

TOWN OF GILFORD
BUDGET COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
November 2, 2017
6:30 PM

Members present: Sean Murphy, Timothy Sullivan, Harry Bean, Dale Chan Eddy, Norman Silber, David "Skip" Murphy, Chris McDonough, Dr. Leslie Suranyi Jr. and Susan Greene.

Members absent: S. Peter Karagianis and Geoffrey Ruggles.

Chairman Norman Silber called the Budget Committee meeting to order at 6:30 pm and Dale Channing Eddy led the assembly with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Silber asked if there were any errors, omissions or corrections to the 09/28/2017 meeting minutes. There were none. Sean Murphy made a motion to approve the minutes as written; seconded by Dale Channing Eddy and motion passed unanimously; (9-0).

The Chair distributed the list of Budget Committee meetings and said the school budget books would be available on November 21, 2017. He announced that based on his request, the School Board will break out dues, etc. as separate line items throughout the budget. The school will also provide unlocked excel spreadsheets for their budget just as the Town Administrator provided. The difference being that the school does not use Excel but rather a budgeting software program. This means that the formula used to derive at the numbers will not appear when they are transferred to excel. Chairman Silber said that Superintendent Beitler would have 15 minutes at the beginning of the 11/30/2017 Budget Committee meeting to present an overview on the total budget and to review the default budget. That means between 11/21/17 and 11/30/17 the subcommittee for the School default budget needs to be prepared to make recommendations to the full committee on 11/30/2017. Chair Silber reviewed the list of subcommittee appointments for the town and school budgets. He will email the finalized list to all members tomorrow.

Subcommittee meetings

Chairman Silber said that between now and next Thursday's meeting, subcommittees for the following need to meet and be prepared to give their recommendations to the full budget committee on 11/09/2017.

1. Elected Officials, Administration, Boards & Committees, Finance, Appraisal, Technology, Welfare, Debt, Insurance, Legal, etc.
2. Parks and Recreation/Skating Rink
3. Town Clerk – Tax Collector/Elections
4. Other Culture/Health/Cemeteries

Town Budget Presentation/Overview

Chairman Siler turned the meeting over to Town Administrator, Scott Dunn, who presented the FY2018 Budget as recommended by the Board of Selectmen. Town Administrator Dunn explained that the Board tried to keep the municipal tax rate stable. The Board reviewed each individual department budget and made cuts where they felt necessary. In total, the Selectmen cut approximately \$275,000 from the FY2018 budget at their all day budget work session with department heads on 10/23/2017. Town Administrator Dunn acknowledged the hard work that each department head put into their respective budgets. The two biggest increases in the FY2018 budget are for maintenance of Town property and Information Technology (IT). Regarding personnel policies, there are no significant changes to employees' benefits etc. Each department budgeted 2.5% for merit increases. Administrator Dunn noted that there are currently two union contracts being negotiated (Police and Department of Public Works). The Department of Public Works is without a Director; Mr. Dunn and the DPW staff put the FY2018 budget numbers together. Town Administrator Dunn gave an update on the Town Hall Renovations Project and the status of the Recycle Center Project. Discussions ensued. Town Administrator Scott Dunn answered the questions from Budget Committee members and the Chair thanked him for his presentation.

Next meeting

The next Budget Committee meeting will be on Thursday, November 9, 2017 at 6:30 pm. Chair Silber announced that the 11/16/2017 Budget Committee meeting will be chaired by Skip Murphy, Vice Chair as Mr. Silber will be out of town.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Angela A. Bovill
Executive Assistant