

BUDGET HEARING –February 4, 2019

Present: Richard Bielefield, Margo Connors, John Strasser
Jennifer Gaudette, Kathy Jablonski, Peter Carbonneau, James Keefe, Chief Clark, Chief Mancini, Nick DeMayo, Road agent Glover, Brenda Aldrich, Maxine Aldrich, Judy Weisenberger, Jason Tors, Ellie Brown

The board presented the 2019 Budget and invited questions from the audience.

Chief Mancini spoke about his increases and the costs for dispatch and prosecuting attorney increasing. The department is looking to lease a vehicle over three years and will own the vehicle at the end of the lease. Many departments have been successfully doing this option.

Chief Clark noted his bottom line is less this year and payroll accounts for \$42,000 with \$7,500 being his salary. No idea on number of calls so the payroll is always an estimate.

Nick DeMayo questioned the town's participation in the Whitefield Airport Commission. Jennifer will get additional information to Mr. DeMayo.

Road Agent Doug Glover explained the work that the road committee approved this year and the financing through funds received by Chief Clark's work with FEMA.

Chief Clark advised that more FEMA money was to come including the Indian Creek Bridge replacement as soon as a figure can be reached.

The Transfer Station and Recreation Budgets include increases and fulltime employees in those positions will now be part of the NH Retirement System. The Transfer Station will be buying two new containers and a set of truck scales. These will be purchased from an existing fund and the balance of the fund if voted by Franconia voters will be disbursed to Franconia, Sugar Hill and Easton. Sugar Hill will create a new Transfer Station Capital Reserve Fund with this money. Approximately \$17,795.

There will be a Warrant Article for the Cemetery for construction of roads. The Cemetery Trustees will fund \$15,000 from trusts and asks the Town for \$8,000.

Ms. Connors explained the increase in the Streetlight budget and explained that the town will be replacing with LED bulbs as has been done in surrounding towns. The initial cost is around \$10,000 with a \$4,000 rebate.

Maxine Aldrich inquired if there was a way to make the Crapo Parking Lot lit at night when an event is taking place. Currently it is very dark for people coming and going to their cars.

Jason Tors commented on the library budget increase and need to bring the library up to date on salary etc.

Ms. Connors handed out an information page on a proposed Solar Energy Warrant Article. A recommendation was made to change the name from Solar to Energy Efficient Municipal Building Capital Reserve Fund so that the monies are not restricted just to a solar project.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer P. Gaudette
Administrative Assistant

