

**TOWN OF GREEN MOUNTAIN FALLS
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**SPECIAL MEETING
PUBLIC HEARING ON 2015 BUDGET
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2014 – 7:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Meeting called to order: @ 7:05 p.m.

Board Members Present: Mayor Worthey, Trustee Stevens, Trustee Quinn, Trustee Ellis, Trustee Gardiner, Trustee Butts and Trustee Cook,

Quorum Met: yes **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.

Mayor Worthey welcomed everyone for coming out and commented how far the town has come with having so many citizens showing up to the board meetings as three (3) years ago, no one would come out to the meetings.

After opening up the meeting, Mayor Worthey stated the meeting was now in recess @ 7:06 so the public hearing could be started. The Mayor stated that that we would not hold fast to the three (3) minute rule but rather give everyone a chance to share their thoughts and concerns regarding the proposed 2015 budget. She asked that we be efficient and productive in the conversations while maintaining order and respect for the Board of Trustees. She also stated for those who were in agreement with what someone was saying, to simply stand and state they are in agreement for the sake of not repeating the same thing over again. The Mayor also commented that we had received several letters to be read into the record, however all those who had sent in letters were present. She gave these citizens the opportunity to speak on their own letters if they wanted to or she would read them aloud for the record. All citizens chose to speak for the record and they are as follows:

Jane Newberry, 10660 Illinois – she read aloud her letter (see attached)

Gail Gerig, non-resident – she read aloud her letter (see attached)

Cameron Thorne, 6740 Boulder – he read aloud his letter (see attached)

Mac Pitrone, 10840 Myrtle – he read aloud his letter (see attached)

Dick Bratton, 11190 Hondo – commented on his letter for the record rather than reading it aloud (see attached). He commended the Board and Town Treasurer for their efforts in pulling together the 2015 budget, as most Board members were knew without much experience with budgeting. He also commented that there were a group of citizens at the post office handing out a document that critized the 2015 budget. He mentioned that some of the same things in his letter were on this document being handed out. He suggested that the budget be passed “tonight” to avoid the state statutory 90% rule, and then revisit the budget for amendments. He also stated that the budget is “just a guest-a-ment” based on what was currently received and could be amended as needed.

Margaret Peterson, 10795 Belvidere - no letter was provided for the record, rather she commented on growing up in GMF’s all her life and how active her father was in the community. She stated she holds a position as a financial administrator and she understands the importance of budgeting and having your revenues in balance. She also recommended the Board have a good thorough audit this year with all the changes with town hall. She told the Board that she wanted a “definite commitment” to adjust the budget should it be passed tonight. She also wanted to know if there was any study on getting a sub-station for El Paso County Sherriff’s Department and stated that this was offered at no additional cost. She stated that the residents of GMF’s do not want police but rather, a marshal who only patrols the streets of GMF’s and not Hwy 24.

John Lownes, 6950 Colorado St. – no letter was provided for the record. He stated he has been living in GMF's for 15 years in which 13 of those he had served on the Planning Commission for GMF's. He also stated that "even though we are a divided community, everyone here wants to see the good for GMF's." He also stated that as a realtor, people use to say how they loved coming to GMF's due to the lake, the Pantry Restaurant and then it became "I don't want to go there, it's a speed trap, the people can't get along, and you look foolish in all those things." He stated that he wanted us to work together to rectify all these things.

Jane Newberry – spoke again and stated that she received a call from Douglas Bruce from Tabor and he gave her a message to give to us – "if we didn't disclose tabor, if we don't set aside for tabor, we were subject to litigation." She further stated that "she was not threatening but rather passing along what was told to me."

Mayor Worthey closed the public hearing at 7:34 p.m. The Mayor turned the meeting over to Trustee Butts for commenting on the budget. He stated that he had met with Mary, Town Treasurer, earlier in the day to go over some of the concerns that people had expressed through the letters that were sent in. He stated that Mary would be covering the revenue side and he would go over the expense side of the budget.

Mary welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed her happiness with the great turnout and hoped we could continue to have as many people at future meetings. She gave a brief background on her experience and knowledge that has enabled her to be qualified for the position as town clerk/treasurer. She explained that she has 25+ years in the administrative field as well as, an accounting background. Early on in her career she held the position as accountant for the Headstart Program that served 3 counties and had a budget of over 1.5 million. Since then she has held several positions that involved accounting along with gaining several accounting classes. Her most recent positions (within the past 8-9 yrs.) were positions that focused more on creating budgets and managing the budgets vs. doing the accounting side. With that, Mary went into addressing the concerns with the revenues that the citizens made in their letters. She stated that the projected revenues were based on actual 2014 revenues. Some line items were lower than 2014's budget and some were higher. This was due to 2014 being over budgeted and/or under budgeted and adjustments were made accordingly. She addresses the line items for dog license fees and the conservation trust fund. There would be an adjustment of \$1800 out of dog fees and added to the conservation trust fund. She addressed the concerns for the court revenues and stated this was based on what we've actually collected in the past 3-4 mos. The last item that seemed to be a concern was the miscellaneous revenue. This again was based off of what was actually collected in 2014 as well as donations that have been committed by citizens yet not given as they are waiting on the Board of Trustees to provide a list of priorities for the unmet needs of the new town hall. She addresses the concerns that Ms. Newberry stated regarding TABOR. Tabor does not have to be set aside in a separate account. We do have to show that we have money in our account to cover the cost of TABOR by December 31st which is 3% of our budget totaling \$14,066. Mary referenced the retirement expense that one of the citizens commented as not adding up. This is due to all staff being new; they are not eligible until their 13 month of employment which accounts for not budgeting in for the full year retirement payments.

Trustee Butts – wanted to let everyone know that the budget that was once posted on the website was not ordered by town hall to be taken down. The hosting company did this in error, as the last order they had received from us was on Dec 16th and this was to post the budget. Matt wanted it noted that the budget had also been posted at the post office since this date as well. Trustee Butts explained what happened at our budget meetings referring to discretionary expenses vs. fixed. The Board also wanted to clearly define some line items such as salaries as "being board approved." There have been problems on past budgets with the salaries coming in much higher than what was budgeted, without the Boards knowledge or approval. Trustee Butts shared what the salaries have been over the years from 2012 – 2014. What was budgeted for 2015 for salaries is in line with what has actually been paid out over the years.

Mayor Worthey read the Resolution for adopting the 2015 Budget. M/S: Butts/Stevens, all were in favor.

Mayor Worthey read the Resolution for adopting the Mill Levy. M/S: Cook/Quinn; all were in favor

Mayor Worthey read the Ordinance for Adopting the Appropriation of Funds. M/S: Stevens/Butts; all were in favor

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Mayor Lorrie Worthey

ATTEST: _____
Mary Duval, Town Clerk