

**Town of Gouldsboro
Budget Committee Meeting
Dec. 4, 2024
Gouldsboro Town Office**

Committee Members Present:

Dwight Rodgers, Chair
AJ Higgins, Secretary
Ray Jones
Roger Dean
Eve Wilkinson
Jay Bricker
Brenda Clough

Members Absent:

Tim Smith
Larry Peterson, Vice-Chair

Two Alternate Members:
(Both positions vacant)

Town Manager:

Josh McIntyre
(Present)

Number of Guests:

None

Election of Officers: The committee elected the following officers:

MOTION: Dwight Rodgers, Chair, motion, Ray Jones, 2nd Jay Bricker

MOTION: Larry Peterson, Vice-Chair, motion, AJ Higgins, 2nd, Brenda Clough

MOTION: AJ Higgins, Secretary, motion, Eve Wilkinson, 2nd, Brenda Clough.

Discussion:

PROCESS: Chairman Dwight Rodgers called the organizational meeting of the Gouldsboro Budget Committee to order at 5 p.m. Town Manager Josh McIntyre and board members discussed the current process for building and reviewing the proposed town budget. McIntyre said department heads and office staff are currently assessing their requests for the upcoming year. When those requests are submitted to the town manager, McIntyre said he will be presenting them to a joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) and the Budget Committee (BC) with pertinent department heads present to provide any necessary elaboration. Those meetings are expected to commence near the end of February or early March. Committee members and the town manager agreed that the proposed process is to allow both the BOS and BC to hear the same presentations at the same time.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Rodgers said the BC remains concerned about rising costs and noted that the public safety departments now represent a third of the town budget. In response to questions from the BC, McIntyre said the Gouldsboro Police Department currently consists of a part-time officer in charge (a term of art for the de facto police chief), Jim Malloy; a fulltime officer, Wayne Robbins and a part-time officer, Damon Dorr.

WARRANT ARTICLES/RESERVES: General agreement among budget committee members and the town manager that there are conflicts within the historic adoption of warrant articles that have been passed by the voters over several decades related to carryover, year-to-year department balances that are transferred to a dedicated reserve, such as the police cruiser reserve or returned to the General Fund. These warrant articles remain in place until they are specifically revoked by the voters. Possible remedies include completing a historic review of pertinent conflicting warrant articles ,a town meeting for the purpose of revoking those articles and then starting over with new proposed language.to create an overall reserve account policy. Eve Wilkinson suggested the town could also consider an ordinance to regulate the reserve accounts.

Next Budget Committee Meeting: Jan. 15, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned: 5:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: AJ Higgins, Secretary