

## **BUDGET HEARING – February 8, 2016**

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

Guests: Ken King, Irene and Doug Amsbary, Tim Williams, Chief Clark, Kathy Jablonski,  
Kevin Johnson, Nancy & Carl Martland, Greg Connors, Peter Carbonneau, Road  
Agent Doug Glover, Chief Wentworth, Tim Egan, Clayton Young

Chairman Bielefield opened the Budget Hearing and reviewed the Revenue and Budget figures as prepared for 2016.

Topics discussed:

Franconia Notch Chamber of Commerce:

Funds for the Franconia Notch Chamber of Commerce have been returned to the budget. Kevin Johnson spoke to the fact that the Chamber has had a positive turn around this past year and just hired a new part time director. New website is up and noted that he receives many of his reservations through the FNCC website. The Town receives over 25,000 in Rooms and Meals Tax yearly.

Calex Ambulance:

Excellent responders at the paramedic level. Chief Clark noted that with Littleton Regional Hospital no longer having a paramedic program knowing that Calex is responding with a paramedic is a benefit to the community.

Sugar Hill Fire:

Chief Clark noted that he has picked up three new members and the cost of outfitting the new firefighters can reach \$5100.00. He has some equipment from a previous grant but needs some new larger gear.

Highway Department:

Road Agent Glover explained how the Road Committee has assisted him in planning his road improvements each year. Carl Martland explained that he drives and photos (every 1/10<sup>th</sup> mile) twice a year and ranks the road. Overall the average of the road condition is getting better. Carl will have a copy of his road report for the website.

Airport:

There was a question from Mr. Williams in regard to the airport and how that amount is figured. The board responded it is done per resident.

Bridge:

The board explained the ongoing Crane Hill Bridge project and the funding of same. The State will be pay 80% and the town pays 20%.

Health Agencies:

There was a question as to how the Select Board chooses which organizations get money from the Town. The board explained that the non-profit groups submit a request and if it is a new agency the Select Board puts the first year request on the warrant. The agencies provide yearly requests and submit reports to the town.

Northern Pass:

The board advised that the Town has filed as an intervener. We will be splitting legal costs with five towns.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer P. Gaudette  
Administrative Assistant