

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

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

Chairman Silber called the Budget Committee meeting to order at 6:30 pm and led the assembly with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Norman Silber asked if there were any errors, omissions or corrections to the 11/16/2017 meeting minutes. Sean Murphy noted an error under DPW – Sewer. Dale Channing Eddy made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected; seconded by Skip Murphy and passed with all in favor; (10-0)

Resignation

Chairman Silber said the Budget Committee must to take a formal vote to accept the resignation of Geoffrey Ruggles. Sean Murphy made a motion to accept the resignation of Geoffrey Ruggles from the Budget Committee; seconded by Skip Murphy and passed with all in favor; (10-0).

Interviews for vacant Budget Committee member position: There were two applicants for the vacant position. Mr. David Horvath and Mr. Mel Ingalls. Chairman Silber asked Mr. David Horvath to introduce himself and make a presentation. Next, Chair Silber asked Mr. Mel Ingalls to introduce himself and make a presentation. Both Mr. Horvath and Mr. Ingalls answered the Budget Committees questions and Chairman Silber thanked them for their interest and presentation. Chairman Silber then asked for public comment on the candidates. There was none. Susan Greene made a motion to appoint Mr. David Horvath to fill the vacancy for Budget Committee member; seconded by Harry Bean and passed; (6-3; Eddy, McDonough and Sean Murphy) Selectman Dale Channing Eddy then swore in Mr. David Horvath who joined the meeting as an official Budget Committee member.

Presentation on the Gilford School Board Proposed Budget:

Superintendent Kirk Beitler began his presentation reviewing the School Boards Goals along with enrollment history for the Gilford School District. Superintendent Beitler discussed in detail key budget considerations throughout the budget including the Middle-High School roofing project, long-term facility maintenance, technology replacement, teacher contract salary increases, health insurance and dental insurance reductions. Some budget committee members requested stats regarding student to teacher ratios, consolidating for sake of space and efficiencies, indirect to direct labor ratios. David Horvath requested the School Administration provide a summary of the Teacher and Staffing Head Counts, 10-year history, to compare against the Student population. He also made a comment about space utilization in the schools specifically to make sure that all present knew that this subject is not new, has been discussed in the past and remains a vital concern to taxpayers. Discussion ensued. Chris McDonough said that the maintenance budget was reduced last year to keep the budget down and that the proposed 2018-2019 budget makes up for lost ground on a lot of these maintenance/facility items that need to be completed (while the budget is down). Chair Silber said that enrollment is at its lowest in ten years; he asked when the Town of Gilmanton's' contract expires with the Gilford School District.

Currently, there are 148 students from Gilmanton. Peter Karagianis heard from a reliable source that Gilmanton would be re-evaluating the contract renewal for 2022. Superintendent Beitler said the school was aware of these discussions. Superintendent Beitler thought the contract expired in 2022 and will confirm. Discussion ensued around the roof project and the high school locker room renovations. (Mr. Horvath needed to excuse himself from the meeting at 7:38 pm)

Superintendent Beitler reviewed the 2018 Default Budget as voted/approved by the School Board on 11/15/17. Superintendent reviewed the increases and decreases in every line item that saw an increase or reduction. He also noted that the 2018-2019 default budget does not include pay increases as these monies are in a holding account for salaries (The \$115,000 that was voted back into the budget at the Deliberative Session). (Dale Channing Eddy departed the meeting at 8:00 pm due to a prior commitment, with the assent of the Chair) Chair Silber requested a breakdown of "mandated by law" items and a copy of the fuel oil contract. Lengthy discussion ensued regarding the holding account for salaries.

Subcommittee Reports:

Federal Projects: Skip Murphy presented the subcommittee report for the School District Federal Projects Budget and discussed the Title I and Title II Grants along with the IDEA Grant in detail. He said that he will be contacting Frank Edleblut, State Education Commissioner with questions regarding Article 28-A. Discussions ensued. Skip Murphy made a motion to approve the Federal Fund Budget for \$464,902 as recommended by the School Board; seconded by Sean Murphy and passed with all in favor (9-0).

Note: Chairman Norman Silber stated for the record that although the Budget Committee is voting on Town and School Budgets, they reserve the right to allow back striking on those votes before the final overall budget is passed.

Food Service Budget: Skip Murphy presented the subcommittee report for the School District Food Service Budget and said it was difficult to follow the wages for an accurate comparison because the \$115,000 that was voted back into the budget by taxpayers was put in one overall line item (holding account) versus directly into the related wage line items. There is a new Food Service Director, Jonathan Dupuis. Meals are around \$3.29 to meet Federal Reimbursement; currently there are 155 children on free lunches and 27 on reduced cost for lunches. Chair Silber asked if there are free or reduced breakfasts'. The free or reduced status covers breakfast and lunch. The Got Lunch Program provides this service to students during the summer months and vacations. Discussion ensued. Because the numbers were not listed in individual line items for wages, but instead they were in the one "bucket" line item, the subcommittee did not take a vote on the proposed budget. Skip Murphy made a motion to delay the vote until the committee receives an update on the line item information; seconded by Leslie Suranyi and passed with all in favor; (9-0).

Buildings and Grounds Budget: Skip Murphy presented the subcommittee report for the School District Buildings and Grounds Budget and stated, that, as with the Food Service Budget, the committee requested line item information on the spreadsheet. He then said that Maintenance area of the budget is comparable to last year, but the Special Projects add up to a high amount; the subcommittee wanted to have discussions on this with the full budget committee. Discussions ensued regarding the roof replacement project, outside painting on the Elementary School and the window replacement for \$15,000 to name a few. Skip has requested the School Board provide a list in order of sense of priority for these special projects (wants vs needs). Discussion ensued. Skip Murphy made a motion to defer the

vote on the Buildings and Grounds budget until the budget committee receives a priority list from the School Board (wants vs needs) on the special projects in the proposed budget; seconded by Susan Greene and passed; (8-1 (McDonough)).

Superintendent Kirk Beitler asked for clarification from the Budget Committee on what they are looking for in the budget structure and also pointed out that if you look at the column of the budget labeled Approved SB Budget 07/01/17 – 06/30/2018 that IS the Town voted budget. Mr. Scott Isabelle, Assistant Superintendent for Business came before the Budget Committee and explained in detail the columns in the budget and how the columns coincided with what the budget committee asked the School to do. Chris McDonough also explained that if you look at the current SB Budget 07/01/17 – 06/30/2018, that is how you will know what is spent and that the subcommittees should use that number. There was lengthy discussion on how the \$115,000 that was put into a “holding” or “bucket” account last year. There is \$140,000 in that same account for the 2018-2019 budget. Discussions ensued. It was consensus of the Budget committee for the School Board to put that amount (\$140,000 for pay increases) into each line item, that the School inform the committee of the lump sum amount and to eliminate the “holding” or “bucket” account.

Public comment:

Chairman Silber asked for public comment. Mr. Kevin Leandro discussed the Solid Waste budget and some background on the Recycle Center project. Mr. Leandro was on the committee and stated the new recycle center was never designed to be a full-blown recycle center. It was designed using bailers, compactors, a building with a bathroom facility (for staff). It is Mr. Leandros’s opinion that the building can be done for much less than the proposed amount. Chair Silber will re-schedule the Town’s Solid Waste Budget review with Town Administrator Scott Dunn and let Mr. Leandro know so that he may be present if he chooses.

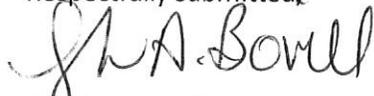
Next meeting

The next Budget Committee meeting will be on Thursday, December 7, 2017 at 6:30 pm.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Angela A. Bovill  
Executive Assistant