

TOWN OF GILFORD
BUDGET COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
November 12, 2015
6:30 PM

Members present: David Horvath (Acting Chair), Kevin Roy, Norman Silber, Harry Bean, Richard Grenier, Karen Thurston, Robert Henderson.

Members absent: Kevin Leandro (Chair), Dr. Leslie Suranyi Jr., Susan Greene and Jeffrey Beane.

Acting Chairman David Horvath called the Budget Committee meeting to order at 6:30 PM and Karen Thurston led the assembly with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Budget Committee will review the Public Works (administration, sewer, solid waste, highways, bridges and street lighting, buildings and grounds, vehicle maintenance, etc.), Health Officer and Cemeteries budgets, along with the Sub Committees recommendations.

Public Works:

Norman Silber, Chair of the committee reported the subcommittee left in the proposed 2.5% merit wage increases and are aware this topic will be discussed/decided by the full committee.

Buildings and Grounds:

Norman Silber reported one part time position was changed to a full time position. In addition, under specialized serves, 4194-217, the subcommittee deleted \$750 for overhead door maintenance since these were for new doors for the new Police Department and should be under warranty. The last change was a reduction to the Glendale Grounds maintenance, 4194-539 from \$700 down to \$600. Norman Silber made a motion to approve the Buildings & Grounds budget for \$328,620 as recommended by the subcommittee; seconded by Robert Henderson and passed 6 – 1. (Selectmen Grenier was opposed).

Department of Public Works (DPW) Administration:

Norman Silber said the subcommittee was informed that the health insurance rates/costs will go down for the 2016 budget. Town Administrator Dunn pointed out that these new rates have not yet been presented to the Selectmen, until there 11/18/15 meeting. Upon the approval/acceptance of the Selectmen, the numbers for insurance across the board will be updated. Mr. Silber discussed Building Maintenance, line item 4311-531, particularly the money allocated for generator maintenance. Discussions ensued on replacing the generator. Selectmen Grenier reported that the Selectmen recommended taking the old generator from Town Hall (1988) and retrofit at the DPW and run new wires underground. Norman Silber made a motion to approve the DPW Administration budget for \$273,457, seconded by Kevin Roy for discussion. Norman Silber indicated his willingness to change his position based on discussion with all members and withdrew his motion. Extensive Discussions ensued. Norman Silber made a motion to approve the DPW Administration budget for \$262,571 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Robert Henderson and passed with all in favor; (7-0).

Highway Budget:

Norman Silber asked Peter Nourse, Public Works Director to give the full committee an overview on the pavement program and explained that there are approximately 90 miles of roads in Gilford for which Public Works is responsible for maintenance. The Board of Selectmen approved the Gilford Pavement Program at their 08/24/15 meeting. Discussions ensued and Peter Nourse answered the committee's questions. Norman Silber made a motion to approve the DPW Operating budget for \$1,362,343 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Kevin Roy and passed with all in favor; (7-0). Norman Silber made a motion to approve the DPW warrant articles for \$254,000 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Robert Henderson and passed with all in favor; (7-0). Norman Silber made the motion to approve the DPW wages and benefits for \$959,412 as recommended by the Board of Selectman; seconded by Karen Thurston and passed with all in favor; (7-0).

Sewer Fund:

Norman Silber made the motion to approve the Sewer budget for \$978,497 (this is \$10,000 less than the recommended number of the Selectmen due to the warrant article); seconded by Robert Henderson and passed with all in favor; (7-0). Norman Silber made the motion to approve the warrant article for \$10,000 in the sewer budget; seconded by David Horvath and passed with all in favor; (7-0). Selectmen Grenier and committee members said the new sewer technician who is doing a great job.

Bridges:

Norman Silber made a motion to approve the Bridges budget for \$1,000 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Kevin Roy and passed with all in favor; (7-0).

Street lighting:

Norman Silber made a motion to approve the Street Lighting Budget for \$29,500 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Kevin Roy and passed with all in favor; (7-0).

Vehicle Maintenance:

Norman Silber made a motion to approve the Vehicle Maintenance Budget for \$232,610 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Kevin Roy and passed with all in favor; (7-0).

Solid Waste:

Norman Silber remarked on line item 4324-363 – Hazardous Waste Day for \$6,791 (Lakes Region Planning Commission portion) appears to be in addition to the Towns membership to LRPC (\$8,707) in the Planning Departments budget. Mr. Silber noted the LRPC Executive Director previously told the committee that the membership cost included the full cost of Hazardous Waste Program, which clearly is not the case and would like to revisit this in the future. With that, Norman Silber made the motion to approve the Solid Waste budget for \$637,742 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen (minus the \$45,000 warrant article); seconded by Kevin Roy and passed with all in favor; (7-0). There was extensive discussion on the warrant article request for \$45,000. David Horvath asked for copies of the Solid Waste Committees report dated 10/06/2015 for the next meeting. There was discussion. Norman Silber made a motion to approve the Solid Waste Warrant Article for \$45,000 as recommended

by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Robert Henderson and passed 6-1. (David Horvath was opposed)

Health Officer Budget:

Norman Silber made a motion to approve the Health Officer Budget total for \$3,153 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Kevin Roy and passed with all in favor; (7-0).

Cemeteries Budget:

Geoffrey Ruggles answered the committee's questions. Members wanted the record to reflect that the work being done at the cemeteries is commendable. Norman Silber made the motion to approve the cemeteries budget for \$39,894 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by David Horvath and passed with all in favor; (7-0).

Approval of Minutes:

Norman Silber made a motion to approve the 11/05/2015 Budget Committee Meeting minutes; seconded by Kevin Roy and passed; (6-0). Robert Henderson (who was absent at the 11/05/15 meeting) voted as 1 present.

Norman Silber thanked Peter Nourse and Mia Gagliardi for providing detailed and thorough explanations at their subcommittee meeting and stated they are doing a great job.

Next Budget Committee Meeting:

The next Budget committee meeting will be on Thursday, November 19, 2015 at 6:30 PM.

Adjournment:

Motion made by Robert Henderson to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM; seconded by Norman Silber and passed with all in favor; (7-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Angela A. Bovill
Executive Assistant