

TOWN OF GILFORD
BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
November 27, 2018
6:30 PM

Members present: Joseph Wernig, Tracie Corbett, Kristin Snow, Timothy Sullivan, Thomas Chase Richard Grenier, Sean Murphy, S. Peter Karagianis, Chris McDonough, Susan Greene, David “Skip” Murphy and Jack Kelley.

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 11/15/18 meeting minutes. Chris McDonough made a motion to accept the 11/15/18 minutes as written; seconded by Tom Chase and passed; (9-0-3). Tracie Corbett, Joe Wernig and Richard Grenier abstained.

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

School Budget Presentation: School Superintendent Kirk Beitler explained that the budget process started in September and has gone through a rigorous process to achieve the budget presented this evening. He also announced that the Gilford School District Goals for 2018-2019 and the Gilford School District Technology Plan are on the SAU website available for review. Superintendent Beitler reviewed the enrollment history (over the past 10 years) based on data from October 1st of every year. Superintendent Beitler reviewed staffing data from 2010 to 2019. He explained the proposed staffing changes for 2019-2020 in the Elementary School, Middle School High School and the Gilford School District in detail and answered questions. Superintendent Beitler reviewed the fixed costs to consider for the 2019-2020 budget and reviewed each one in detail. He answered the Committee’s questions. Superintendent Beitler concluded his budget presentation with a proposed budget summary that listed: 1) Current budget, 2) School Board proposed budget, 3) current budget/School Board proposed difference and 4) the School Boards default budget. Discussion ensued.

Schools: District Wide Default & Revenues subcommittee report: Jack Kelley discussed that the subcommittee members were given a line-by-line explanation for adjustments made to the 2018-2019 votes approved budget in arriving at the School Board’s calculations of the default budget. Mr. Kelley reviewed the largest areas of focus were: 1) account codes 1100-2299 associated with the direct provisioning of classroom education, afterschool and summer activities (approximately 47% of default budget) 2) account codes 2320-2999 associated with district wide school administration, plant operations/maintenance, support services and transportation (approximately 44% of default budget). Skip Murphy expressed he was pleased with the default budget this year.

Proposed Warrant Article votes:
Athletic Track resurfacing: To raise and appropriate \$210,000 to fund repairs and resurfacing of the athletic track located at Gilford High School. \$20,000 will be raised from donation received from the Gilford Parent Teacher Association and the balance of \$190,000 to come from general taxation. Lengthy discussion ensued. Passed (12-0).

World Language Program: Shall the School District add one teaching position for the New World Language program at the Gilford Elementary School and Gilford Middle School and to raise and appropriate \$89,199 to fund salaries, benefits and program costs. This will be an ongoing annual appropriation and part of the operating budget to be funded from general taxation. Discussion ensued. The budget committee asked Superintendent Beitler to change the wording making clearer that this would become part of their regular future budgets. Superintendent Beitler said he would take that request back to the School Board for consideration. Passed (9-3).

School Buildings Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund: Shall the School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to \$150,000 to be added to the school building maintenance and improvement capital reserve fund established in 2017, this sum to come from June 30 unrestricted fund balance (surplus) available for transfer on July 1 of this year. Superintendent Beitler explained this was for the locker room renovations. Discussion ensued. Passed (12-0).

School Buildings Roof Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund: Shall the School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to \$62,500 to be added to the school building roof maintenance capital reserve fund established in 2017, this sum to come from June 30 unrestricted fund balance (surplus) available for transfer on July 1 of this year. Selectman Grenier would like to see the current balance added for the two capital reserve fund warrant articles. Chris McDonough wanted to supplement with the goal. This will show both sides for transparency. Superintendent Beitler said he would take that request back to the School Board for consideration. Passed (12-0)

School Buildings Technology Infrastructure Capital Reserve Fund: Shall the School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to \$30,000 to be added to the School District's technology infrastructure capital reserve fund established in 2017, this sum to come from June 30 unrestricted fund balance (surplus) available for transfer on July 1 of this year. Passed (11-1).

Susan Greene reiterated that she would like to add the current balances in all the Capital Reserve Funds.

Skip Murphy made a motion to form a subcommittee of the budget committee to look into School facility and staffing ratios; seconded by Jack Kelley. Discussion ensued. Superintendent Beitler said there is really no need as he can provide that information to the Budget Committee. Some members wanted assurance that the information already exists and Superintendent Beitler confirmed. Skip Murphy withdrew his motion and Jack Kelley withdrew his second of the motion.

Public comment:

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

Adjourn

With no further business to come before the Committee, Peter Karagianis made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Richard Grenier and passed; (12-0). The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Angela A. Bovill
Executive Assistant