

Gilford Budget Committee Minutes

Public Hearing

January 14, 2014 6:30 p.m.

Gilford High School Auditorium

Members Present: Gus Benavides, Fred Butler, Phyllis Corrigan, Sue Greene, Richard Grenier, Robert Henderson, Dave Horvath, Kevin Leandro, Kevin Roy, Karen Thurston, and Allen Voivod.

Gilford School Administrators Present: Director of Buildings and Grounds Tim Bartlett; Elementary School Principal Danielle Bolduc; Assistant Superintendent for Business Scott Isabelle; Director of Student Services Esther Kennedy; Middle School Assistant Principal Kara Lamontagne; Technology Director Brenda McGee; Middle School Principal Marcia Ross, and High School Assistant Principal Anthony Sperazzo.

Gilford School Board Members Present: Susan Allen (Chair) and Paul Blandford.

Phyllis Corrigan opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. She noted that committee member Jeff Beane had an out-of-town commitment and could not be present, leaving 11 committee members in attendance. She noted five members of the public in the audience.

School District Budget

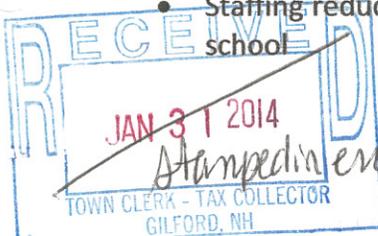
Phyllis Corrigan reviewed the budget as recommended by the budget committee at \$24,610,710, representing an increase of \$516,540 over the current budget. Subtracting anticipated revenue and state adequacy aid leaves \$5,087,043 to be raised by taxes resulting in a tax impact of 98 cents per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

Increases over the current general fund budget at \$723,157 are represented by the following:

- District-wide replacement of the telephone system;
- Replacement of seating at the high school auditorium
- Maintenance projects including
 - Skylight replacement, dryer exhaust, DDC controls and gym cameras at the high school;
 - Replacement of a smart board in the band room, pavement repair, and entry way heat and air handler at the middle school
 - Exterior wall panels, music room carpet, gym and cafeteria doors, roof repairs and installation of two projectors at the elementary school
 - Garage door panel replacement at the Meadows
- Support staff salary increases at three percent and administrative staff salary increases at 2.75 percent;
- Special Education out-of-district placements, OT/PT and transportation services.

Decreases in the general fund budget at \$233,709 are represented by the following:

- Staffing reductions of one teacher and .29 FTE support staff positions at the elementary school



- Life and disability insurance savings
- Reduction in heating oil costs due in large part to new efficient boilers

Phyllis commented that the school district brought to the process a list of priorities it sought to implement. The budget committee removed some items from the district's proposed budget, but then replaced several upon further investigation. Reductions in the district's proposed budget at \$51,500 result from deferring carpet replacement at the high school media center and computer labs and the second phase of stage curtain replacement.

Phyllis next reviewed the default budget, which is increased over last year's by \$291,007 and would result in an impact on the tax rate of 89 cent per \$1,000 assessed value. The default budget is lower than the budget committee's proposal by \$131,293.

Warrant Articles

Kevin Leandro reported that the committee voted 6-4 with two abstentions to recommend Article III, the Multi-year agreement, also known as the teachers' contract. The committee made no recommendation concerning Article IV, Authorization for Special Meeting on Cost Items. The committee voted 5-7 against recommending Article V, Fund Balance Retention. He indicated that the provision is fairly new; only a few districts have adopted it and none have used it. Phyllis added that the committee felt there are other means in place to address the contingencies anticipated by the measure.

Phyllis opened the meeting to questions at 6:40 p.m. As no questions or comment were offered, Kevin Leandro moved to close the meeting at 6:41 p.m. Richard Grenier seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 11-0.

Respectfully submitted


Mark Williams
Meeting Recorder

