

Gilford Budget Committee Minutes

November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013

6:30 pm

Town of Gilford

Members Present: Phyllis Corrigan, Jeffrey Beane, Gus Benavides, Fred Butler, Susan Greene, Richard Grenier, Robert Henderson, Dave Horvath, Kevin Leandro, Kevin Roy, Karen Thurston

Members Absent: Allen Voivod

Phyllis Corrigan started the meeting at 6:30 with the pledge. This evening's agenda will be the review of Welfare, C.I.P, Outside Agencies, Elected Officials and Patriotic Purposes as well as choosing the School Sub-Committees. Karen Thurston will be sitting in for the School Board Representative.

Welfare:

Phyllis Corrigan asked the members if they had a chance to look at this budget and moved to accept the Welfare Budget in the amount of \$81,669. Kevin Leandro seconded. Phyllis Corrigan stated that everything was level funded with the exception of fuel.

Discussion ensued regarding the year to date expenditures there is concern about the fuel budget this year, money is spent where it is needed. There are currently more than 250 families signed up for fuel assistance with more requests coming in, fuel assistance starts in December. Welfare Assistance budget cannot be capped.

Dave Horvath called a point of order and requested that all cell phones be put away. Gus Benavides stated that he uses his phone to take notes to look into items that are discussed. Dave Horvath stated that at last meeting Gus Benavides and Paul Blandford were texting each other during the meeting. Gus Benavides stated that was an absolute bold faced lie. Phyllis Corrigan stated she did not feel it is appropriate to discuss a personal matter in public. Gus Benavides stated that he would show any text on his phone he stated that he does not speak this directly to anyone and stated that Dave Horvath owes him a public apology because he has accused him of something that is not correct, he stated that he has never ever texted Paul Blandford here or outside and Paul Blandford has never ever texted him, and Dave Horvath should never make accusations when he does not know 100% for sure. Dave Horvath apologized and stated that it appeared that they were texting each other as they were both on their phones. Phyllis Corrigan stated that it is inappropriate to be making accusations. Dave Horvath stated that if the phones were being used to make notes he does not have problem with that but felt that it was rude that people are on their phones and felt they needed to be called out on it. Erica Johnson stated she was not here to discuss this issue and felt it was inappropriate to listen to arguments.

Kevin Leandro asked Erica Johnson if they receive fuel at the rate the town receives fuel. Erica Johnson stated that the town purchases fuel at a much cheaper rate. Discussion ensued regarding Erica needing to be present when medicine is purchased, usually at Wal-Mart. Discussion ensued regarding the

process to apply for assistance as well as the other agencies that assist residence in need that are really helpful, such as CAP, St. Vincent De Paul, Gilford Community Church, Neighbors in need, Salvation Army, etc. They are doing 800 food baskets this year for Thanksgiving all done through donations.

Phyllis Corrigan asked if there was any further discussion and called for a vote on the Welfare Budget in the amount of \$81,669 motion carried with all in favor.

Erica Johnson thanked Geoff Ruggles and his staff and stated they do an incredible job. Discussion ensued regarding St. Vincent De Paul looking for a refrigerated truck.

Phyllis Corrigan thanked Erica Johnson and moved the meeting on to Patriotic Purposes.

#### Patriotic Purposes:

Phyllis Corrigan moved to approve the budget in the amount of \$125 Dave Horvath seconded. Phyllis Corrigan asked if there was any discussion and called for a vote, motion passed with all in favor.

#### Elected Officials:

Discussion ensued regarding adding the Board of Selectmen's stipend back into the budget. Kevin Leandro moved to add \$7,500 for the Selectmen stipend Richard Grenier seconded. Discussion ensued regarding adding money back in for the moderator stipend, Phyllis Corrigan stated they should vote on the moderator stipend separately and called for a vote on the motion to return the Board of Selectmen's stipend in the amount of \$7,500. Kevin Leandro moved to modify the motion to include an adjustment for Social Security, Medicare etc. to reflect the increase. Motion passed with a vote of 9 yes, 1 no and 1 abstention.

Fred Butler moved to add the moderator stipend in the amount of \$600 with the associated costs, Richard Grenier seconded. Discussion ensued regarding whether or not the moderator would accept the stipend and her ability to donate it back to the town if she chose to. Phyllis Corrigan called for a vote on the motion to add the moderator stipend with associated payroll costs, motion passed with a vote of 8 yes, 3 no.

Scott Dunn stated they have a new total for Elected Officials in the amount of \$14,536 Kevin Roy moved to approve the Elected Officials budget in the amount of \$14,536 Robert Henderson seconded. Phyllis Corrigan called for a vote motion passed with a vote of 8 yes, 3 no.

Phyllis Corrigan stated they have 2 people who wish to speak to the Budget Committee and invited Brian Winslow from Central NH VNA and Hospice to come up and speak.

Brian Winslow thanked the Budget Committee for the opportunity to speak and thanked the Budget Committee for past appropriations, he sent a letter to Scott Dunn letting them know they will submit a warrant article and intend to flat fund even though the patient load has increased substantially. In 2011 there were 3804 home visits in Gilford and 4917 last year. They provide home care, physical therapy, hospice, pediatric care. Discussion ensued regarding the homecare that is given which has risen

substantially when someone comes in to help cook, clean, personal care, shopping, helping pay bills etc. Central NH VNA and Hospice is partnered with the Lakes Region Health and Human Services Council to put that program on and expect those number to drop considerably on the report next year.

Discussion ensued regarding Central NH VNA and Hospice not being chartered in a specific region, they are a registered non-profit organization certified through Health and Human Services they have all appropriate licenses and have offices in Wolfboro and Laconia so they would not advertise to provide services far away. They receive money from the state for certain programs that limit the area they can provide those services however it does not limit their services, just those that the state pays for.

Phyllis Corrigan asked if there were any further questions and thanked Brian Winslow for coming in.

Phyllis Corrigan invited Judy Scothorne from CAP to come up and speak. Judy Scothorne stated she is the Community Services Director from the Belknap Community Action Program, and is a Gilford resident, their request will be level funded this year. In 2012 they reduced the request by 6% due to staffing changes in the Laconia office. The Laconia area center is supported by Laconia, Gilford, Alton, Gilmanton, Barnstead and one other town and money given is used just for the operations of the area center.

Judy explained the difference between charities vs service providers such as CAP. Charities, such as the Lung Associations, don't service directly residents of the town that affect the town budget. In the case of CAP they provide services to Gilford Residents that are required by law for the Town of Gilford to provide. They bring other resources to the town to provide those basic living needs. Last year they provided \$190,000 of fuel assistance to 236 households in Gilford. Electric assistance was provided to 216 households to the tune of \$73,000. The weatherization department weatherized 23 homes in town costing \$285,000. It is substantial what is provided to the town. They deeply appreciate the support that has been provided in the past and hope to continue to be provided. Judy invited any official to come in and visit to see what they do.

Discussion ensued regarding the cuts that are anticipated by the government such as those people that heat with natural gas the state reduced that by 50% and the administration budget has been cut by \$125,000. Erica Johnson always refers residents to CAP first to see if there are any programs other than taxpayer dollars to provide assistance.

Phyllis Corrigan thanked Judy for coming in to speak and moved the meeting on to C.I.P. and then will discuss insurances. Scott Dunn stated they will not have the property liability numbers until November 20<sup>th</sup>. Phyllis Corrigan stated they could wait until the last meeting in January to vote, discussion ensued regarding waiting to vote on insurances. Phyllis Corrigan called for a vote to see how many members wanted to vote on insurances this evening 1 yes 10 no, they will hold off on voting on insurances.

#### C.I.P.

Phyllis Corrigan read Warrant Article 13;

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to be added to the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 1989? This sum will come from the surplus fund balance whereby no amount shall be raised from taxation.

Phyllis Corrigan moved to recommend Warrant Article 13 Dave Horvath seconded motion passed with all in favor.

Kevin Leandro read Warrant Article 14;

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be added to the Glendale Boat and Launch Ramp Facilities Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2008? This sum will come from the surplus fund balance whereby no amount shall be raised from taxation.

Kevin Leandro moved to recommend Warrant Article 14 Richard Grenier seconded motion passed with all in favor.

Phyllis Corrigan read Warrant Article 15;

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be added to the Water Supply Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2008 for town-wide fire suppression purposes? This sum will come from the surplus fund balance whereby no amount shall be raised from taxation.

Phyllis Corrigan moved to recommend Warrant Article 15 Robert Henderson seconded motion passed with all in favor.

Kevin Leandro read Warrant Article 16;

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred sixty-six thousand five hundred dollars (\$266,500) to purchase a Department of Public Works dump truck with plow and accessories and a heavy duty pick-up truck with plow and accessories? This sum will come from the surplus fund balance whereby no amount shall be raise from taxation. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and not lapse until the purchases are completed or by December 31, 2015, or whichever is sooner.

Kevin Leandro moved to recommend Warrant Article 16 Jeff Beane seconded.

Discussion ensued regarding some Warrant articles say "special" Warrant Article and some do not. Scott Dunn stated this is a first draft it is intended to be in all of them.

Phyllis Corrigan called for a vote on the motion on the floor to recommend Warrant Article 16, motion passed with all in favor.

Phyllis Corrigan read Warrant Article 17;

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be added to the Sewer maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2007? This amount to come from the sewer user fees and shall not be raised by taxation.

Phyllis Corrigan moved to recommend Warrant Article 17 Richard Grenier seconded, motion passed with all in favor.

Kevin Leandro read Warrant Article 18;

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty eight thousand dollars (\$58,000) to be added to the Lakes Business Park Capital Reserve Fund previously established, pursuant to the terms of the Inter-Municipal Agreement which was approved under Article 18 of the 2001 Annual Town Meeting? This sum will come from the surplus fund balance whereby no amount shall be raised from taxation.

Kevin Leandro moved to recommend Warrant Article 18 Richard Grenier seconded. Discussion ensued regarding LRBP being a Trust Fund not a Capital Reserve Fund. They can approve the dollar amount and change the language later. Phyllis Corrigan called for a vote on the motion on the floor to approve Warrant Article 18, motion passed with all in favor.

Phyllis Corrigan read Warrant Article 19;

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be added to the Recreation Facilities Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2008? This sum will come from the surplus fund balance whereby no amount shall be raised from taxation.

Phyllis Corrigan moved to recommend Warrant Article 19 Richard Henderson seconded motion passed with all in favor.

Kevin Leandro read Warrant Article 20;

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for the rehabilitation of Fire Engine E2? This sum will come from the surplus fund balance whereby no amount shall be raised from taxation. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the rehabilitation is completed or by December 31, 2015, whichever is sooner.

Phyllis Corrigan moved to recommend Warrant Article 20 Richard Grenier seconded.

Discussion ensued regarding a concern that the dollar amount to rehabilitate Fire Engine E2 may be high, DPW did a good job with Fire Engine E4. Scott Dunn stated every purchase over \$5,000 must go before the Board of Selectmen for approval.

Discussion ensued regarding continuing on without seeing the School side, Phyllis Corrigan reminded the Budget Committee they have all of January also and called for a vote on the motion on the floor to approve Warrant Article 20, motion passed with a vote of 10 yes and 1 abstention.

Phyllis Corrigan moved onto Warrant Article 21, Scott Dunn stated this warrant article did not require a vote as it does not request to raise and appropriate funds.

Phyllis Corrigan read Warrant Article 22;

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty nine thousand dollars (\$59,000) to be used towards the purchase and equipping of a new ambulance? This sum will come from the surplus fund balance whereby no amount shall be raised from taxation. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the purchasing and equipping of a new ambulance is completed or by December 31, 2015, whichever is sooner. The remaining funds necessary to purchase and equip a new ambulance, estimated to be \$161,000 for a total estimated purchase price of \$220,000 shall come from the Ambulance Services Revolving Fund as previously established in 2010.

Kevin Leandro moved to recommend Warrant Article 22 Phyllis Corrigan seconded.

Discussion ensued regarding equipping the new ambulance and not using the old equipment as the old equipment is outdated and the hope is to trade the current ambulance instead of selling it privately.

Phyllis Corrigan called for a vote on the motion on the floor to recommend Warrant Article 22, motion passed with all in favor.

Kevin Leandro read Warrant Article 23;

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to be added to the Building Repair Capital reserve Fund previously established in 2007? This sum will come from the surplus fund balance whereby no amount shall be raised from taxation.

Phyllis Corrigan moved to recommend Warrant Article 23 Kevin Leandro seconded.

Discussion ensued regarding this fund being used on any building in town. Phyllis Corrigan called for a vote on the motion on the floor to recommend Warrant Article 23, motion passed with all in favor.

Phyllis Corrigan read Warrant Article 24;

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for improvements to the Fire Station? This sum will come from the surplus fund balance whereby no amount shall be raised from taxation. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the improvements are completed or by December 31, 2015, whichever is sooner.

Phyllis Corrigan moved to recommend Warrant Article 24 Dave Horvath seconded motion passed with all in favor.

Kevin Leandro read Warrant Article 25;

Shall the Town establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of constructing a Public Works Sand Pile Cover; and raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to be placed in this fund; and furthermore, to appoint the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend? This sum will come from the surplus fund balance whereby no amount shall be raised through taxation.

Kevin Leandro moved to recommend Warrant Article 25 Kevin Roy seconded.

Discussion ensued regarding \$20,000 not being sufficient to purchase a proper cover which will be approximately \$60,000. Phyllis Corrigan called for a vote on the motion on the floor to recommend Warrant Article 25 motion passed by a vote of 10 yes and 1 abstention.

Phyllis Corrigan read Warrant Article 26;

Shall the Town vote to establish a Capital reserve Fund under the provision of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of acquiring geographic information system (GIS) equipment and software; and raise and appropriate the sum of twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000) to be placed in this fund; and furthermore, to appoint the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend? This sum will come from the surplus fund balance whereby no amount shall be raised from taxation.

Kevin Leandro moved to recommend Warrant Article 26 Phyllis Corrigan seconded motion passed with all in favor.

Dave Horvath stated he would like to see a presentation on the Police Department prior to voting, Kevin Leandro stated a walk through would be helpful before discussing. Discussion ensued regarding the Police Department renovations.

Phyllis Corrigan stated they needed to put back the figures for insurance and a copy of the updated budget is included with the Warrant Articles showing the changes. Kevin Leandro asked if there were any other changes to the budget other than insurance. Discussion ensued regarding the changes to the insurance rate and the items that had changed are highlighted in the new packet. They will hold off until they have definite figures for the property liability insurance.

Phyllis Corrigan stated as there were no minutes to approve they will move onto choosing the Sub-Committees for the School Budget. Also there is no meeting next week, and the School Budget books will be available on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Phyllis Corrigan stated that Allen Voivod requested to be on the Technology and High School budgets.

Jeff Beane asked to be on Administration and Elementary.

Sue Green asked to be on Administration and Middle School.

Dave Horvath asked to be on Technology and Administration.

Richard Grenier asked to be on Technology and High School.

Kevin Leandro asked to be on Administration and Elementary.

Kevin Roy asked to be on High School and Special Education.

Robert Henderson asked to be on Special Education and Middle School.

Phyllis Corrigan stated she would be on High School, Elementary and Special Education.

Fred Budget asked to be on Middle School.

Gus Benavides made a motion to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3, II, ( c ) to discuss matters that might adversely affect someone's reputation. Phyllis Corrigan seconded motion passed with all in favor.

At 8:25pm the meeting moved into non-public session.

At 8:50pm the meeting moved back into public session.

Kevin Leandro asked to speak in response to Scott Dunn's e-mail and wanted to clarify that MS 7 is the reconciliation between the town and the DRA, there is a reconciliation between the budget committee, the voters and the Selectmen and that is the line item budget we pass there is a reason why we go through this line item by line item there is an expectation that after it passes as closely as possible this will be followed. He hears that this is a bottom line budget however the DRA isn't interested in what we spend on swim trunks for the beach they want to know what we are spending broadly. This is not a bottom line budget this is in fact a line item budget, they understand the board of selectmen have to make adjustments some things cost more some less and emergency situations arise. The selectmen decided to spend money on something that was not in the budget an example is the accrual. If in fact this is a bottom line budget then they do things backwards they are figuring out what they need and then figuring out how much revenue to cover it. Should act like a business and say this is my expected revenue and this is the money we have how do we want to spend it. We do it backwards for a purpose and that is why it is not a bottom line budget.

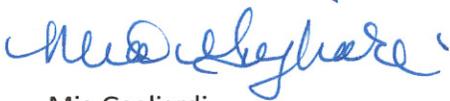
Dave Horvath thanked Scott Dunn for his letter but wanted to comment that he would like to identify those items in the interest of clarity. There are rules regarding emergencies and RSA's that need to be followed. RSA's are very clear about disclosure as to items being discussed and disclosed. That was the purpose of discussing the accrual it was not disclosed and should have been. There have been many instances that the RSA's have not been followed he has no problem if the voters vote for something but those sitting in power and authority need to follow the rules.

Kevin Leandro stated that he understands that the budget is not set in stone and the Selectmen have done a great job his only concern is items that are not emergency items not going through due process.

Phyllis Corrigan asked if there were any further comments there being none Sue Greene motioned to adjourn Kevin Leandro seconded motion to adjourn passed with all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:59pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mia Gagliardi  
Recording Secretary

