

2015 Budget Hearing – February 9, 2015

Present: John Strasser, Richard Bielefield, Margaret Connors
Jennifer Gaudette

Guests: Department Heads and Board Representatives: Fire Chief Allan Clark, Road Agent Doug Glover, Library Trustees Irene Amsbary & Jason Tors, Police Chief David Wentworth, Librarian Judy Weisenberger and Lafayette Recreation Representative Launa Glover.

Community: Greg Connors, Nick DeMayo, Maxine Aldrich, Brenda Aldrich, Carl & Nancy Martland, Sarah & Bill Pinney, Gary Young, Carlene Quinn, Ellie & Joe Brown, Doug Amsbary, Kevin Johnson, Kathy Jablonski

- MR. BIELEFIELD presented the budget and discussed the expenditures and revenue hand outs.
- It was noted that both the cemetery budget and the library budget will have offsetting funds from Trust accounts.
- Parks and Recreation budget increase due to purchasing a new computer for the director as she was using her personal computer.
- Health Insurance has a 01% increase this year.
- Added line item this year for building inspection

It was explained that the Town goes by the State Welfare Guidelines and also consults with neighboring communities to stay current for limits that determine assistance. Advised that it is hard to turn anyone down requesting assistance and they do not have to be a resident.

The line item for building inspection is to track the costs involved with permitting and inspections. It is hoped that permit fees will offset the monies used.

JOHN STRASSER shared with the audience that the board actively meets with the Franconia and Easton Select Boards on both Transfer Station and Recreation budgets.

CHIEF CLARK advised that the department is pleased with Calex as the responding ambulance in Sugar Hill.

MAXINE ALDRICH asked about the funding for the chamber of commerce. Currently \$6500 is included in the regional association line item of the budget. Various members of the chamber expressed concern with the direction the chamber is going and in recent decisions made. Kevin Johnson from Gale River Motel and also a member of the chamber Board of Directors expressed his concerns including the recent new logo and the fact that a member of the chamber was not selected to design. The Select Board removed the item from the budget and the \$6500 will be in an individual warrant article to be voted by the residents.

CHIEF WENTWORTH requested an increase of \$2500 to his budget line as there is additional software costs that need to be added since his original budget was submitted.

ROAD AGENT GLOVER noted that his budget is increased by an additional \$2000 as the new waste water tank has been drained for the first time and he is estimating what one year will cost. Doug also updated the Crane Hill Bridge progress and that is has had inspections by the State and by an engineering company hired by the Town. Bridge State Aid for repair is slated for 2022. Mr. Glover noted that he would like to make repairs to two sections of Streeter Pond Road after they complete the work on Lafayette Road. Mr. DeMayo asked if there would be any improvements to Streeter Pond Drive and Mr. Glover believes it will remain a dirt road. The road study on the website is outdated and once the road committee has a new report it will be updated.

BRENDA ALDRICH advised that the Crapo parking lot is very dark for evening events and could there be a time/motion light installed. Mr. DeMayo noted that LED lights could be purchased for a new light.

NICK DE MAYO asked about the rental fees for the Town Buildings and could those funds go toward road improvements. These monies must go into the general fund.

MR. BIELEFIELD In addition the extra money in Long Term Interest was added to the principal again this year so the pay off time on the Crapo Building Long Term note can be shortened.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer P. Gaudette
Administrative Assistant