

**GILFORD BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Town Budget Public Hearing**  
**January 16, 2014**  
**6:45 p.m.**  
**Gilford High School**

Members Present: Kevin Leandro, Richard Grenier, Kevin Roy, Dave Horvath, Sue Greene, Karen Thurston, Phyllis Corrigan, Bob Henderson (arrived at 6:49 p.m.), Allen Voivo and Fred Butler (both arrived at 7:00 p.m.)

Members Absent: Jeffrey Beane and Gus Benavides

The Budget Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Corrigan began the meeting by welcoming members of the public and thanking them for attending tonight's public hearing. She then introduced the members of the Budget Committee to the public. She further stated that the Budget Committee's review of the FY2014 Budget began in early October 2013 and included many long nights of discussion. The Budget Committee is pleased with the budget that will be presented to the voters at Town Meeting.

The review of the FY2014 Budget began with Article #9, which is on page 4 of the Town Warrant. Chairman Corrigan read the Article aloud and informed the public that most of the members of the Budget Committee were able to tour the existing Police Station. She thanked Acting Police Chief Leach and Acting Deputy Chief Kelley for staying late while conducting the tours. There were no questions or comments from the public.

Article #10 was then read aloud. Dave Horvath inquired if this was the final Warrant and Town Administrator Dunn replied that it is still a draft. Articles #11 and #12 were also read aloud by Chairman Corrigan. Dave Horvath then indicated that he would like the Budget Committee to have the opportunity to vote again if the language of the warrant articles changes. Town Administrator Dunn stated that he does not anticipate any significant changes and the Board of Selectmen are scheduled to sign the warrant at their meeting on January 21, 2014. He further stated that the only change will be with Article #21, which he will elaborate on when it is reached for discussion.

Articles #13, #14 and #15 were read aloud by Vice Chairman Kevin Leandro. Articles #16 and #17 were read aloud by Chairman Corrigan. There were no questions or comments from the public on these. Peter Millham then inquired when the discussion would take place concerning the Lakes Region Planning Commission (LRPC). Chairman Corrigan replied that it would have been covered in Article #10, which is the Town's operating budget. She further stated that we would return to that article once the rest of the Warrant is reviewed.

Article #18 was read aloud by Chairman Corrigan, followed by Articles #19 and #20 being read aloud by Vice Chairman Leandro. After reading Article #21, Town Administrator Dunn explained that the article shown as Article #21 (Alternate) is the wording that must be used, per the Department of Revenue Administration, who would like the \$59,000 to be shown as revenue. He further stated that although the Budget Committee has not yet voted on the language of the alternative warrant article, the substance of it is the same as the original article.

Articles #22, #23 and #24 were read aloud by Chairman Corrigan. Vice Chairman Leandro questioned the wording of Article #24 and felt that the use of the word "cover" was misleading, since the fund is being established to construct a building. Next, Article #25 was read aloud by Chairman Corrigan.

The next five (5) articles have been submitted by citizen petition and are for the funding of Outside Agencies. Brief discussion ensued regarding the philosophical aspect of funding these organizations. Article #27 was read aloud by Vice Chairman Leandro, while Articles #28 and #29 were read aloud by Chairman Corrigan. Kristen Welch, representing Genesis Behavioral Health, stated that she was available to answer questions that may arise concerning this organization.

Chairman Corrigan stated that she personally votes to support these agencies because, historically, the voters typically support them. Alida Millham also voiced her support. Kristen Welch provided an explanation of what constitutes emergency mental health services. Barbara Aichinger asked about the effects of the Affordable Care Act on these services, to which Kristen Welch explained that the State mandates there always be a clinician on call and these amounts are typically not completely reimbursed by insurance coverage. Article #30 was then read aloud by Chairman Corrigan, who advised the Board that this request for funding has not yet received a recommendation from the Budget Committee.

Margaret Franckhauser, Executive Director of the Central NH VNA & Hospice, introduced herself and stated that, as a courtesy, she advised the Board of Selectmen of their intent to seek funding early in the budget process. Town Administrator Dunn then provided an explanation of the process involved in having Outside Agency requests included in the Town Warrant. Based on further discussion regarding how recommendations are arrived at for Outside Agency funding, Dale Dormody asked if he was correct in stating that this is not done based on analyzing the merits of each group. Chairman Corrigan stated yes.

Returning to Article #10, Peter Millham asked for an explanation of the Budget Committee's position on cutting funding to LRPC and how the Planning Board feels about this action. Director of Planning and Land Use John Ayer stated that the Planning Board has not yet discussed this matter, but the Chairman of the Planning Board has written to the Budget Committee recommending that funding be completely restored. Philip Morin of Lakeshore Road stated that he has read the overview of LRPC that was provided and finds nothing objectionable. At this time, Jeff Hayes introduced himself as the new Executive Director of LRPC. He then advised the Committee that the State has nine (9) regional planning commissions, who provide value to the community in the form of local and regional services.

The largest service to communities concerns regional transportation issues, many of which are significant to Gilford. He also cited the Household Hazardous Waste Day and Hazard Mitigation Planning as being beneficial to Gilford. He further stated that he considers the Lake to be the most important reason for communities to have regional services provided by LRPC.

Extensive discussion ensued regarding the circumstances under which the Budget Committee brought up the matter of LRPC at their last meeting. Discussion also included upcoming HB 1573 and the State statute that authorizes the formation of regional planning commissions. Jeff Hayes emphasized that LRPC is strictly an advisory board with no enforcement authority. He also provided information regarding when and where their various meetings are held.

Discussion then focused on funding of LRPC and the issue of a paid lobbyist. Jeff Hayes clarified that the lobbyist is part of a separation organization, of which LRPC does pay dues. This lobbyist is paid approximately \$8,000 per year and works on legislation that favors planning organizations. Jeff Hayes responded to several questions regarding the interaction between LRPC and various Federal agencies.

Peter Millham expressed the opinion that the issue here is whether or not LRPC provides benefits to the Town of Gilford, and he sees no reason to deny support of them. Barbara Aichinger also expressed that the issue of value is important. However, she provided a lengthy explanation of the overlap of services that she thinks exists and does not think that the value exists. She is also of the opinion that the population of Gilford is sophisticated enough to not need the services of LRPC.

DPW Director Sheldon Morgan spoke in favor of LRPC, stating that the Department has extensive interaction with them. He further stated that many problems are regional and there is a need for communities to mesh and have consistency. He also emphasized the importance of water quality and the Household Hazardous Waste Program, which would cost the Town considerably more without membership in LRPC.

Philip Morin stated that he can see both sides of this issue, but he does not consider the cost high for the value that the Town receives.

Chairman Corrigan closed the public hearing at 8:10 p.m. and the Budget Committee began their deliberations. The first matter to be discussed is a recommendation for Article #30. Allen Voivod moved to recommend Article #30, in support of Central NH VNA & Hospice, in the amount of \$23,500. Kevin Roy seconded. David Horvath asked about the effect of the Affordable Care Act with this organization. Margaret Franckhauser responded that they anticipate less demand, but with this being the first year of the ACA, they should have data at the end of 2014. The motion carried by a vote of 6-4. Motion prevailed.

Chairman Corrigan moved to reinstate \$8,528 for the funding of LRPC. Allen Voivod seconded. Vice Chairman Leandro stated that these matters can be taken care of locally and we are already doing so. He does not think the value exists but rather, there is a lot of waste within the organization. Karen Thurston pointed out that Director Morgan's endorsement of LRPC is important to her. Fred Butler stated that the process the State follows on projects is to meet on a regional, not local, basis. This is the system that is currently in place within NH. Chairman Corrigan added that Director Morgan's statement has persuaded her to vote in support of LRPC. Vice Chairman Leandro suggested going a year without the services of LRPC and if need be, re-join the next year. Richard Grenier does not think that LRPC has created any physical results for Gilford and Dave Horvath thinks that local residents can best understand the needs of the Town. He reiterated the aspect of value. Bob Henderson will also support LRPC after hearing Director Morgan. DPW Operations Manager Mia Gagliardi advised the Committee that without membership in LRPC, the Household Hazardous Waste Program will cost the Town \$13,000, rather than \$6,000 with membership.

The motion carried by a vote of 6-4 to reinstate funding of LRPC.

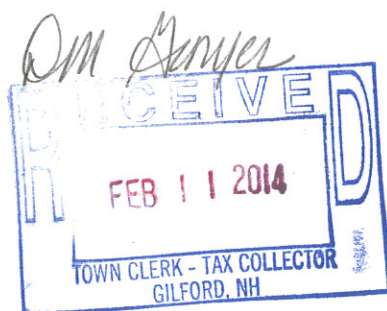
Phyllis Corrigan moved to change the recommended budget in Article #10 to \$11,282,896. Kevin Leandro seconded. Motion carried by a vote of 7-3.

Town Administrator Dunn provided additional information on Article #21. He stated that the alternate article adds \$161,000 to both expenditures and revenue. Allen Voivod moved to recommend \$11,282,896 for Article #21 (Alternate). Dave Horvath seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

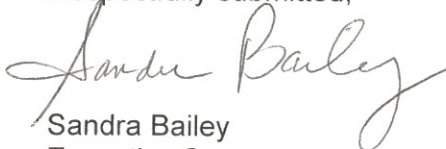
Finance Director Ruggles provided the Committee members with the School District's MS-27 form for signatures. He also stated that the Town's MS-7 form will be ready for signatures after noon tomorrow.

The minutes of the last meeting have not been made available for approval yet and will be approved at a future meeting.

Kevin Roy moved to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Kevin Leandro seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.



Respectfully submitted,

  
Sandra Bailey  
Executive Secretary