

TOWN OF GILFORD
BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
November 15, 2018
6:30 PM

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

Members absent: Joseph Wernig, Tracie Corbett, and Richard Grenier.

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

Approval of minutes: The Budget Committee reviewed the 11/08/18 meeting minutes. The committee pointed out a few items that needed correction. Chris McDonough suggested striking a sentence. Peter Karagianis made a motion to strike a sentence from the Cemeteries subcommittee report as discussed; seconded by Chris McDonough and passed; (8-1) Skip Murphy abstained. Chris McDonough made a motion to accept the 11/08/18 minutes as amended; seconded by Peter Karagianis and passed; (8-1). Skip Murphy abstained.

Public comment:

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

Library Subcommittee report: Peter Karagianis gave an overview on the Library Subcommittee meeting and reviewed staffing. The effect of the new rate and hours will add \$4,814 to the wages budget line. There were two items in the operating expense that drew most of the attention. Electronic Media Materials and Building Maintenance. The Library added \$1,480 due to increased public demand for NH downloadable books and increased demand for Hoopla. Librarian Katherine Dormody explained in detail. Peter explained that the Library is now 11 years old and that this year's maintenance line item is up \$4,445. Issues requiring attention are roof-shoveling, filters, sprinkler system (pump), pest services, flooring replacement. Mr. Karagianis also reviewed special projects totaling \$2,950. Library Director Katherine Dormody answered many questions on these projects and staffing at the Library. Discussion ensued. Peter Karagianis made a motion to approve the Library budget for \$554,012 as recommended by the subcommittee; seconded by Timothy Sullivan and passed; (6-3). Susan Greene, Jack Kelley and Skip Murphy opposed.

Conservation Commission Subcommittee report: Sean Murphy gave an overview on the Conservation Commission budget. There is a decrease of \$2,250 in Professional Services. Discussion ensued regarding Invasive Species Management and Milfoil Eradication. Chris McDonough made a motion to approve the Conservation Commission Budget for \$27,500 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Tom Chase for discussion. Skip Murphy asked about the mapping software in comparison to the Town's for the purpose of overlays, redundancies, etc. Ms. Carole Hall, Conservation Commission Chair explained in detail the program they use for mapping. Discussion ensued. Chair Sean Murphy called the vote. Passed; (8-1). Skip Murphy opposed.

Planning & Land Use Subcommittee: Sean Murphy reviewed the Planning and Land Use budget, which is an increase of \$1,686 over last year. Chair Murphy discussed the part-time wages, Professional Development and Technical Services line for sound testing at Meadowbrook. Committee members asked why the Town test sounds levels at Meadowbrook. Planning and Land Use Director John Ayer explained in detail. Mr. Ayer also reviewed the wages and new part-time position. Chris McDonough expressed his concern that it might be a waste of time for the town and suggested, as a stipulation, that Meadowbrook hire and pay for a third party to conduct the decibel testing. Discussion ensued. Susan Greene made a motion to eliminate the \$600 in the DPLU technical services line for testing at Meadowbrook; seconded by Pater Karagianis and passed; (9-0). Chris McDonough made a motion to approve the DPLU budget for \$328,426 as recommended but the budget committee; seconded by Skip Murphy and passed; (9-0).

Finance, Appraisal, Technology, Welfare Subcommittee report: Timothy Sullivan reviewed the subcommittee report starting with review of wages and retirement. The Town will be undertaking a full 5-year period reassessment as required by State. Many of the assessing increases are for maintenance to the software. Technology services saw an increase including malware programs, anti-virus as well as other service to the Town's web systems. Finance Director Glen Waring explained that the Town expects to have a WISP (Written Information Security Program) to be compliant to State and Federal guidelines for security, redundancy/back up etc. This will be a contract with Mainstay Technologies. Mr. Waring also explained that the Town's computer replacement program updates approximately 15 workstations annually. Mr. Waring answered questions. Discussion ensued. Timothy Sullivan made a motion to approve the Finance, Assessing and Technology budget for \$677,764 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Skip Murphy and passed; (9-0). Timothy Sullivan reviewed the Welfare Administration budget. Mr. Waring explained how he estimated the amounts for several line items. Discussion ensued. Timothy Sullivan made a motion to approve the Welfare budget for \$49,259 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Tom Chase and passed; (9-0).

Insurance and Benefits budget: Town Administrator Scott Dunn presented the updated budget with numbers from Primex. Chris McDonough made a motion to approve the Insurance and Benefits budget for \$317,000 as recommended by the Board of Selectman; seconded by Jack Kelley and passed (8-1). Skip Murphy abstained.

Legal budget: Town Administrator Scott Dunn reviewed the expenses for the legal budget. Discussion ensued. Chris McDonough made a motion to approve the Legal budget for \$49,000 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Kristin Snow and passed; (9-0).

Patriotic purposes: Town Administrator Scott Dunn reviewed this budget, which includes Memorial Day and Candlelight Stroll expenses. Susan Greene expressed that the candlelight stroll budget is not necessary; rather, it should be on a volunteer basis. Susan Greene made a motion to remove the \$750 for candlelight stroll; seconded by Skip Murphy and failed; (4-5). Thomas Chase, Kristin Snow, Timothy Sullivan, Sean Murphy and Chris McDonough opposed. Chris McDonough made a motion to approve the Patriotic Purposes budget for \$875 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Sean Murphy and passed: (5-4). Sue Greene, Skip Murphy, Jack Kelley and Peter Karagianis opposed.

Revised Town Budget (Article #2): Town Administrator Scott Dunn reported that after the changes the Budget Committee made, the new bottom line number for the Town is \$13,712,117. Chris McDonough

made a motion to approve the Town budget for \$13,712,117; seconded by Kristin Snow and passed; (7-2). Sue Greene and Skip Murphy opposed.

Town Warrant Articles votes:

Article #4 to raise and appropriate \$125,000 for Police Dept. radio system upgrades, the sum to come from fund balance, no amount to be raised from taxation. Chair Murphy said this is year one of three. Peter Karagianis said the voters would not know that (it is not in the warrant article as written). The committee would like to put that in. Skip Murphy made a motion to ask the Board of Selectmen to reword Article #4 to include the numbers for year two and year three; seconded by Chris McDonough and passed; (9-0). Skip Murphy made a motion to table article #4; seconded by Chris McDonough and passed; (9-0).

Article #5 to raise and appropriate \$46,000 for Fire/Rescue Department's portable radio system upgrades, the sum to come from fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. Passed; (9-0).

Article #6 Town vote to establish a Columbarium Expendable Trust and to raise and appropriate \$10,000 to be placed in said fund. Said amount to come from fund balance and not to be raised from taxation provided 50% of the receipts from niche sales shall be returned to the Town's General Fund, with the balance from such sales to be added to the Columbarium Expendable Trust Fund as income and to name the Cemetery Trustees as agents to expend. Lengthy discussion ensued. Jack Kelley made a motion to table Article #6 and send back to the Selectmen to reword the verbiage to convey the total committed funds required to achieve the Columbarium; seconded by Chris McDonough and passed; (7-2).

Article #7 to raise and appropriate \$85,000 to purchase a forestry fire fighting vehicle, sum to come from fund balance, no amount to be raised from taxation. Passed; (9-0).

Article #8 to raise and appropriate \$80,250 for building and floor improvements to the Fire Station, the sum to come from fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. Passed; (9-0).

Article #9 to raise and appropriate \$400,000 to complete improvements to the Recycle Center and Construction of a Transfer Station, sum to come from fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. Town Administrator Scott Dunn explained. Discussion ensued. Chris McDonough felt, in his opinion, the Selectmen acted irresponsible with this project. Some Budget Committee members felt this was irresponsible and the wrong way to go. Chair Sean Murphy called for a vote. All opposed; (0-9).

Article #10 to raise and appropriate \$2,000 to be added to the Police Dog and Training Capital Reserve Fund established in 2018. Passed; (9-0).

Article #11 to raise and appropriate \$50,000 to be added to the Sidewalk Capital Reserve Fund established in 2018, sum to come from fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. Discussion ensued. Passed (5-4).

Article #12 to raise and appropriate \$12,131 to be added to the Technology Capital Reserve Fund established in 2018, sum to come from fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. Passed (5-4).

Approved by the Budget Committee 11/27/18

Article #13 to raise and appropriate \$20,000 to be added to the Building Repair Capital Reserve Fund, sum to come from fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. Failed: (7-2)

Article #14 to raise and appropriate \$50,000 to be added to the Fire Water Supply Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund for town-wide suppression purposes, sum to come from fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. Passed (9-0).

Article #15 to raise and appropriate \$50,000 to be added to Recreation Facilities Maintenance balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. Passed (8-1).

Article #16 to raise and appropriate \$10,000 to be added to the Glendale Boat and Launch Ramp Facilities Maintenance Capital Reserve, sum to come from fund balance and no amount raised from taxation. Passed (8-1).

Article #17 to raise and appropriate \$100,000 to be added to the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, sum to come from fund balance and no amount shall be raised from taxation. Passed (9-0).

Article #18 to raise and appropriate \$58,000 to be added to the Lakes Business Park Capital Trust Fund previously established pursuant to the terms of the Inter-Municipal Agreement approved under Article 18 of the 2001 Annual town Meeting. Failed (9-0).

Article #19 to raise and appropriate \$10,000 to be added to the Sewer Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund, sum to come from sewer fund balance and no amount raised from taxation. Passed (9-0).

The Budget Committee will hold off on voting on Articles #20 through #24 relative to Health and Welfare Agencies (Outside Agencies).

Public comment:

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

Sean Murphy reminded everyone that the 11/27/18 Budget Committee meeting will be at the Gilford High School in the Library. The School Budget Books will be available for pick-up at the SAU Office on Monday, November 19, 2018.

Adjourn

With no further business to come before the Committee, Chris McDonough made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Jack Kelley and passed; (9-0). The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Angela A. Bovill
Executive Assistant