

**Town of Haverhill  
ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, January 13, 2021  
6:00 PM  
R. E. Clifford Memorial Building  
65 South Court St.  
Woodsville, NH 03785**

The meeting was **Called to Order** at 6:07 PM by David Robinson, Chair.

**Town Employees Present:**

**Town Manager:** Brigitte Codling

**Assistant Town Manager:** Jennifer Boucher

**Member of the Select Board Present:** Howard Hatch

**Roll Call Attendance of the Advisory Budget Committee:** David Robinson, Chair; Wayne Fortier, Vice Chair; Donnie Hammond; Guy Mitchell; Dave Joslin. **A quorum was met.**

**Visitors (online):** Rick Ladd; Michael Lavoie, Haverhill Corner Precinct Commission, Chair; Doug Dutile; Albion Esties; Jay Holden; Kevin Shelton, Woodsville Precinct Administrator

**Visitors (in person):** Jeff Robbins, Woodsville Fire Chief; Keith Charpentier, Deputy Chief, Haverhill Corner Fire Department; Phil Blanchard, N. Haverhill Fire Chief; Dick Guy, Woodsville Ambulance.

**AGENDA**

Robinson stated that at this meeting the budgets for the Fire Department and Ambulance will be discussed.

**FIRE DEPARTMENTS**

**Woodsville Fire Department**

Jeff Robbins began the discussion of the Woodsville Fire Department budget and noted that the call volume (77 runs in 2020 compared with 150 runs in other years.) was down for 2020, but the 2021 budget is higher because of the need for air cylinder filling system at the station (\$3,750.00 semiannually), four sets of new gear, truck maintenance, and reserve money for a new tower truck. Discussion continued. Robinson asked about salaries and staff numbers. Discussion resumed.

**Haverhill Corner**

Keith Charpentier, Deputy Chief, Haverhill Corner Fire Department, noted that the chief and assistant chief put the budget together, but he will be delivering the budget statement. Charpentier noted that they tried to keep the budget level funded, but the increases were for equipment, training, clothing, and turn-out gear. Charpentier noted the number of staff and their salaries. Codling noted that facility improvements were the biggest increase in the budget, including a new roof and generator. Discussion continued. Commissioner Dutile spoke to the Committee about the fire department merger vote. Dutile asked the Committee to fund the

Haverhill Corner Fire Department no matter what the precinct votes about merger. Discussion continued. Jay Holden entered the conversation of funding the Town Fire Departments.

**MOTION #1:** Fortier made the motion to recommended that the Haverhill Corner Fire Department 148-3-12 budget be realigned in the same way as the Woodsville Fire Department budget, so that it shows that the Town will fund the Haverhill Corner Fire Department at the precinct level. Robinson seconded the motion.

- Hammond requested that the motion be retracted.
- The Motion was not retracted nor voted on.

**MOTION #2:** Hammond made a motion that all the Fire Department funding stay as it is for 1 year to reconcile these issues and that funding remain exactly the way the fire departments were funded in 2020, in the same order; that is move the money from the Town's budget into the Precinct of Haverhill Corner's budget to fund the Precinct Fire Department. Robinson seconded the motion.

- Hammond recommended postponing the change in funding for a year. He asked if there were public hearings.
- Ladd suggested that from Article 23 from the 2020 Town Warrant, the Town could fund in the same format.
- Holden suggested the August 16 meeting of the Committee of the three fire departments be added to the Town's Facebook page. Codling noted that it will go on YouTube and she will notify the Town in the papers.

**Roll Call Vote:** Donnie Hammond (Yes), Guy Mitchell (Yes), Dave Joslin (Yes), Wayne Fortier (Yes), David Robinson (Yes). The motion passed unanimously.

*Robinson stated that the Advisory Budget Committee unanimously recommended to the Select Board that the money from the Town's Fire Department budget be removed and put back in the fire service line item for Haverhill Corner Precinct.*

### **North Haverhill**

Phil Blanchard, Chief of the N. Haverhill Fire Department, stated that much is the same in the 2021 budget compared to last year. Robinson asked about staff and salaries. Discussion continued. Chief Blanchard noted that the N. Haverhill Fire Department averages about 1,000 to 1,100 fire-hours a year.

### **Haverhill Corner Fire Department / Budget Committee VOTE**

Dutile spoke on the topic of an increase in the Fire Department budget for equipment, roof repairs, and paving. Discussion continued.

**MOTION #3:** Fortier made a motion that the Haverhill Corner Fire Department be funded for year 2021 at \$148,312.00. Mitchell seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Donnie Hammond (Yes), Guy Mitchell (Yes), Dave Joslin (Yes), Wayne Fortier (Yes), David Robinson (Yes). The motion passed unanimously.

*Robinson stated that the Advisory Budget Committee unanimously recommended the Haverhill Corner Fire Department budget of \$148,312.00.*

**Woodsville Fire Department / Budget Committee VOTE**

**MOTION #4:** Fortier made a motion that the Woodsville Fire Department be funded for year 2021 at \$157,025.00. Joslin seconded the motion.

- Hammond recommended that \$30,000.00 be entered into the capital reserve fund for the tower truck.
- Kevin Shelton noted that if the money came to the precinct it would go into a reserve fund for the fire truck.
- **Motion #4** was withdrawn by Fortier, and the second was withdrawn by Joslin.

**MOTION #5:** Fortier made a motion to recommend to the Select Board that the Woodsville Fire Department be funded for year 2021 at \$127,025.00 and \$30,000.00 to be transferred to the capital reserve fund for fire vehicles under 014915.20-960, which would increase that amount from \$20,000 to \$50,000. Hammond seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Donnie Hammond (Yes), Guy Mitchell (Yes), Dave Joslin (Yes), Wayne Fortier (Yes), David Robinson (Yes). The motion passed unanimously.

*Robinson stated that the Advisory Budget Committee unanimously recommended the Woodsville Fire Department budget of \$127,025.00 and that \$30,000.00 be replaced into the line item 014915.20-960 as a capital reserve amount of \$50,000.00.*

**North Haverhill Fire Department / Budget Committee VOTE**

**MOTION #6:** Joslin made a motion that the Committee recommend that the North Haverhill Fire Department be funded for year 2021 at \$181,652.51. Fortier seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Donnie Hammond (Yes), Guy Mitchell (Yes), Dave Joslin (Yes), Wayne Fortier (Yes), David Robinson (Yes). The motion passed unanimously.

*Robinson stated that the Advisory Budget Committee unanimously recommended the North Haverhill Fire Department budget of \$181,652.51.*

**Woodsville Ambulance / Budget Committee VOTE**

Dick Guy presented the budget to the Committee for review. Robbins stated that the service is asking for an increase to \$28.70 per capita (\$134,803.00 total) because, for the 2020 budget, the ambulance service was down \$40,000.00. The Committee asked about the number of employees and their skills.

Robinson stated on behalf of the Committee that he thanks to all the firefighters, EMTs, and paramedics for their work during the pandemic.

Guy stated that what those people do every day reflects “the fabric of our community.”

Robinson suggested recommending an ambulance line item of 014215.10-390.

**MOTION #7:** Joslin made a motion that the Committee recommend the line item 014215.10-390 in the amount of \$134,803.00 for the Woodsville Ambulance removing the second line for Ambulance Dispatch. Mitchell seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Donnie Hammond (Yes), Guy Mitchell (Yes), Dave Joslin (Yes), Wayne Fortier (Yes), David Robinson (Yes). The motion passed unanimously.

*Robinson stated that the Advisory Budget Committee unanimously recommended the Woodsville Ambulance budget of \$134,803.00.*

## **ADJOURN**

**MOTION #8:** Hammond made a motion and Mitchell seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 PM.

**Roll Call Vote:** Donnie Hammond (Yes), Guy Mitchell (Yes), Dave Joslin (Yes), Wayne Fortier (Yes), David Robinson (Yes). The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was ADJOURNED at 9:03 PM.

## **NEXT MEETING:**

- Wednesday, January 20, 2021, for Parks & Recreation and Libraries.

*Transcribed by Joanna Bligh*