

TOWN OF GILFORD  
BUDGET COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
October 18, 2018  
6:30 PM

Members present: Joseph Wernig, Thomas Chase, Kristin Snow, Richard Grenier, Timothy Sullivan Sean Murphy, S. Peter Karagianis, Chris McDonough, Susan Greene, Jack Kelley and David "Skip" Murphy

Members Absent: Tracie Corbett (excused).

Chairman Sean Murphy called the Budget Committee meeting to order at 6:30 pm, established there was a quorum present and Richard Grenier led the assembly with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of minutes:

Skip Murphy stated that he was still waiting on answers to certain questions, which included salaries and over time in the Police Department and Fire Department. He asked Selectman Grenier, who said, the Fire Chief indicated that he was on track with overtime. He also reviewed an email from the Police Chief explaining overtime, wages etc. Discussion ensued. Chris McDonough made a motion to approve the 10/11/18 minutes as presented; seconded by Skip Murphy and passed: (10-0-1) Tim Sullivan abstained.

Public comment:

Chair Sean Murphy asked if there was any public comment prior to the Town budget presentation. There was none.

Changing of the calendar: Chair, Sean Murphy reviewed the change of date for the Finance/Appraisal/Technology related subcommittee review to 11/15/18 along with Department of Planning and Land Use and Conservation Commission to 11/15/18. Lastly, the Fire Rescue/Forestry/Emergency Management and related subcommittee review was moved to 10/25/18.

Administration subcommittee report: Chris McDonough reviewed the Administration Budget and explained an error that was discovered for retirement costs, reflecting an \$8,793 increase for that line item along with a change in one employee's health insurance status. Skip Murphy, who was on the subcommittee followed up with a copy of RSA 15:5 – Prohibited Activities. He determined that this was inconclusive. Skip Murphy did note that he was not in favor of funding lobbyists via the New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA). Chris McDonough said, in his opinion, the benefits the Town receives from NHMA outweigh this. Discussion ensued. Peter Karagianis made a motion to accept the Administration Budget for \$289,214, as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Tom Chase and passed; (10-1). Skip Murphy opposed.

Boards and Commissions: Chris McDonough reviewed the budget. No changes noted. Peter Karagianis made a motion to accept the Boards and Committee's budget for \$2,455, as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Sue Greene and passed; (11-0).

Elected Officials: Chris McDonough explained this budget includes a proposed increase for the three Supervisors of the checklist from \$600 to \$750. Mary Villaume, Chair of the Supervisors of the checklist

was present to explain in detail, the role of the Supervisors, how much time they put in, etc. Discussions ensued. Chris McDonough made a motion to accept the Elected Officials Budget for \$15,017 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Peter Karagianis and passed; (10-1). Sue Greene opposed.

Debt Service: Chris McDonough explained this budget is down \$21,283, mainly due to the retirement of a Radio Equipment bond. Discussion ensued. Joe Wernig made a motion to accept the Debt Service budget for \$288,117 as recommended by the Board of Selectman; seconded by Jack Kelley and passed; (11-0).

Default budget: Chris McDonough explained the default budget is the budget, under which, the Town would operate if the proposed budget fails to pass on voting day. In his opinion, this is smaller than it should be. The proposed default budget is \$12,957,875, some \$845,000 less than the proposed budget. No actions taken as this is a Board of Selectmen decision.

Other Government: Town Administrator Scott Dunn explained that this is the payment to Lakes Region Business Park II as voted (by the voters) in 2001, under the Inter-Municipal Agreement, which is shared with the City of Laconia. Town Administrator Dunn explained that there is a formula used to determine the Town of Gilford's portion of the payment. Discussion ensued. Jack Kelley made a motion to accept the Other Government budget amount for \$20,000 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Chris McDonough and passed; (10-1). Skip Murphy opposed.

Town Clerk/Tax Collectors subcommittee report: Sue Greene reviewed the Tax Town Clerk/Tax Collectors budget in detail. The budget is up .01%, less than 2018. The Town Clerk/Tax Collectors BMSI software was replaced with a much more efficient system that allows for more reporting. There are no special projects in the budget this year and contracted services have decreased because legal research for liens on properties have decreased. Discussions ensued. Chris McDonough made a motion to approve the Town Clerk/Tax Collectors budget for \$393,003 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Jack Kelley and passed; (11-0).

Elections and Registrations: Sue Greene reported that there would only be one election in 2019. Skip Murphy asked about the optical reader. Denise Gonyer, Town Clerk-Tax Collector commented it is old and one of the first machines that came out. The Secretary of State is looking into other options. Ms. Gonyer stated that she has complete confidence in the machine. It is tested regularly. Discussion ensued. Chris McDonough made a motion to accept the Elections and Registrations budget for \$12,894 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Kristin Snow and passed; (9-2). Sue Greene and Skip Murphy opposed.

Parks and Recreation Department: Joe Wernig reviewed the 8.72% increase in seasonal staffing; explaining the increase in hourly wages and reimbursement for WSI training will attract more help. (Increase in lifeguard wages). There was discussion on beach patrol staff with Parks and Recreation Director Herb Greene. Professional development has a significant increase due to WSI training and reimbursement for lifeguard's. Also, for Mr. Greene to attend the National conference (every other year) thus the increase for 2019. The Old Home day line saw an increase of \$5,000. The Board of Selectmen added this to boost fireworks, parade, etc. as this would be the 100-year anniversary of Old Home Day. (One time increase) Tim Sullivan asked if there could be a Police radio at the beach for staff to use. Town Administrator Scott Dunn said that there is a plan in the works for this. Discussion ensued. Pater Karagianis made a motion to accept the Parks & Recreation budget for \$256,805 as recommended

by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Joe Wernig and passed; (11-0). Joe also thanked Herb Greene for all he does.

Skating Rink: Joe Wernig reported this budget was overwhelmingly approved. There was discussion the need for the roof to be painted at the Rink due to rust, etc. Tim Sullivan said that lighting at the rink would need to be addressed in the future. Joe reported that the subcommittee discussed the Capital Improvement Fund regarding the addition of \$50,000 to account for work at Lincoln Park. Discussion ensued. Chris McDonough made a motion to approve the Skating Rink budget for \$9,368 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Joe Wernig and passed; (11-0).

Other business: Skip Murphy inquired about the next Fiscal review. Selectman Grenier explained overtime in the Police and Fire Departments further and answered questions.

Adjourn

With no further business to come before the Committee, Chris McDonough made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Skip Murphy and passed unanimously; (11-0). The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Angela A. Bovill  
Executive Assistant