

## Budget Hearing - February 5, 2018

Present: Richard Bielefield, John Strasser, Margo Connors

Guests: Irene Amsbary, Judy Weisenberger, Haley Ireland, Gary Way, Carl Martland, Nancy Martland, Gary Young, Ellie Brown, Brenda Aldrich, Jason Tors, Cathy Jablonski, Nick DeMayo, Road Agent - Doug Glover, Police Chief - Bob Mancini, Fire Chief - Allan Clark, Sexton - Peter Carbonneau

Chairman Bielefield opened the Budget Hearing at 6 p.m. and reviewed the revenue and budget figures.

### Discussion:

2017 Northern Pass income was used to pay legal fees

Additional moneys in Legal to cover possible future Northern Pass intervener expenses.

Police Department: Chief Mancini explained that Sugar Hill has two full time police officers and uses part-time officers to cover about 11 hours per week. He named the officers that are on the part-time roster.

Ambulance: Chief Clark gave a brief history of ambulance services in the area. Sugar Hill will be serviced by Golden Cross Ambulance for the next 18 months while a more permanent solution is being negotiated. Golden Cross is using Littleton Fire Department as their base of operations.

Emergency Management: Chief Clark explained that the town of Sugar Hill has requested over \$105 k from FEMA to reimburse for road and bridge damage during the October 2017 storm. When monies are received, the Select Board will hold a public hearing to determine where funds should be best allocated. Chief Clark and Road Agent Glover described bridge and road damage incurred during storm.

(Suggested that Chief Clark include all of this information in the annual report)

Chief Clark reduced his Capital Reserve Article for Fire Equipment to \$45,000.

It was noted that the Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce had requested to withdraw their request for \$6,500.

Town Maintenance: Road Agent Glover explained how the two major storms in July and October/November prevented regularly scheduled annual maintenance this past year. Some additional funds have been added to budget for work that has to be completed in 2018.

General Highway: Road Agent Glover explained that he has been able to keep paving and repair costs down by working collaboratively with the towns of Lisbon and Franconia. Carl Martland, chair of Road Committee gave a brief update on road conditions. - Pearl Lake and Easton roads are in the worst condition.

Gary Way asked about the use of conservation mix along the sides of roads to prevent soil erosion. Road Agent stated that they had begun to do this in addition to adding more erosion stone.

Carl Martland recommended that we include NCC in our bridge replacement decisions. They are working with state DOT to try and lower some of these costs, particularly for North Country towns - too many restrictions.

Cemetery: Doug Glover described damage to cemetery from storm (only one headstone broken) and removal of fallen trees.

Streetlights: Discussed switching to LED lights in 2019.

Brenda Aldrich suggested strongly that the town add an additional light to the Town Hall parking area.

Boys and Girls Club Warrant Article: Gary Way spoke in favor of increasing the town's contribution to the Boys and Girls Club

Welfare: Mr. Bielefield explained state regulations around welfare support

Parks and Recreation: Haley Ireland explained that this line item is slightly higher due to a 2.5% increase in Recreation Directors' salaries.

Library: Irene Amsbary describe the increase in budget. It is primarily for books, materials and technology.

LT Notes, Int LT Notes: Mr. Bielefield explained that we are paying off more principal than interest. The loan for the purchase of the Crapo Building should be paid off in about 5 years.

Mr. Strasser reviewed the CR Funds.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30

Margo Connors