Shelburne, and travelers. White pointed out that the library had a larger budget than the fire department this year.

Robert Demers suggested that the town take a look at insurance benefits, and that although he feels the town should be responsible for the employee, additional cost for a couple or a family should be paid by the employee. Jessie McCreedy suggested that the town look to see what surrounding communities do, since they just did the same for wages. Judy LeBlanc advised that this was done, and Gorham was the lowest contributor for insurance benefits.

The committee mentioned that they would like to keep the two-hour meeting limit this year.

7. Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 10, 2019 at 6:00 pm.

8. Adjournment – Robert Demers made a motion to adjourn at 7:10 PM, seconded by Abby Evankow. Voted in the affirmative.

Respectfully Submitted
Shelli Fortin