Approved

Amended 12-9-20

Budget Committee

Town of Gilmanton, New Hampshire

Meeting

November 11, 2020

6**:00pm.** – Gilmanton Academy

**Committee Members Present:**

Chairman Brian Forst, Vincent Baiochetti- Selectmen’s Rep, Alec Bass, Adam Mini- School Board Rep., Steve Bedard, Rich Bakos-Sawyer Lake Rep.,

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| Also present: Danielle Bosco- recording Secretary, Joe Hemphill- Fire Chief, Matt Currier- Police Chief |

**6:00pm** Chairman Brian Forst opened up the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Fire Department Budget**

Chief Hempel said the salary lines and benefits are not completed yet as the Selectmen are discussing COLA raises as a whole for Town Employees. Chief Hempel did present increases for part time and on call employees because these do not receive merit or COLA raises. Mr. Bakos questioned when the salaries were moved from a Warrant Article to the budget. Chair Forst said he did remember the salaries being a Warrant Article. Chief Hempel said years ago salary increases were a Warrant Article. Mr. Bakos said having them in a Warrant Article would allow the voters a choice. Mr. Bakos said he would like to see at least a spreadsheet to show salaries and fringe benefits and would be willing to help the Selectmen.

Chair Forst questioned why overtime ran over. Chief Hempel said the full-time staff covered shifts due to lack of per diem coverage. Mr. Bakos questioned where the salaries stood in comparison to other towns. Chief Hempel stated they were low in comparison which is why he requested raises for the per diem staff. It is getting hard to fill those positions.

Chief Hempel said the training line has dropped due to a paramedic finishing school. The telephone line has gone down due to switching to TDS. The internet line decreased due to removing a server. The Dispatch line increased by $2000 which is based on population. The Dues line has decreased by $1,500.

Chair Forst asked if there would be any Warrant Articles. Chief Hempel said at this point he doesn’t believe there will be many. Chief Hempel said they are looking to purchase laughing gas that patients can administer themselves. Discussion of funding CRF’s from the CIP are being discussed by the Selectmen.

Chair Forst asked how the revolving fund that was set up last year was going. Chief Hempel said they have not spent any funds from it at this point. Mr. Bakos questioned if the money goes back into the general fund if it isn’t spent. Chair Forst said the money stays in the account.

Chief Hempel discussed the SAFER grant that he has applied for. This grant will cover the cost of adding two new full-time positions to help cover overnight shifts and provide better service to the Residents. This grant will cover the salaries of the two positions for three years. Chair Forst said after the grant is done covering the salaries for the three years the Town will have to cover the cost of the employees. Chief Hempel said that is correct but this is where the Town’s needs are heading to provide a better level of service to Residents. This will also reduce overtime pay.

**Police Department Budget**

Chief Currier presented the Police Department budget. Chief Currier said salaries and benefits are not shown yet. Chief Currier said the training line has increased $2,500 for more in-depth training.

Chair Forst questioned why the gasoline line had very little spent this year. Chief Currier said they were understaffed and will be fully staffed for next year.

Mr. Bakos questioned if they were looking for any cruisers this year. Chief Currier said they just replaced two.

Mr. Mini asked if there would be any projects that came out of the MRI findings. Chief Currier said increased training is the only thing he is asking for.

Mr. Bakos questioned if the money from cruisers are raised in CRF’s. Chair Forst said cruisers are put on Warrant Articles.

Mrs. Kirby questioned if the $9,500 is a flat rate for the prosecutor.

Chief Currier said he is requesting $1,280 for dog kennels to hold dogs that are found.

**Committee Discussion**

* Chair Forst said some dates have been set for meetings but public hearings have not yet. Chair Forst discussed the fact they may not be able to hold an in person public hearing.
* Mr. Bedard brought up the discussion of holding virtual meetings for all meetings. Mr. Bedard said if they hold in person meetings the tables need to be spread out more. Chair Forst said he is not comfortable running a virtual meeting due to not knowing how to run a virtual meeting. Mr. Baiocchetti said if a virtual meeting is run someone would have to be in the building. Mr. Baiocchetti said they have run virtual meetings with video and they have the ability to call in to speak. Mr. Mini said setting up a google meet is very easy and he would be willing to set up a test run.

**Adjournment:** Mrs. Baiocchetti made a motion to adjourn at 8:02, seconded by Mr. Bass; All were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Danielle Bosco

Recording Clerk