

TOWN OF GILFORD
BUDGET COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
November 3, 2016
6:00 PM

Members present: Sean Murphy, Dale Chan Eddy, Norman Silber, Chris McDonough, S. Peter Karagianis, Dr. Leslie Suranyi Jr., Kevin Leandro, Harry Bean and Susan Greene.

Members absent: Timothy Sullivan.

Chairman Norman Silber called the Budget Committee meeting to order at 6:00 PM and Kevin Leandro led the assembly with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of minutes

Chairman Silber noted an error in the minutes changing the meeting time from 6:30 to 6:00 pm. Sean Murphy's name was spelled incorrect in the first paragraph; Chris McDonough also stated that under other business it should be stated that Chairman Silber made notation for the record that the budget committee reserves the right before the final approval of the budget to be submitted to the deliberative session to make any changes or any modifications to the budget. Dale Chan Eddy made a motion to accept the October 27, 2016 minutes as amended; seconded by Sean Murphy and passed with all in favor (9-0).

Sub Committee Reports

Police Department Subcommittee: Susan Greene presented the subcommittee report on the Police Department and items that were discussed. Police Chief Anthony Bean Burpee was present and explained his request for one additional full time police officer along with data that supported his request. In 2014 the Selectmen and Budget Committee unanimously voted to add one full time police officer; that was the first addition since 2003. Gilford has seen a significant increase in arrests since 2014 (57%). Lengthy discussions ensued regarding Meadowbrook, calls for service, arrests at Meadowbrook and staffing. Norman Silber made a motion to approve the Police Department budget for \$2,681,910 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Kevin Leandro and passed with all in favor; (9-0).

Fire/Rescue, Emergency Management, Fire Protection and Forestry Subcommittee: Norman Silber presented the subcommittee report on the Fire/Rescue, Emergency Management, Fire Protection and Forestry Subcommittee and items that were discussed namely the request for 2 full time firefighter/EMT's and the purchase of a new Fire Truck to replace Engine 4. Fire Chief Stephen Carrier was present to answer questions and introduced Bill Akerley, Fire Engineer and Deputy Fire Chief Brad Ober. There was extensive discussion regarding the request for a new fire truck. Chris McDonough asked Chief Carrier what the costs were to hire two new employees; Chief Carrier explained why he felt it was easier to hire two (mostly operational and scheduling). Mr.

McDonough inquired why the Board of Selectmen and subcommittee support hiring two additional staff in the Fire Department yet the Police Department gets Zero. Why not do one and one; in his opinion it doesn't make sense. Lengthy discussion ensued.

Norman Silber made a motion to approve the Fire/Rescue Department budget for \$1,806,678 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Kevin Leandro and passed with all in favor; (9-0).

Norman Silber made a motion to approve the Emergency Management budget for \$3,169 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Kevin Leandro and passed with all in favor; (9-0).

Norman Silber made a motion to approve the Fire Protection budget for \$129,268 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Susan Greene and passed with all in favor; (9-0).

Kevin Leandro a motion to approve the Forestry budget for \$2,692 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen and subcommittee; seconded by Les Suranyi and passed with all in favor; (8-0-1). (Norman Silber abstained; he was briefly out of the room)

Budget committee member vacancy/appointment

Chairman Silber announced this position was posted accordingly, advertised on the Town's website and he received one letter of interest from Mr. Geoffrey Ruggles. He asked Mr. Ruggles to give a 5 minute presentation about himself and his interest. Mr. Ruggles said he has lived in Gilford for the past 29 years and was a summer resident growing up. He is the Town Crier and was the Towns Finance Director for many years. He wanted to volunteer his services and utilize his knowledge of the budget process, so he applied to fill the vacant seat. Mr. Ruggles indicated there are two meetings in January he will be unable to attend due to his job. There was discussion. Norman Silber made a motion to nominate Geoffrey Ruggles to fill the vacant position of budget committee member (expires March 2017); seconded by Kevin Leandro and passed with all in favor; (9-0). The budget committee signed the Oath of office for Mr. Ruggles and he will be sworn in by the Town Clerk Tax Collector who is present.

Other business:

Town Administrator Scott Dunn gave the Budget Committee a memo on the Police Station Project Close Out for information only based on last weeks discussions on the Recycle Center Project. Discussion ensued on the Police Station Project/Process. Chairman Silber stated that he learned a lot from Karen Thurston, the School Board Representative last year regarding the school renovation project and the value in obtaining a guaranteed cost maximum for the project.

Town Administrator Scott Dunn also gave the budget committee copies of the Town of Gilford's Personnel Policy amendments that were approved by the Board of Selectmen with an effective date of January 1, 2017.

Norman Silber stated that there is still a vacant seat on the budget committee (not required, just entitled) for the Gunstock Area Village Water District (GAVWD) if they choose to appoint a representative.

Next Meeting

The next Budget Committee meeting will be on Thursday, November 10, 2016 at 6:00 pm.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Angela A. Bovill
Executive Assistant