

**Town of Gouldsboro  
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes  
April 2, 2025  
Gouldsboro Town Office**

**Committee Members Present:**

Dwight Rodgers, Chair  
AJ Higgins, Secretary  
Ray Jones  
Roger Dean  
Brenda Young  
Jay Bricker  
Tim Smith  
Larry Peterson (via ZOOM)  
Eve Wilkinson, Alternate

**Members Absent:**

Paul Stewart

**Town Manager:**

Josh McIntyre  
(Absent)

**Number of guests:**

None

**Approval of the minutes from March 19, 2025:**

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

Motion: Roger Dean; Jay Bricker, 2nd  
Unanimous

**Discussion:**

**NEWSLETTER:** The committee briefly discussed its position on the bulk mailing of the town newsletter. Committee members like the idea of maintaining the

newsletter, but opinions vary on whether it should be delivered through bulk mail or distributed through email or simply made available online. Chair Rodgers suggested the matter be taken up again later in the budget process.

**ONGOING INTERACTION WITH THE SELECT BOARD ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET:**

Chair Dwight Rodgers told the committee members that he continues to struggle with the SB and town manager Josh McIntyre over the new budget process which has resulted in Budget Committee members not receiving the detailed information that it has received from the town manager in previous budget deliberations. He added that SB members have had little to contribute during meetings with department heads prompting some BC members to question where and when those SB budget discussions were taking place. Rodgers said his impression was that the SB was satisfied with the proposed budget presented by the town manager.

**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. McIntyre told Rodgers that he privately polled the SB which supported the town manager's grouping of insurance costs.

**FICA & MEDICARE:** The Budget Committee expressed concerns over how the salary percentages for FICA and Medicare costs were applied throughout the budget.

**TOWN MEETING MANDATE FOR DEPARTMENTAL STYLE BUDGET:** The BC wants to know if the departmental approach used historically by the town was mandated by the voters during an earlier town meeting.

**CUT-AND-PASTE BUDGET:** The BC members said their review of the budget indicates that many budget lines which do not show a historic pattern of increases are being increased in McIntyre's budget without explanation. Budget Committee members said it appeared as though the town manager gave little analysis to these budget lines which appeared to be cut and pasted electronically from last year's town budget.

**UNANSWERED QUESTIONS POSED TO THE TOWN MANAGER:** Chair Rodgers said a number of budget questions posed to the town manager weeks ago continue to go unanswered including, It was determined that the town of Winter Harbor was paying Gouldsboro for ambulance services, however the amount for those services was not disclosed. 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?

## **CONSENSUS BC PRELIMINARY BUDGET DECISIONS 04/02/25:**

### **FIRE DEPT.**

#### **Reductions**

RC/911	\$6500 TO \$5000
Postage	\$100 to \$50
Vehicle Fuel	\$8500 to \$3000
Equipment	\$20000 to \$17000
Training	\$4000 to \$2500
Fire Prevention	\$500 to \$250
Med Evaluations	\$1500 to \$1000

The committee would like a status report on the fire hydrants; how many work, etc.

The committee questioned the criteria and disparity between the salary lines for police chief and ambulance director, particularly since the ambulance director has so many more employees.

### **AMBULANCE DEPT.**

#### **Reductions**

Postage	\$600 to \$250
Gen. Supplies	\$1800 to \$1000
Uniforms	\$8000 to \$5000
Travel	\$2000 to \$500
Training	\$5000 to \$3500

#### **Increases**

Equipment	\$1,000 to \$2000
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**\$800 remains from last year's laptop account. Why not use that before appropriating an additional \$800 for a laptop that was in last year's budget?**

**The committee also wanted to know more about billing for the Ambulance Independent Contractor. Is its fee still collected on a percentage basis?**

## **Under Committees**

### **Reductions**

**Solid Waste Com Ads \$750 to \$250**

**Planning Board Ads \$400 to \$300**

**Next Budget Committee Meeting: Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m.**

**Meeting adjourned: 7:16 p.m. MOTION: Roger Dean; 2<sup>nd</sup> Tim Smith**  
**Respectfully submitted: AJ Higgins, Secretary**