

APPROVED

Town of Gilmanton
Budget Committee
Thursday, January 15, 2009
7:00 P.M. – Gilmanton Academy Building

Members present: Stan Bean, Robert Potter, Sr., Frank Bosiak, Mark Sawyer, Betty Ann Abbott, Russell Knowles, Tom Farley, Steven Latici and Dana Twombly. Brian Forst absence was excused.

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

Stan Bean called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Confirmation was given that this meeting had been duly posted on December 24, 2008 pursuant to RSA 91-A.

January 8, 2009 Meeting Minutes

On a motion made by Frank Bosiak, seconded by Robert Potter, the Committee approved the meeting minutes of January 8, 2009 as drafted.

Fire Department Budget

Fire Chief K.G. Lockwood distributed a summary sheet of 2009 budget changes. He also budgeted for a 4% increase for his on-call staff as well.

Chief Lockwood stated that a 4% COLA increase was included in the level funded budget. He stated that there is a decrease in health insurance due to a change in personnel. Gilmanton as well as other neighboring towns have an agreement with Lakes Region General Hospital for a reduced rate charged for physicals. He stated that the department no longer pays for the use of pagers as they were hardly being used in the past.

Chief Lockwood stated that the Corners Fire Station is now being manned on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. The event log has shown that there are more calls on these three days from the corners side of town than from the Iron Works. He stated that there is an increase in supplies for the ambulances as the town now has two paramedics and intermediates. The state is mandating additional equipment for the paramedics. Under office supplies, equipment needs to be replaced such as the fax machine and chairs need to be purchased for the office.

The protective clothing line item has been increased. He stated that it cost \$3,700.00 each time the fire gear needs to be professionally cleaned. The gear is not cleaned after use in every fire but needs to be cleaned when the gear is mostly covered in black soot. The

uniform line item has been increased due to the purchase of Class B shirts rather than wearing polo shirts as the Class B shirts look more professional for his staff. Chief Lockwood stated that, overall, his budget is \$125.00 less than last year's budget.

Frank Bosiak inquired as to why the diesel and gasoline line items have increased when both have decreased in price? Chief Lockwood stated that he was anticipating that both the diesel and gasoline will increase in price per gallon in 2009.

Dana Twombly asked how old does a vehicle need to be before it is not covered under a recall. Chief Lockwood stated that the vehicles are not covered after 20 years. He stated that the oldest truck's model was 1987.

Betty Ann Abbott asked how long will the fire truck last before it needs to be replaced? Chief Lockwood stated that this truck will have to be replaced in two to three years but that, a standard size fire truck today would not fit in the Corners Fire Station. Mark Sawyer asked Chief Lockwood to explain what had happened to the Alton Fire Department. Chief Lockwood stated that the Alton Fire Department had a small fire truck custom made to fit the Alton Fire Station and it cost an additional \$156,000.00 and it lacks the necessary space to have it function sufficiently. He stated that he would order a standard fire truck and saw the need for a safety building within the next two or three years in order to fit a new fire truck in the building.

Police Department Budget

Police Chief Philip O'Brien reviewed his department's budget with members of the Committee. He stated that there was a decrease in the expenditure of Patrol 1 because he had lost one person last year. The position continues to be funded as the department is still without the 5th person. He stated that the detail line item was over but there is no increase in the OHRV detail. There is a decrease in the health insurance line item due to a new staff member that joined the department recently. Chief O'Brien stated that the department used 5,777 gallons of gasoline last year.

Regarding the warrant articles, Chief O'Brien stated that the ATV enforcement and the highway safety grants are standard warrant articles. The town does not spend these funds unless they are received through grant funds.

Chief O'Brien stated that one warrant article is for the purchase of a new cruiser, one warrant article for the replacement of computers and the last warrant article for the purchase of a different program called Crime Star, Records Management System, three user program. It would allow 3 officers to access records information at the same time and would pay for itself in 2 ½ years in savings in the yearly cost that is now charged by the current IMC system for user fees, maintenance and updates.

Regarding the cruiser, Chief O'Brien stated that the 2004 cruiser is in the replacement rotation cycle to be replaced. Stan Bean inquired if Chief O'Brien would be requesting to take funds out of the cruiser replacement capital reserve fund to help pay for the cruiser? Chief O'Brien stated that \$20,000.00 would be placed in the cruiser replacement fund and that he is proposing a warrant article to purchase a new cruiser. He wanted to leave the funds in the replacement fund for next year.

Betty Ann Abbott stated that the selectmen had proposed placing \$20,000.00 in the cruiser replacement capital reserve fund but stated that the selectmen were unaware of a warrant article for a new cruiser this year. Also, she inquired why the purchase of a new telephone system and the purchase of the LED lights for the cruisers were warrant articles when both were proposed as warrant articles when the police department budget had been presented to the selectmen?

Chief O'Brien stated that he was under the impression that replacement of the cruiser would be a warrant article as this year is a rotation year to replace the oldest cruiser. It was decided that Chief O'Brien would meet with the selectmen to go over the proposed warrant articles prior to the public hearing.

Next Meeting

Mr. Bean stated that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 22, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Iron Works Town Hall.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Frank Bosiak, seconded by Robert Potter, the Budget Committee members voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully,

Rachel Hatch,
Recording Clerk