

TOWN OF GILFORD
BUDGET COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
December 10, 2015
6:30 PM

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

Members absent: Jeffrey Beane.

Kevin Leandro, Chair called the Budget Committee meeting to order at 6:38 PM and asked Robert Henderson to lead the assembly with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Budget Committee will review the School District Budgets including Middle School and Elementary School along with the Sub Committees recommendations.

Old Business – Merits:

At last week's budget committee meeting, Town Administrator Scott Dunn distributed a copy of the updated budget. Along with this, the committee requested the cost savings amount to go from a 2.5% wage increase to a 1.5% wage increase for non union personnel throughout the budget. The decrease from 2.5% to 1.5% in the budget amount of merit pay for non-union personnel will result in a total budget decrease of \$35,686. David Horvath made a motion to decrease the full budget by \$35,686 for non-union personnel as presented; seconded by Susan Greene and passed; (8-2) (Karen Thurston and Richard Grenier opposed). Selectmen Grenier asked if this motion includes the Town Clerk Tax Collectors salary. The Budget Committee asked for Town Administrator Dunn to have that answer for next week's meeting.

Old Business – Longevity:

Karen Thurston sent an email dated 12/09/15 regarding reporting administrative compensation and how it is reflected in the line item budget based on the School Boards meeting on 12/7/15. Chairman Kevin Leandro said this prompted him to write a response. Mr. Leandro would like to enter Ms. Thurston's email along with his letter into public record and put the matter to bed relative to line items and the budget committee's authority. Chair Leandro ended by stating he rejects the School Boards request to seek additional legal counsel on the matter and that this is how they will proceed. Mr. Leandro also reiterated the request for additional historical data in the budget books.

Old Business - Heating Oil:

At last week's meeting, the budget committee reduced the budget price for heating oil down to \$2.50 per gallon. Scott Isabelle presented the Budget Committee with a memo explaining they were able to lock in a price for #2 heating oil at \$1.82 for 340,625 gallons with Irving Oil Company. This price is effective from September 1, 2016 to May 31, 2017. That cost is in the updated Buildings and Grounds Budget given to all members. Kevin Leandro made a motion to approve the new budget number of \$2,000,037 (with this reduction of fuel costs by \$80,358); seconded by Robert

Henderson for discussion. Discussions ensued. Chair Leandro called the vote. Motion passes; (10-0).

Old Business – Follow up answers from 12/03/2015 meeting:

Based on questions the Budget Committee asked last week, Scott Isabelle prepared a response answering those questions. The first was the square footage of the proposed re-carpeted areas of the high school and the second based on costs associated with merit wages. Discussions ensued. Norman Silber made a motion to adjust the district wide increases in salaries (merit increase) down to 1.5 % to be consistent with the town budget for the non-administrative and administrative staffs (that are not mandated by existing contracts) throughout the school district budget; seconded by David Horvath for discussion. After discussion, the budget committee realized that these numbers for reduction do not include the associated payroll deductions, taxes etc. Norman Silber withdrew his motion as did David Horvath. Norman Silber made a motion to request the 1.5% reduction in merit wages to include all associated costs with non contractual employees to be consistent with the changes made the Town; seconded by David Horvath and passed; (8-2) (Karen Thurston and Richard Grenier opposed).

Budget number for new Superintendent Salary:

David Horvath discussed the budget line for the new Superintendents Salary of \$121,000 (level funded). Kevin Roy asked why we would bring a new person in at the same salary level of the outgoing Superintendent. Kevin Leandro said this was a reduction from \$124,630 original budget request. The subcommittee level funded at \$121,000. David Horvath asked if there have been comparable salary surveys or data completed for similar size schools for comparison. The answer was yes, and the Gilford Superintendent is the lowest paid in the Lakes Region. Currently this is a competitive market; its supply and demand for Superintendent positions right now. Discussions ensued. Kevin Leandro made a motion to table this until next weeks meeting; seconded by Norman Silber and passed; (10-0).

Revenue Data Request:

Kevin Leandro turned to the last page of the budget book, the revenue tab and stated that the budget committee would need to see 3 years worth of historical data on this very last page. Mr. Leandro made a motion requesting this page be redone to include 3 years worth of historical data; seconded by Kevin Roy and passed; (10-0).

Middle School Budget:

David Horvath discussed the subcommittee's recommendations and invited Mr. Peter Sawyer, Middle School Principal to the podium. Mr. Sawyer noted 3 corrections in the subcommittee minutes and clarified for the committee. Mr. Horvath went on to explain that the budget is down from last year and the subcommittee made additional adjustments. Lengthy discussions ensued; Mr. Sawyer answered the committee's questions. The subcommittee adjustments came to a \$4,600 reduction in the budget (not including the merit wages) making the sub committees recommended budget of \$2,284,859. Norman Silber made a motion to approve the \$2,284,859 (pending merit wage changes) as presented; seconded by David Horvath and passed; (9-1) (Karen Thurston opposed). Mr. Horvath will update the subcommittee minutes with Mr. Sawyer's corrections and re-submit.

High School Budget:

Norman Silber discussed the subcommittee's recommendations and invited Mr. Anthony Sperazzo, High School Principal to the podium. M. Silber went through the budget and explained the subcommittee's recommendations page by page. Lengthy discussions ensued and Mr. Sperazzo answered the committee's questions on the various budget adjustments, programs, etc. Norman Silber made a motion to approve the subcommittees recommended budget of \$4,512,631 (subject to the merit wages); seconded by Kevin Roy for discussion. Committee member asked questions on band instruments, jackets, picnic tables to name a few. Richard Grenier called the question. Motion passes; (9-1). (Karen Thurston opposed).

Middle School Budget adjustment:

Kevin Leandro asked about the curriculum development increase to either adjust as the subcommittee did at the High School or leave it alone. (On page 4 of the middle school budget \$500 increase for professional development (contractual). This was level funded at the high school; the middle school is up \$1,000. Discussions ensued. Norman Silber made a motion for consistency to level fund the middle school budget for professional development down from \$5,000 to \$4,000 making the new budget total of \$2,283,859; seconded by Kevin Leandro and passed; (9-1). (Karen Thurston opposed)

Discussion on the price of gas:

Richard Grenier shared with the committee that during the Selectmen's budget process, the price of gas at the State pumps was at \$2.74. At the time, the price of regular gas was \$2.20 and cheaper at the local station. They questioned why they would pay the State's amount. There is a huge savings even with the road tax. The Town also uses Wex Fleet Cards which can be used at any gas station (they take your road tax out). Everyone thanked the Selectmen for this information and savings.

Approval of the minutes:

Norman Silber made a motion to approve the 12/03/2015 minutes as written; seconded by Richard Grenier and passed (7-3). (Kevin Leandro, Robert Henderson and David Horvath abstained).

Next Budget Committee Meeting:

The next Budget Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, December 17, 2015 at 6:30 PM.

Adjournment:

Motion made by Kevin Roy to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 PM; seconded by Richard Grenier and passed with all in favor; (10-0).

Respectfully submitted,



Angela A. Bovill
Executive Assistant