

Gilford Budget Committee Minutes
October 3rd, 2013
6:30 pm
Town of Gilford

Members Present: Phyllis Corrigan, Jeffrey Beane, Paul Blandford, Fred Butler, Susan Greene, Richard Grenier, Robert Henderson, Dave Horvath, Kevin Leandro, Kevin Roy, Allen Voivod

Members Absent: Gus Benavides

Phyllis Corrigan started the meeting at 6:30pm with the Pledge of Allegiance and moved on to introductions.

Phyllis Corrigan asked if there were any comments or changes to the April 18th Budget Committee minutes. Paul Blandford moved to accept the minutes, Kevin Leandro 2nd motion passed with all in favor.

Selectman Kevin Hayes presented the 2014 Gilford Town Budget to the Budget Committee and read the highlights.

- Overall gross budget \$13,099,643 net increase of \$253,829 or 2 ½ %, for a municipal tax rate of \$5.11. The majority of the increase due to two items funding for fire dispatch services and road reconstruction.
- Additional factors;
 - o Town valuation increase estimated at 0.75%
 - o Capital outlay spending to be funded with surplus fund balance authorized at Town Meeting
 - o Every \$100,000 to be appropriated from tax dollars has a 7¢ impact on tax rate
- Other highlights include;
 - o Merit pay increase budgeted at 3% for all town employees, including Dept. Managers. Last year gave lump sum to Dept. Managers hoping to do same this year.
 - o New line item for accrual pay, only full time employees eligible to buy back accrued leave prior to employment separation.
 - o Town Clerk/Tax Collector requested new copier will purchase in 2013 if able.
 - o Supervisor of Checklist request increase in stipend (BOS did not recommend, BOS gave up stipend since 2011)
 - o Assessing \$16K for “mini revaluation” in 2014, mandated by NH Constitution, also moderate increase for Mainstay contract and recommended digitizing software.
 - o DPLU request 2 new large folder file cabinets.
 - o Increase in hours for Library custodian from 20 hours to 25 hours
 - o Cemetery budget revised in anticipation of Affordable Health Care Act reduced hours for seasonal caretaker from 37 weeks to 26 weeks per year
 - o Insurance based on estimates will increase by 6% in 2014

- PD approved 18th officer
- Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid dues now required to fund through municipal budget instead of County Budget, will be less expensive
- DPW re-establish Ops Manager in anticipation of retirement of Director, purchase traffic safety signs, add road sealing and increase road reconstruction. Treating roads as investment.
- Solid Waste increase mostly for extra costs associated with crushing saves \$ in long run
- Parks & Rec approved director to attend National conference after 3 year hiatus
- Declined Library request to turn 2 part time positions into 1 full time, net reduction of 2 hours would increase spending in labor costs. Also did not recommend funding new equipment
- Recommended increase of \$9k for meter replacements for contractual commitment
- New Capital Reserve Fund for GIS Technology \$12K, rehab Fire Engine 2 \$50K, Fire Station Improvements \$50K, add capital reserve for new fire truck \$50K to be purchased in 2017. Recommend \$20K sand pile cover DPW asked for \$60K. Proposing to close out ambulance fund \$59K+/- to be combined with ambulance revolving fund to purchase a new ambulance in 2014.
- Not recommending funding for outside agencies
- Budget includes \$1,213,000 for PD improvements amount entirely offset by revenues in form of anticipated bonding. PD pursuing Homeland Security grants

Selectman Hayes closed stating he is proud of the efforts of all Department Managers and staff they have submitted a level funded budget for the previous 5 years, feels this budget is fiscally responsible.

Discussion ensued regarding how we are tracking this year, only major surprise was emergency culvert repair on Cumberland Rd.

Dave Horvath asked if the accrual pay was budgeted but not in the current contract. Scott Dunn clarified that it is in the current AFCME contract but not in the PD contract and will not be budgeted until it is negotiated.

Discussion ensued regarding the TC/TX copier not purchased last year they were given old copier that is no longer working. Current Admin copier upstairs is a lease.

Phyllis Corrigan asked about the reduction for the seasonal cemetery employee, Selectman Hayes stated he was working 37 weeks and was reduced to 26. Phyllis asked how many employees the Town has, Geoff Ruggles stated between 68 to 70 full time, and approximately 10 part time.

Discussion ensued regarding the 18th officer, Selectman Hayes recommended asking questions when Sub-Committee meets with the PD they will be able to answer questions then.

Dave Horvath asked about item 15 regarding the Library and asked how the Trustees function, do they have spending power. Selectman Hayes stated they are legislated to have spending power. Discussion ensued regarding their authority.

Discussion ensued regarding the purchase of land through the Conservation Fund Gilford will have an easement on the property. Kevin Leandro stated he did not agree with spending the money however everything was done legally.

Discussion ensued regarding the purchase of a G.I.S. system to mark culverts, boundary lines etc.

Dave Horvath asked if the improvements to the PD will be on a warrant article. Selectman Hayes stated it will be on a warrant article with bond. Discussion ensued regarding bond payment being approximately \$90K however will be a zero tax impact. Current debt payments for Village Sewer Project and Lakes Business Park retire this year.

Fred Butler asked if there was a plan B for outside agencies if the warrant articles fail, Selectman Hayes stated there is no plan B, there would be an increase in the Welfare Budget. Discussion ensued regarding placing those items in the budget versus warrant articles.

Phyllis Corrigan asked if there were any further questions and thanked Selectman Hayes for the presentation. Phyllis asked the members of the Budget Committee to make sure to let her know if they will be unable to attend any meetings, Allen Voivod stated he will be unable to attend on the 17th, Dave Horvath stated he will be unable to attend on the 24th.

Discussion ensued regarding the special projects and waiting to vote on budget items until they receive the "big picture". Phyllis Corrigan reminded them that they can revoke on January 9th. Scott Dunn stated they can alter dollar amounts, the reason for the public hearing is to hear the public and they can change amounts after.

Phyllis Corrigan reminded the Committee members that all Sub-Committee reports are considered the meeting minutes and asked if they could submit an extra copy to be turned into Denise Gonyer to file. Phyllis asked if there was any public comment, there was none.

Dave Horvath moved to adjourn, Sue Greene seconded motion to adjourn passed with all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mia Gagliardi
Recording Secretary

