

TOWN OF GILFORD
BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
November 8, 2018
6:30 PM

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

Members absent: Tracie Corbett, Susan Greene and David "Skip" Murphy

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: The Budget Committee reviewed the meeting minutes. The committee found two grammatical errors in need of correction. Richard Grenier made a motion to accept the 11/01/18 minutes as corrected; seconded by Peter Karagianis and passed; (9-0).

Public comment:

Chair Sean Murphy asked if there was any public comment. There was none.

Cemeteries Subcommittee report: Kristin Snow gave an overview of the Cemeteries subcommittee meeting explaining they had lengthy discussions for the last several years, the Cemetery Trustees have had a hard time hiring for the caretaker positions, which are budgeted at full-time for 27 weeks from spring through fall. The Cemetery Trustees requested a raise from \$12.50 per hour to \$13.75 per hour in the hopes to improve hiring efforts. Timothy Sullivan suggested going to \$14.50 per hour. Cemetery Trustees Dee Chitty (Chair), Susan Leach and William Day said 2018 was the worst year for retaining/hiring caretakers. Lengthy discussion ensued. Dr. Snow went on to discuss cremations and burial vaults. A few members were concerned that this practice of selling burial vaults is undercutting local businesses. Lengthy discussion ensued. Kristin Snow made a motion to accept the Cemeteries Budget of \$53,022 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Joe Wernig for discussion. Mr. Wernig wanted to confirm that the wage increase of \$13.75 is what is in the budget; answer: Yes. Jack Kelley brought up the \$9,000 for grub control and suggested putting \$4,500 (1/2) of that money into wages. Some members felt that \$9,000 for grub control was too costly. Discussion ensued. Chair Sean Murphy called the vote and passed (6-3). Jack Kelley, Peter Karagianis and Chris McDonough were opposed.

Columbarium Fund: Dr. Snow reported that the Cemetery Trustees requested the Board of Selectmen appropriate \$10,000 into a Columbarium Fund to facilitate the construction of a columbarium at Pine Grove Cemetery, at a total estimated cost of \$45,000, possibly a warrant article. This would help with the space issues at the cemetery for burials. The subcommittee noted there is a Special Revenue Cemetery Fund with a balance of \$45,270 and questioned if those funds could be used. Discussion ensued. Town Administrator Scott Dunn is looking into this.

Gilford Public Works subcommittee reports:

Buildings and Grounds: Sean Murphy explained that the Board of Selectmen are recommending a budget of \$394,481, which is an increase of \$53,643. Special Projects increased by \$20,499. Some of this is because two projects moved from the Rowe House Expenses to Special Projects. Committee members asked about the increase in electricity. This is most likely due to the new Police Department along with there being an 8% electricity rate increase across the board. Discussion ensued. Town Administrator Scott Dunn said the Board of Selectmen revamped the Buildings and Grounds budget this year to make it more transparent, and to better account for expenses. Joe Wernig made a motion to approve the Buildings and Grounds budget for \$394,481 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Tim Sullivan and passed; (9-0).

Public Works Administration: Sean Murphy explained that this budget for \$316,009, which is an increase of \$127,367 over FY2018. Major items for the increase are the full-time wages for a Deputy Director for DPW and the PWA-Special Projects line. The increase is for Pubworks software, AVL yearly subscription and a one-time installation fee. Discussion ensued. Jack Kelley made a motion to approve the Public Works Administration budget for \$316,009 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Kristin Snow and passed; (9-0).

Public Works Highway: Sean Murphy reported that in new equipment; the Board of Selectmen have recommended the purchase of a used hot box for \$20,000. This will help cut down on asphalt waste. There is an increase in ice control of \$7,220. Lastly, the Selectmen recommend an increase of \$300,000 in the road improvements budget. Jack Kelley explained that the Town spends a lot of money on road repairs. In his opinion, we could do better to inspect jobs when residents ruin roads with new construction for example. Perhaps pay better attention or inspect as part of the CO process. Discussion ensued. Sean Murphy made a motion to approve the Public Works Highway budget for \$2,481,765 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen, seconded by Kristin Snow and passed; (9-0).

Bridges & Street Lights: Sean Murphy reviewed that the Board of Selectmen are recommending a decrease of \$10,400. Sean Murphy made a motion to accept the Bridges and Street Lights budget for \$18,600 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Tom Chase and passed ; (9-0).

Public Works Vehicle Maintenance: Sean Murphy said that even though there is a decrease in the Special Projects line, there is \$8,000 request to replace the base station radio, as the current radio is obsolete and needs to be replaced. The subcommittee recommends (3-1) \$5,000 be taken out of mechanical parts and that \$3,000 be taken out of replacement parts, bringing the recommended budget down to \$528,690. Discussion ensued. Peter Karagianis made a motion to accept the Vehicle Maintenance budget for \$528,690 as recommended by the subcommittee; seconded by Tim Sullivan and passed; (7-2). Richard Grenier and Sean Murphy opposed.

Public Works Solid Waste: Sean Murphy reviewed the portion of the budget, which includes a total increase of \$86,022. He explained that when the facility opens, they would need two FTE and two PTE, so there is an increase in the PT wages account. There is also an increase in recycling expenses. The Committee had discussion on what the fees would be. The Board of Selectmen have not decided yet. Selectman Grenier explained how tipping fees cost more now. Discussion ensued. The Budget Committee cut \$10,000 in the coupon line. Sean Murphy made a motion to accept the Solid Waste

budget for \$723,614 as recommended by the subcommittee; seconded by Tom Chase and passed; (8-1). Richard Grenier opposed.

Public Works Sewer: Sean Murphy explained the Board of Selectmen recommended a budget of \$800,706 which, is an increase of \$49,567. The Town has finished paying off the lease for the Sewer vehicle while adding in \$32,034 for the pump-station bond payments. Lengthy discussion ensued regarding sewer usage fees revenue. Chris McDonough discussed user fees offsetting costs. There was discussion on the Admin fee and Volume fee and the rate. Jack Kelley believes that the rate must be wrong. Town Administrator Scott Dunn said they would revisit the rate setting formula. Kristin Snow made a motion to accept the Sewer budget for \$800,706 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen, seconded by Joe Wernig and passed; (9-0).

Re-votes on previous Town Budgets

Administration: Chris McDonough made a motion to accept the Town Administration updated budget for \$287,262; seconded by Joe Wernig and passed; (9-0).

Town Clerk – Tax Collector: Kristin Snow made a motion to accept the Town Clerk-Tax Collector's updated budget for \$367,473; seconded by Jack Kelley and passed; (9-0).

Fire/Rescue: Sean Murphy made a motion to accept the Fire/Rescue updated budget for \$2,044,520; seconded by Tim Sullivan and passed; (9-0).

Fire Protection: Tim Sullivan made a motion to accept the Fire Protection updated budget for \$131,036; seconded by Kristin Snow and passed; (9-0).

Park & Recreation: Joe Wernig said he had two people approach him regarding the \$1,300 taken out of the budget for beach patrol. Discussion ensued regarding who would do the beach patrol, etc. Chris McDonough made a motion to approve the Parks and Recreation updated budget for \$258,312; seconded by Joe Wernig and passed; (9-0)

Public comment:

Chair Sean Murphy asked if there was any public comment. There was none.

Other business: In honor of Veteran's day, Chair Sean Murphy thanked Richard Grenier and Timothy Sullivan for their service to our Country. The School budget books will be ready on 11/19/18.

Adjourn

With no further business to come before the Committee, Joe Wernig made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Tom Chase and passed; (9-0). The meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela A. Bovill
Executive Assistant