

TOWN OF GILFORD  
BUDGET COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES  
October 22, 2015  
6:30 PM

Members present: Kevin Leandro (Chair), Susan Greene, Kevin Roy, Norman Silber, Harry Bean, Richard Grenier, Karen Thurston and David Horvath.  
Dr. Leslie Suranyi Jr. arrived at 7:40 PM.

Members absent: Robert Henderson and Jeffrey Beane.

Chairman Leandro called the Budget Committee meeting to order at 6:30 PM and led the assembly with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Budget Committee will review the Elected Officials, Administration, Boards & Committees, Finance, Appraisal, Technology, Welfare, Debt, Insurance and Legal budgets as proposed for FY 2016 along with the Sub Committees recommendations.

Elected Officials Budget:

There were no recommended changes to this budget. Motion made by Kevin Leandro to approve the Elected Officials budget for \$14,537 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by David Horvath as passed with all in favor; (8-0).

Town Administration Budget:

The Committee had discussion regarding merit wages and Health Insurance. Town Administrator Scott Dunn explained in detail the Cadillac tax issue that will take effect in 2018 along with various insurance options that are being looking into. Motion made by Kevin Leandro to approve the Town Administration budget for \$268,993 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Norman Silber and passed with all in favor; (8-0).

Boards and Committees Budget:

There was discussion on the stipend for the Budget Committee Secretary. Motion made by Kevin Leandro to approve the Boards & Committees budget for \$2,184 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Norman Silber and passed with all in favor; (8-0)

Finance/Appraisal and Technology Budget:

Finance Director Geoffrey Ruggles gave an overview on the budget requests and answered the committee's questions on wages, mapping/appraisal services and computer equipment. Norman Silber made a motion to approve the Finance/Appraisal and Technology Budget for \$598,783 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Kevin Leandro and passed with all in favor; (8-0).

### Legal Budget:

Motion made by Susan Greene to approve the Legal budget for \$54,000 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Norman Silber and passed with all in favor; (8-0).

### Insurances Budget:

The workers compensation line (4196-124) was cut by the board of Selectmen to \$95,000 (eliminating \$5110). Town Administrator Scott Dunn feels that might not be sufficient. The Board also cut the contingency line (4196-131) to \$2,500 (eliminating \$2,500) and the Property and Liability (4196-561) to \$127,500 (eliminating \$6,166). Discussion ensued. Motion made by Kevin Leandro to adopt and approve the Insurances budget for \$245,338 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Norman Silber and passed with all in favor; (8-0).

### Debt Service Budget:

The committee reviewed the budget and discussed the Lakes Business Park Agreement/Tax sharing. Norman Silber expressed his disappointment with the Lakes Business Park and feels it is poorly managed; he would like to be a representative on the Lakes Business Park Board. Town Administrator Scott Dunn suggested that Mr. Silber send a letter of interest to the Board of Selectmen expressing his desire to serve. Kevin Leandro also felt that the taxpayers should not have to pay for this. Administrator Dunn gave the history on the Inter-Municipal Agreement that was approved by the voters for the Lakes Business Park, he regularly attends their meetings. They are trying to promote industry; the economy has posed a challenge. Lengthy discussion ensued on why properties there haven't sold. Motion made by David Horvath to accept (as bound by the contract) the Lakes Business Park for \$18,464 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Norman Silber (under protest) and passed with all in favor; (9-0).

Norman Silber made a motion to approve the Debt Services Budget for \$220,280 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Kevin Roy and passed with all in favor; (9-0)

The request for \$58,000 for the Lakes Business Park is also required due to the Inter-Municipal Agreement. Motion reluctantly made by Kevin Leandro to approve the Capital Trust Funds budget at \$58,000 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Kevin Roy and passed with all in favor; (Norman Silber voted yes under protest); (9-0).

### Welfare Budget:

The Committee asked Finance Director Geoffrey Ruggles questions regarding Fuel Assistance how that process works, etc. Discussions ensued around reductions in the Electricity line and the heating fuels line based on the current trend and reduced costs for these items. Norman Silber made a motion to reduce the Electricity line (4442-512) to \$5,000 and to reduce the Heating Fuels line (4442-513) to \$10,000 and recommends approval of the Welfare Budget of

\$59,169 (a \$10,000 reduction from the Board of Selectmen's' recommendation); seconded by David Horvath and passed: (8-1, Selectmen Grenier was opposed).

The Chair of each subcommittee stated they would be in touch with Department Managers to schedule their subcommittee meetings. The Budget Committee also made a few changes to their schedule. They are as follows:

- Planning and Land Use will move to the 11/05/15 meeting.
- Police Department will move (if the Chief is available) to the 11/05/2015 meeting.
- Public Works/Health Officer/Cemeteries will move to the 11/12/2015 meeting.
- Fire/Emergency Management/Hydrants/Forestry will move to the 11/19/2015 meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

Chairman Leandro asked Ms. Bovill to please forward the DRAFT minutes to the Budget Committee for review prior to the meetings. Motion made by Norman Silber to approve the 10/08/2015 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes as written; seconded by Kevin Roy and passed with all in favor; (9-0).

Update on GAVWD from Norman Silber (from 10/08/15 meeting):

Norman Silber reported that the Gilford Area Village Water District Committee met on 10/20/2015 and discussed whether or not they wanted a representative on the Budget Committee. The consensus was that it was not necessary and therefore, did not appoint anyone. If they feel they want to present their budget, another Commissioner (other than Mr. Silber) will do that.

Next Budget Committee Meeting:

The next Budget committee meeting will be on Thursday, October 29, 2015 at 6:30 PM.

Adjournment:

Motion made by Susan Greene to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 PM; seconded by Kevin Roy and passed with all in favor; (9-0).

Respectfully submitted,



Angela A. Bovill  
Executive Assistant