

TOWN OF GILFORD
BUDGET COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
October 29, 2015
6:30 PM

Members present: Kevin Leandro (Chair), Susan Greene, Kevin Roy, Norman Silber, Harry Bean, Richard Grenier, Karen Thurston, David Horvath, Dr. Leslie Suranyi Jr., 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 Parks & Recreation/Skating Rink/Patriotic Purposes, Town Clerk Tax Collector/Elections and the Police Department budgets as proposed for FY 2016 along with the Sub Committees recommendations.

Parks & Recreation Budget including Skating Rink and Patriotic Purposes:

Chairman Kevin Leandro reviewed the Parks and Recreation sub-committee recommendations. The Committee discussed the \$500 beach concession stand rental to a third party. The subcommittee voted to remove \$650 from the facility maintenance line specifically for the Hood Exhaust and Suppression Service and Inspection for Concession stand as they felt it was the responsibility of the lessee. The committee concurs. A suggestion to waive the \$500 fee and just have the lessee pay the \$650 for the inspection was also discussed. Herb Greene will put this on the Recreation Committees agenda of 11/02/15 and discuss with them.

The subcommittee also felt that \$800 to fill the cracks at the tennis courts was too high. Chairman Leandro believed that it could be done for around \$200 by the Buildings and Grounds Staff and that it should be fixed before winter. It was the recommendation of the committee to reduce line item 4521-532 from \$11,710 down to \$10,460 (\$1250 reduction) therefore; reducing the total budget amount from \$243,059 to \$231,809 (doesn't include the warrant article). Motion made by Kevin Leandro, Seconded by Susan Greene and passed 10 – 1. (Selectmen Grenier was opposed).

Norman Silber made a motion to approve the warrant article for \$10,000 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Kevin Leandro and passed with all in favor; (11-0)

Skating Rink Budget:

Kevin Leandro made a motion to approve the Skating Rink budget for \$9,138 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Norman Silber and passed with all in favor; (11-0)

Patriotic Purposes Budget:

Kevin Leandro made a motion to approve the Patriotic Purposes budget for \$\$125 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Norman Silber and passed with all in favor; (11-0)

Town Clerk Tax Collectors Budget including Elections:

David Horvath reported that his committee began discussions on the proposed merit increases in the 2016 budget. This is a discussion he would like to have with the entire budget committee as it is relevant to all departments. He asked about the accrual payout and having a list showing the trends from last year for the entire committee. Motion was made by David Horvath to get a summation of previous year and this year to date accrual payouts for the whole town; seconded by Kevin Roy and passed; (9 - 2). (Selectmen Grenier and Karen Thurston were opposed). There is a new line item in the Town Clerk Tax Collectors budget titled Contracted Services (to perform deed, title searches, liens etc). This service is used when liens are placed on past due taxes and prior to the Tax Collector issuing a deed for unpaid taxes to the Town and is offset by revenue. Town Clerk Tax Collector Denise Gonyer gave the subcommittee a tour. David Horvath felt that the storage units used in the downstairs storage area are a hazard/safety concern. He suggested that they could be repaired for now. The subcommittee is recommending approval of the Town Clerk Tax Collectors budget for \$384,022 as recommend by the Board of Selectmen (pending any changes made to merits). Motion made by Norman Silber; seconded by Jeffrey Beane and passed with all in favor; (11-0).

Elections Budget:

There are four elections that will take place in 2016. Motion made by Norman Silber to approve the Elections budget for \$18,999 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Kevin Roy as passed with all in favor; (11-0).

Police Department Budget:

Norman Silber gave a detailed overview of the Police Dept. sub committee's recommendations. Each line was carefully reviewed and discussed at length. He noted the decrease in the Vehicle Fuels line 4210-414 is due to the lower cost of fuel; they have been buying at CITGO which is cheaper than the State's rate. Line item 4902-725 – CAP – Police Minor Equipment – Cameras relative to new TASER Axon Cameras was discussed. Police Chief Anthony Bean Burpee gave a presentation on the difference between dash cameras, body cameras and the TASER Axon Flex cameras. The request is for 18 tasers and 18 cameras that will be spread out over a 5 year payout. (Tasers automatically replaced every 5 years and cameras every 2.5 years) Discussion ensued. The subcommittee also received a tour of the new Police Station. David Horvath made a motion to request the outcome of all costs, grants etc. associated with the new Police Station Project including the unexpected costs along the way; seconded by Norman Silber for discussion. David Horvath is looking for the summary of costs to compare to the amount that was presented to the taxpayers. Selectmen Grenier stated that this was a bond issue and Town Administrator Scott has that information. David Horvath revised his motion to include

summary of costs, etc. and then the actuals when the project is finished as educational purposes for the entire committee; seconded by Norman Silber and passed; (7-4) (4-opposed). Norman Silber made a motion to approve the Police Department budget for \$2,661,688 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Robert Henderson and passed with all in favor; (11-0). The committee commended the Police Chief Anthony Bean Burpee for his extensive work in researching the cameras; excellent job.

There was discussion regarding the Police Department Capital Construction Project Process.

Town Administrator Scott Dunn gave the committee a revised version of the Buildings and Grounds Budget based on the fact that the Board of Selectmen voted to convert a part time position to a full time position in lieu of hiring a cleaning service.

Approval of Minutes:

David Horvath made a motion to approve the 10/22/2015 Budget Committee Meeting minutes; seconded by Norman Silber and passed; (9-2). (Jeffrey Beane and Robert Henderson abstained as they were not present).

Next Budget Committee Meeting:

The next Budget committee meeting will be on Thursday, November 5, 2015 at 6:30 PM.

Adjournment:

Motion made by Kevin Roy to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM; seconded by Jeffrey Beane and passed with all in favor; (11-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Angela A. Bovill
Executive Assistant