

**Town of Gouldsboro  
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes  
March 19, 2025  
Gouldsboro Town Office**

**Committee Members Present:**

Dwight Rodgers, Chair  
AJ Higgins, Secretary  
Ray Jones  
Roger Dean  
Brenda Young  
Paul Stewart  
Jay Bricker  
Tim Smith  
Eve Wilkinson, Alternate

**Members Absent:**

Larry Peterson (Resigned)

**Town Manager:**

Josh McIntyre  
(Absent)

**Number of guests:**

None

**Approval of the minutes from March 5, 2025:**

**MOTION:** Approved as written YES[ X] NO [ ]

Motion: Ray Jones; Brenda Young, 2nd

Unanimous

**Discussion:**

**Vice-chair position:** The committee accepted the resignation of Vice-Chair Larry Peterson with deep regret after he left the panel due to health issues. Ray Jones agreed to step in unofficially to lead the committee in the event of the chair's absence.

**Family Leave:** Dwight Rodgers reminded the Budget Committee that a new expense line has been added to the budget under the General Administration line as the result of recent state legislation.

**Insurance:** Under the new budget process initiated by Town Manager Joshua McIntyre, all insurance lines are grouped collectively rather than as individual expenses within their respective departments. The committee appreciated the convenience of a comprehensive presentation on the insurance lines and even recommended a similar approach for such expenses as training, postage, fuel, advertising and travel. However, all of the BC members expressed serious reservations about presenting an all-inclusive Insurance costs line as a singular warrant article at town meeting over concerns that the large expense could be defeated, throwing the budget – and the town officials who would be forced to address that vote – into turmoil. The BC recommends the reintroduction of the longstanding practice of listing insurance lines within the budget under their respective departments on the town warrant while also developing a summary sheet of total insurance costs for those who would like that information. The BC members generally agreed that it is still important to show "true" department expenses in the budget and another reason to continue to keep insurance within the respective departments.

**Salary increases/merit raises:** The BC expressed concerns over what appears to be an abandonment of the Select Board's practice of tying employee raises to the consumer price index. Chair Dwight Rodgers said he would inquire further with the town manager.

**Newsletter:** The BC spent considerable time rehashing the annual issue of the town newsletter which many residents enjoy receiving in the mail. This year the cost has risen to \$6,000, which is triple the amount that was seven years ago. Many BC members believe the newsletter mailing is a community service while others maintain that its cost is not entirely necessary since a copy of the newsletter could be picked up at the town office or easily accessed on the town

website. Since a “consulting” budget line under General Administration was not explained in the BC’s budget materials, several members supported transferring the \$6,000 cost to cover the newsletter mailing. Other recommendations included an email subscriber list for distributing the newsletter.

**Town Report:** Notwithstanding rising costs of materials over the last two years, Chair Dwight Rodgers said he would like more information on why it costs more to print the town report than the amount approved by voters at town meeting last year.

**Budget Line Reductions:** Several members of the budget committee suggested that the newsletter expense be brought back into the budget so that it can be sent out again. It was the understanding of the committee that this expense might be offset by taking the consulting expense out of the salary line under General Administration. Also under General Administration, the budget committee would like to cut line 30-08 Supplies from \$7,000.00 to \$5,000.00 after looking at the most recent printout,(3/19/25), of YTD expenditures. In addition, the budget committee would like to cut line 30-19 Special Projects from \$800.00 back to \$500.00 after looking at the YTD expenditure. The Budget committee would also suggest cutting line 40-04 from the suggested \$4,000.00 to \$2,000.00 and would like an explanation of line 40-03 Travel.

**Public Safety:** The BC would like to see the town’s Police, EMS and Fire Departments generate bi-weekly activity reports to provide the BC and town residents with a broader understanding of these expenses which have risen from \$478,771 (FY 2021) to this year’s proposed \$943,435. The BC understands that for confidentiality reasons, specific details cannot be provided regarding the activities of each of the Public Safety areas. However, a report issued every two weeks during SB meetings could be reinstated to show the number of calls that were responded to as well as any problems or repairs that were needed. To be clear, this is not a matter of thinking that people or departments are not doing their jobs, but rather an attempt to assist the SB and the public with the demands facing these departments.

**Police:** The BC would suggest cutting line 30-02 Postage from \$300.00 to \$50.00 given the expenditure levels over the last two years. In addition, the BC would like explanations/clarifications on the following lines - 30-03 Vehicle Fuel, 30-04

Vehicle Maintenance, 30-06 Computer Software, 30-07 Computer Hardware, 30-08 General Supplies, 30-17 Uniforms, 40-01 Dues & Licenses, 40-03 Travel, and 40-04 Training. There are usually notes that explain these items, but in these cases there are not, and in looking through the rest of the budget, the same questions are going to pop up not only in the rest of Public Safety, but in the other departments as well.

The Budget Committee would also like further information on whether **Police Cruiser Reserve** funds were used to purchase the town's newest police vehicle and, if not, how was the cost covered?

**Winter Harbor Ambulance Service:** The BC would like to know whether the town of Winter Harbor is contributing to the cost of the ambulance service. If so, how much?

**Town Budget Surplus:** According to the audit which we understand is done, what was the amount of surplus according to the audit at the end of FY 2024?

**Next Budget Committee Meeting:** Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m.

**Meeting adjourned:** 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: AJ Higgins, Secretary