

BUDGET HEARING – February 1, 2021

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

Guests: Chief Mike Ho-Sing-Loy, Fire Chief Allan Clark, Road Agent Douglas Glover,
Library Trustees Terri Schofield, Irene Amsbary, Greg Connors, Nancy & Carl
Martland, Peter Carbonneau

Chairman John Strasser presented the 2021 Budget. Discussion followed on various lines:

Police Department Budget: Increase is due to last year's budget only included 9 months of Chief Salary. Fire Department: \$13,500 added as the air bottles must be replaced every 15 years. General Highway budget increase is to offset receiving less from the State for Highway Block.

Margo Connors discussed the plan to have a Solar Array at the town garage. A handout was provided and is available at the Town Office. The board would take a five-year note (1.9%) to pay for the cost of installation. The board will finalize a choice next week for the installer to hire if the warrant article passes. There will be a letter going out to explain to voters and also a hearing prior to the rescheduled Town Meeting.

The board reminded those present that the Town Meeting business portion will be May 11th at 7:00pm at the Sugar Hill Fire Station. The voting for town officers and zoning change will be held on Tuesday March 9th from 11-7 at the Carolina Crapo Building.

Margo Connors reported that the bridge letter that the board sent out in regard to Crane Hill Bridge replacement had a very good return with most residents in favor of rehabilitation of the bridge. Since that time the board has been presented with an additional option (Contech Bridge – Colonial Truss prefab galvanized) that the Road Agent and Town Engineer are working on and will meet with a company next week. Carl Martland (NCC representative) stated that he would be more than willing to work as a liaison, in regard to State funding for this project if needed. Road Agent Glover hoped that his alternative would also qualify for the 80/20 state aid.

Jennifer explained the \$123,852.27 in funds that were offsetting including the GOFERR, Municipal, Police and Fire Stipends/Grants from the State and funding from the Non-lapsing Highway roadwork fund. Also new this year the second year of the highway department truck lease is in the budget under capital expense. The budget revenue figures are less in part to not expecting to receive the normal \$29,000 that the town would normally get from Rooms and Meals tax.

Chief Clark asked if the increase this year would be offset by surplus to maintain the town portion of the tax rate which is what the board anticipates.
Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Gaudette
Administrative Assistant