

APPROVED

Town of Gilmanton
Budget Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 14, 2010
7:00 P.M. – Gilmanton I.W. Town Hall

Members present: Stan Bean, Frank Bosiak, Mark Sawyer, Michael Hatch, Betty Ann Abbott, Steven Latici, Robert Potter, Sr., Dana Twombly, Brian Forst and Frank Gianni.

Others present: Fire Chief K.G. Lockwood, Police Chief Philip O'Brien, Town Administrator Timothy Warren and recording clerk Rachel Hatch.

Stan Bean called the meeting to order at 6:58 p.m. Confirmation was given that the meeting had been posted on December 29, 2009 in accordance with RSA 91-A and that the amended meeting date to hear both the Fire Department and Police Department budget presentations had been re-posted on January 12, 2010.

Fire Department Budget Presentation

Fire Chief K.G. Lockwood gave a presentation on the Fire Department's proposed budget. He shared an overview of the 2009 statistics that the department had realized;

- A total of 585 calls;
- Showing a 14.5% increase from 2008;
- 385 daytime calls (from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.)
- 200 nighttime calls;
- Ambulance calls from the Iron Works Fire Station: 181
- Ambulance calls from the Corners Fire Station: 168
- 42 person roster;
- One-half of the roster people are cross trained (fire/EMS)
- 15 are advanced firefighters.

Chief Lockwood stated that there is an increase in the on-call line item due to the fact that three to four on-call people respond to any given call. There is also a significant increase in the health insurance line item as this year, the department employees subscribed to two single plans and two family plans. Last year, the department realized four single plans. Chief Lockwood stated that there is also an increase in the training line item and that every new hire cost approximately \$8,000 to outfit, train, etc.

The budget shows a decrease in the repair and maintenance of the I.W. station line item by \$2,000 as well as a decrease in the repair and maintenance of the corners station line item by \$1,600. The breathing apparatus line item has increased by \$1,000. A significant increase is shown in the ambulance supplies line item due to the fact that Lakes Region General Hospital no longer re-supplies the ambulances that transport patients. It has now been placed back on the towns to re-stock their ambulance supplies.

Steven Latici brought up discussion with regard to billing patients for supplies used. Chief Lockwood indicated that the used supplies were billed along with the ambulance transport. Extensive discussion followed with regard to billing non-residents and billing motor vehicle accidents to patients' insurance companies.

Chief Lockwood continued sharing an overview of the budget, indicating that the fire prevention education line item has also increased to meet the demands of educating students in fire prevention. Chairman Bean inquired if there is a non-capital reserve to pay for oxygen tank testing as this line item has increased? Timothy Warren stated that he will forward a copy of all non-capital reserve accounts as of December 31, 2009 to members of the Budget Committee for their review.

Chief Lockwood ended his presentation by stating that the operating budget has increased by two percent for 2010.

Police Department Budget Presentation

Police Chief Philip O'Brien briefly shared statistics of all Police Department calls for service in 2009. He stated that an additional 200 calls had been seen in 2009 over the 2008 year.

Chief O'Brien stated that there was an increase in the on-call line item to cover call pay for the part time police officers which, compensation of part-time officers is less of a cost to the town than paying overtime to the full time officers employed by the town. He stated that the detail reimbursement for the OHRV is no longer available. The telephone line item has increased due to the fact that all patrol officers now have cell phones in all of the cruisers.

The vehicle repair line item shows a slight increase due to repairs that will need to be made to the older cruisers. The "other program" line item is a new line item this year; these funds are for students' public relations in the town.

Mark Sawyer inquired of the condition of the existing bullet proof vests and whether or not some may need to be replaced this year. Chief O'Brien stated that the vests are replaced every five years and that some may need to be replaced within the next year. Chief O'Brien stated that his operating budget is up by two percent this year.

Discussion of the Public Safety Building

Betty Ann Abbott distributed a site plan that Paul Darbyshire was presenting to the Planning Board this evening. The site plan showed details of the location of the septic system leaching field, delineated wet land areas, location of the proposed propane tank, etc. She stated that the proposed building is 80' x 80', which is a much smaller building than that of previous plans presented in the past years.

Ms. Abbott stated that the bid opening is scheduled for Thursday, January 21, 2010 at noon time at the Gilmanton Academy. A work session has been scheduled for Friday,

A work session has been scheduled for January 22nd at 10:00 a.m. at the Academy to review all bids. Chairman Stan Bean has been invited to attend and be part of the review process. He will also be attending the bid opening as well.

Ms. Abbott stated that the Board of Selectmen will be looking at not only the NH Municipal Bond Bank rates but also rates from Northway Bank, TD Bank and Laconia Savings Bank rates for bonding the remaining funds needed to construct the public safety building. She indicated that she would keep the Budget Committee members updated. There was also brief discussion regarding the years to bond the project; whether it be 5 years, 10 years, etc. No decision has been made at this time with regard to the number of years to bond this project.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Frank Bosiak, seconded by Robert Potter, members of the Budget Committee adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully,

Rachel Hatch,
Recording Clerk