

TOWN OF GILFORD
BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 11, 2014

The Budget Committee convened a duly posted, public meeting on Thursday, September 11, at 7:00pm in the 1st Floor Conference Room at Town Hall.

Members of the Budget Committee in attendance were: Vice-Chairman Kevin Leandro, Allen Voivod, Sue Greene, Jeff Beane, Selectmen's Representative Richard Grenier, School Board Representative Karen Thurston, Robert Henderson, Norman Silber, David Horvath, and Kevin Roy. It was noted that Phyllis Corrigan and Fred Butler were unable to attend. Town Administrator Scott Dunn was in attendance acting as Secretary. Also present was Finance Director Geoff Ruggles.

Selectman Grenier led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Vice-Chair then introduced all of the Budget Committee members that were present.

Sue Greene made a motion to approve the minutes of May 15, 2014 as presented, seconded by Richard Grenier and passed on a vote with 6 in favor, none opposed and 2 abstentions, (6-0-2).

The following Subcommittee assignments were agreed upon by consensus:

Admin: Norm, Dave, Jeff
Land Use & Conservation: Allen, Sue, Bob
Public Works, Health Officer & Cemeteries: Allen, Kevin Roy, Kevin Leandro, Fred
Police: Norm, Kevin Leandro, Bob, Kevin Roy
Fire: Phyllis, Bob, Dave, Norm
Town Clerk-Tax Collector & Elections: Allen, Jeff, Phyllis
Parks & Recreation: Kevin Leandro, Karen, Kevin Roy
Library: Sue, Karen, Fred

Vice-Chair Leandro noted that all Subcommittee meetings must comply with RSA 91-A, the Right to Know Law.

Dave Horvath made a motion for future Budget Committee meetings to begin at 6:30pm, seconded by Sue Greene and passed with 6 in favor and 4 opposed (6-4). It was then agreed by consensus to proceed in accordance with the proposed schedule as submitted by Geoff Ruggles, with the dates for Public Hearings to be established in the future.

Dave Horvath requested that the Representatives from the Board of Selectmen, School Board, and Gunstock Acres Village Water District disclose to the Budget Committee if they have been provided with "marching orders" on how to vote by their respective entities. He suggested that this may have taken place last year without any disclosures or public awareness. Selectman Grenier stated that the Board of Selectmen did not provide him with any marching orders. School Board Representative Karen Thurston also noted that she had not received any marching orders.

During a discussion about procedures, Vice-Chairman Leandro noted that he received inquiries about a recent Court decision on the County budget process, and how this might relate to Town and School budgets. He noted that different laws are in effect and therefore the court case was not applicable to the Budget Committee.

During Other Business, Town Administrator Dunn noted that he was preparing the FY2015 budget requests for the Budget Committee on estimated expenses for staffing, publishing notices, and training. He invited input or suggestions but none were offered. The Town Administrator then noted that he was soliciting interest for the position of Budget Committee Recording Secretary due to the fact that no Town employees had volunteered. Lastly, he informed the Budget Committee that collective bargaining agreement negotiations between the Town and the DPW employee union had been concluded with both entities voting in favor of the new terms and conditions for a 3 year contract. This would be further explained during the budget presentation process on warrant articles, but a copy of the contract changes would be included in the budget books.

Additional discussions under Other Business were as follows:

It was noted that future meetings of the Budget Committee would be videotaped for publication on the Town's website and Lakes Region Public Access Television. Sue Greene was not in favor of this, but no motions were made.

Sue Greene was concerned that in recent years there were too many members of the Budget Committee who abstained from voting without valid reasons.

It was the consensus of the members present that the use of personal cell phones during Budget Committee meetings should be done with courtesy in mind, and no unnecessary texting should take place.

Vice Chairman Leandro requested that a list of members' names, email addresses and phone numbers be distributed.

At 8:06pm Kevin Roy made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Sue Greene and passed with all in favor, (10-0).

Respectfully submitted,



Scott J. Dunn, Town Administrator

Approved by the Budget Committee on the 9th day of October, 2014.

