

Sugar Hill Budget Hearing Minutes

February 10, 2014 6:30 pm

Select Board: Dick Bielefield, John Strasser, Margo Connors

AA: Jennifer Gaudette

Guests: Department Heads and Board Representatives: Fire Chief Allan Clark, Road Agent Doug Glover, Library Trustee Irene Amsbary, Police Chief David Wentworth, Librarian Judy Weisenberger, and Building & Grounds James Keefe

Community: Greg Connors, Peter Anderson, Rob Hayward, Nick DeMayo, Maxine Aldrich, Brenda Aldrich, Carl Martland, Nancy Martland

MR. BIELEFIELD presented the budget and discussed the expenditures and revenue hand outs. Noted increases for the assessing are due to the statistical update for 2014. Increase in Financial was noted that we are now paying \$5,000 for compilation of the Financial Report by Crane & Bell. The Election budget is also up because of the number of elections in 2014.

There was a question in regard to the Welfare Budget and 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.

PETER ANDERSON asked about the Calex Ambulance cost. CHIEF CLARK explained that the cost is a retainer so that that Calex will respond to Sugar Hill.

BRENDA ALDRICH asked about the increase in the cemetery budget and it was explained that the additional funds would be coming from the Cemetery Trust Funds. Phase 2 of repairs to the ironwork and gates throughout the cemetery.

CARL MARTLAND asked about the \$1,000 amount to be placed in a non-lapsing fund for legal costs associated with the Northern Pass Project. Mr. Martland felt that \$10,000 was more appropriate start for the fund. Nick DeMayo felt that \$5,000 would be more appropriate in tougher financial times. General conversation followed with the majority in the room advising they would like to see the \$10,000 amount on the Warrant. The Select Board was in agreement and will add \$9,000 to the Warrant total.

NICK DE MAYO asked about the doors for the highway garage and whether they had been purchased yet and if they had gone to bid. Mr. Glover noted that he got a second price for solar doors and he is going to look at several locations that are currently using the solar doors. A decision on doors will be made after looking at all options. The Town does not need to put it out to bid.

MR. BIELEFIELD noted that the board did not add to either the Police Department or Building & Grounds Capital Reserve Funds this year. In addition the extra money in Long Term Interest was added to the principal again this year.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer P. Gaudette

Administrative Assistant