

Town of Gouldsboro Budget Committee

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, 14 April 2021 — PH Women's Club

Attendees

- Dwight Rodgers
- Ray Jones
- Deb Bisson
- Jay Bricker (via Zoom)
- Fred Cook
- Roger Dean (via Zoom)
- Becky Follette
- AJ Higgins
- Mary-Ann Higgins (via Zoom)
- Eve Wilkinson
- Paul Stewart (Alternate)
- Dave Seward (Alternate)
- Andrea Sirois (Town Manager)
- Kim Shay (Town Office Manager, via Zoom)
- Tate McLean (Guest)
- Ken McCartney (Guest)
- Letitia Baldwin (Guest)

Absent

- None

General Discussions

- Meeting called to order at 6:04 pm. Minutes from April 7 approved.
- Updated insurance figures not yet available; perhaps by next Wednesday.
- Health insurance updated to cover eight employees as maximum for budgeting purposes.
- Significant department discussion items shown below. Detailed comments in Excel worksheet.

General and Administrative

- For all other insurance lines, latest inputs are not itemized sufficiently to establish accurate itemization but the consensus is that the 7% increase for other insurances is still reasonable. **Motion to accept the General & Administrative budget, with estimated insurance lines, approved unanimously.**

Public Safety

- Public Safety cannot be finalized tonight; much discussion is expected at tomorrow's BoS meeting. Hopefully we can finalize the portion of the budget next week.
- **Ambulance:**
 - Estimated revenue for next year: \$95,900. Revenue approach will be reviewed and discussed at tomorrow's BoS meeting.
 - We have three ambulances; two are paramedic and one is training.
 - Andrea still must allocate the lump sum vehicle insurance cost to individual vehicles.
 - Question posed to Tate and Ken regarding fuel costs: If the ambulance expects to be busier this coming year, why is the fuel estimate lower? The answer is that the new ambulance gets better gas mileage. Tate is still comfortable leaving the budget for fuel at \$5000.
 - Tate will provide updated estimate of the ambulance call volume at tomorrow's BoS meeting.

Animal Control

- Confirmed as its own department, 40-05.

Public Works

- Jim McLean unavailable for tonight's meeting. Consequently, we expect to review and vote on the Public Works budget next week.
- There was a reconfirmation that any unexpended Public Works funds go into the general fund and not into the Public Works reserve.
- Discussion about what road projects have been completed this year. Jim was not available so we will discuss this at the next Budget meeting.

- A question came up regarding the enrollment period for health insurance. Andrea thinks it is late February.
- Committee members decided by consensus that they were generally comfortable with 4/8 budget numbers pending clarification on the road work budgets.

Charitable Contributions

- The town has received two new requests: Maine Coast Memorial Hospital and Sunrise Little League. MAH comments that in the past we have voted to not accept late applications.
- MAH: Any reason the Sunrise Little League request cannot come out of reserve? Yes—there is no Recreation Committee and ordinance says reserve account is only for Committee functions. But perhaps the BoS can approve. Ray comments that if we don't have a little league team in Gouldsboro we shouldn't support the Sunrise request. MAH concurs.
- Question arose concerning the criteria for charitable contributions. MAH explained how decisions have been made in the past and what sorts of organizations qualified for town "charity."
- It was noted that there has been no formal request from the Downeast Family YMCA for a contribution this year.
- There was an extended discussion about the methodology we should use for this coming fiscal year. Roger suggests using MAH's spreadsheet methodology that we have used in the recent past. However, Becky and Deb believe that this method deprives deserving organizations of contributions. Deb suggests dividing total contribution amount equally between all requestors. Dwight notes that there are 18 in-time requests this year. Dwight suggests establishing a total dollar amount for contributions and then allocate it. MAH observes that some regular requestors have little or nothing to do with Gouldsboro. Andrea suggests narrowing down list by removing those requestors who we all agree we do not want to support. Eve supports this idea, but Roger suggests that we will never consensus on whom to eliminate. Andrea comments that the real total number of requestors is 14, and not 18.
- **Motion made and carried to limit total charitable contributions to \$3000. Decision on how to apportion delayed to next week**, by which time Andrea can provide summary information on contributions of requestors to Gouldsboro.

Reserves

- Ability to spend from any reserve must be approved by BoS.
- Transfer Station reserve is for improving facilities, e.g., adding scales.
- Dwight requests updated numbers for all reserve accounts.
- Cruiser reserve to be amended to cover Police Academy costs.

Andrea will provide a revised custom budget report after next week's Budget Committee meeting. The timing is determined by BoS decisions tomorrow and what we can accomplish next Wednesday.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.