

TOWN OF GILMANTON  
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2012

Members Present: Stan Bean (chair), Mark Sawyer, Frank Gianni, Brian Forst, Israel Willard, Richard Bakos, Steve Latici, Michael Hatch, Ralph Lavin (selectmen's rep.), Frank Bosiak

Also Present: Tim Warren (Gilmanton Administrator), Annette Andreozzi (clerk), Joe Hempel (Fire Chief)

Meeting opened at 7:00 PM

1. Proof of Posting - Yes
2. Approval of January 4, 2012 Minutes

Motion: Mr. Forst moved and Mr. Sawyer seconded the motion to approve the minutes as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Correspondence - none
4. Committee Reports - none
5. Old Business (Agenda Items and Concerns of Committee Members) - none
6. New Business

Presentation – Fire Department Budget

Chief Hempel indicated that the budget was lower than last year, not including an accounting change and the increase in retirement contributions required by the state. Responses for the department are about 50% for fire and 50% for rescue. The department is staffed 7 days a week from 7 AM – 7 PM. Staff are on call the other hours. Call personnel are on call 24-7, if they choose to respond.

The Chief pointed out line changes in the amount of salaries, but stated that the total is the same. The changes were made to indicate where the money is really spent. There is an increase in payment of the insurance policy for call personnel; the remainder of the premium is paid by the Firemen's Assoc.

Some neighboring communities bill Gilmanton when they are called for a paramedic intercept, so funding was needed for that. He pointed out other differences from last year's budget.

There is a new line, FD802, that indicates the portion of billing allotted to Onstar, which handles the ambulance billing. This is not an increased expense, just a new way of accounting.

Mr. Bean suggested using the amount presently in the non-capital reserve account for ambulance billing, rather than putting it in the operating budget.

Mr. Latici asked what the closest private ambulance companies were. He was told that there is Sewart's in Meredith, and some others in Concord. He asked if the town is required to have ambulance to participate in mutual aid, and was told, no.

There was a discussion on state wide emergency response fees and on the operation of the ambulance and it's personnel.

Mr. Sawyer asked about how much revenue the ambulance has generated over the past few years.

There was a discussion on fuel cost for the fire station.

Two warrant articles are purposed for the fire department. One is for the replacement of the 2002 ambulance, possibly as a lease purchase. It cost \$9000 for repairs to this vehicle this past year. The other article is to create a CIP account for replacement of emergence vehicles in the future. The account to be funded with the revenue generated by the ambulance service.

Mr. Forst asked if this ambulance is due on the CIP. It is. He wanted to know the mileage on the 2002 ambulance. Winni Truck is doing maintenance on the trucks.

Mr. Bean wanted to know why the Chief recommended a new ambulance and the Selectmen did not. Mr. Lavin said the money isn't there.

Mr. Latici asked why the town doesn't have only one fire station with staff. The Chief stated that having ambulances in two places provides faster response time during call hours because people can come to the station closest to them.

7. Public Input

Mickey Daigle said that if the purposed special revenue account builds up, the town will buy an ambulance even if it is not needed. He hoped the budget committee would not support it.

8. Adjournment 8:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

A. Andreozzi