

Approved 11/16/17

TOWN OF GILFORD
BUDGET COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
November 9, 2017
6:30 PM

Members present: Sean Murphy, Timothy Sullivan, Harry Bean, Dale Channing Eddy, Norman Silber, David "Skip" Murphy, Chris McDonough, Dr. Leslie Suranyi Jr. and S. Peter Karagianis.

Members absent: Susan Greene and Geoffrey Ruggles.

Chairman Norman Silber called the Budget Committee meeting to order at 6:30 pm and led the assembly with the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Silber announced that he had to leave in about 10 minutes to attend a meeting at Belknap County and Vice Chair Skip Murphy would chair the meeting.

Sub Committee Reports:

Town Clerk – Tax Collector Subcommittee report: Sean Murphy presented the subcommittee report for the Town Clerk – Tax Collectors budget and items that were discussed. One of the larger increases was in part time wages due to the fact a part time clerk left the Town and was replaced with a part time clerk with over 40 years' experience. Discussion ensued. Sean Murphy made a motion to approve the Town Clerk - Tax Collectors budget for \$393,831 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Skip Murphy and passed with all in favor; (9-0).

Elections and Registrations Subcommittee report: There is an increase to this budget over FY2017 due to the increase in elections for 2018. (3 in 2018 vs. 1 in 2017) The budget subcommittee discovered an error in line item 01-4143-102, Election part-time wages. The request approved by the Board of Selectmen was for \$1,820. The subcommittee noticed on paperwork that \$3,920 was omitted from what should be the real total of \$5,740 for that line item. That brings the accurate budget total for FY2018 to \$25,334. Discussion ensued. Sean Murphy made a motion to approve the Town Clerk - Tax Collectors budget for \$25,334 as recommended by the subcommittee; seconded by Skip Murphy and passed with all in favor; (9-0).

Tax rate memo: Town Administrator Scott Dunn provided a memo to the Budget Committee with the 2017 Tax Rate including the breakdown. Tax bills will be mailed out sometime during the third week of November with an approximate due date projected to be around December 18, 2017. Discussion ensued.

Chairman Silber distributed a schedule of Budget Committee meetings that he will forward via email to Town Administrator Scott Dunn and Superintendent of Schools Kurt Beitler to distribute. He reminded the committee he will be absent at the 11/16/17 Budget Committee meeting and Vice Chair Skip Murphy would Chair that meeting. Chair Silber excused himself from meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair Skip Murphy asked if there were any errors, omissions or corrections to the 11/02/2017 meeting minutes. There were none. Dale Channing Eddy made a motion to approve the minutes as written; seconded by Leslie Suranyi and motion passed unanimously; (8-0).

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Elected Officials report: Skip Murphy presented the subcommittee report for the Elected Officials budget and noted there were no changes for 2018. Timothy Sullivan made a motion to approve the Elected Officials budget for \$14,533 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Peter Karagianis and passed with all in favor; (8-0).

Boards and Commissions report: Skip Murphy presented the subcommittee report for the Boards and Commissions budget noting the discussion on wages for the secretary. Discussion ensued. Peter Karagianis made a motion to approve the Boards and Commissions budget for \$2,406 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Timothy Sullivan and passed with all in favor; (8-0).

Finance/Appraisal and Technology Budget report: Skip Murphy presented the subcommittee report for the Finance/Technology/Appraisal budget and items that were discussed. Discussion ensued regarding the IT projects listed in the FY2018 budget. Peter Karagianis made a motion to approve the Finance/Technology/Appraisal budget for \$649,153 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Sean Murphy and passed with all in favor; (8-0).

Legal report: Skip Murphy presented the subcommittee report for the Legal budget and noted there was no change from 2017. Timothy Sullivan made a motion to approve the Legal budget for \$54,000 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Sean Murphy and passed with all in favor; (8-0).

Insurance report: Skip Murphy presented the subcommittee report for the Insurance budget and noted most of this is beyond the control of the Town. Discussion ensued. Timothy Sullivan made a motion to approve the Insurance budget for \$291,466 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Sean Murphy and passed with all in favor; (8-0).

Health Officer report: Skip Murphy presented the subcommittee report for the Health Officer budget. The position is currently vacant due to the resignation of the Director of Public Works. Discussion ensued. Timothy Sullivan made a motion to approve the Health Officer budget for \$3,203 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded Sean Murphy and passed with all in favor; (8-0).

Health and Welfare Agencies report: Skip Murphy reported no action was taken on this item as all requests for monies by Outside Agencies is handled by petition warrant articles.

Welfare Assistance report: Skip Murphy presented the subcommittee report for the Welfare assistance budget. The subcommittee recommended reducing the electricity line item and the housing line item by \$2,500 each. Discussion ensued. Timothy Sullivan made a motion to approve the Welfare Assistance budget for \$49,919 as recommended by the subcommittee; seconded by Peter Karagianis and passed with all in favor; (8-0).

Debt services report: Skip Murphy presented the subcommittee report for Debt Services and noted a decrease in Debt principal and an increase in debt interest. Town Administrator Scott Dunn and Finance Director Glen Waring answered questions. Discussion ensued. Sean Murphy made a motion to approve the Debt Services budget for \$215,182 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Leslie Suranyi and passed with all in favor; (8-0).

Other government report: Skip Murphy presented the subcommittee report for other government budget and explained these monies are budgeted for the Town's contractual obligation to maintain the Lakes Region Business Park, Phase II in Gilford. Town Administrator Scott Dunn explained those obligations and the Inter Municipal Agreements as voted by the taxpayers. Some members were

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reluctant to want to approve, but understand the obligation. Discussion ensued. Sean Murphy made a motion (reluctantly) to approve the other government budget for \$19,000 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Timothy Sullivan and passed with all in favor; (8-0).

Parks and Recreation report: Skip Murphy presented the subcommittee report for the Parks & Recreation budget and the items that were discussed including overtime, seasonal wages, meetings/dues, electricity and facility maintenance. There was discussion on the capital fund and lengthy discussion on the revolving fund where fees for programs come in and costs expended. It is self-funding. (No taxpayer dollars) The committee also inquired as to whether funds in the revolving fund can be used for maintenance items like the skating rink roof, etc. Director Greene will research and bring information back to the committee. Lengthy discussion ensued. Sean Murphy made a motion to approve the Parks & Recreation budget for \$240,340 as recommend by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Timothy Sullivan and passed with all in favor (8-0).

Skating Rink report: Skip Murphy presented the subcommittee report for the Skating Rink budget reviewing discussions on maintenance namely to the roof. Parks and Recreation Director Herbert Greene answered the committee's questions. The committee also discussed if some of the money in the revolving fund could be used to do the roof repairs, etc. and to do a study to see if the roof at the skating rink is safe. Discussion ensued. Sean Murphy made a motion to approve the skating rink budget for \$9,199 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Timothy Sullivan and passed with all in favor; (8-0).

Town Administration report: Skip Murphy did not have a final subcommittee recommendation/vote on this budget due to the fact they were at odds over the telephone system and how it was budgeted. Skip Murphy wanted to bring this item before the full budget committee. He did not agree with the Board removing the \$25,000 from the FY2018 budget and considering taking \$25,000 out of the FY2017 budget by allowing each of the Town budgets telephone line items to be overspent to cover the costs. Skip Murphy said in his opinion, he could not trust the budget numbers because it does not show actual costs of how much money was spent. Town Administrator Scott Dunn explained that this was just a suggestion at that no monies for a new telephone system have been expended. Town Administrator Dunn told Vice Chair Murphy that he is still gathering quotes to present to the Selectmen at their 11/29/2017 meeting. The numbers that the budget committee have in their books are the actuals. Selectmen Dale Channing Eddy and the Board voted to remove from FY2018 to try to find the money in FY2017 and explained in detail. Skip Murphy is against this and feels, in his opinion it is not transparent to the taxpayers. He reprimanded Selectmen Eddy and the Board of Selectmen for allowing this to be an option. Lengthy discussion ensued. Chris McDonough said this FY2017 budget option is a Selectmen's issue and not the budget committees. Chris McDonough made a motion to accept the Town Administration budget for \$281,456 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Sean Murphy and passed (6-2). Skip Murphy and Peter Karagianis were opposed.

Next meeting

The next Budget Committee meeting will be on Thursday, November 16, 2017 at 6:30 pm.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela A. Bovill
Executive Assistant

