

TOWN OF GILFORD
BUDGET COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
December 1, 2016
6:00 PM

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

Chairman Norman Silber called the Budget Committee meeting to order at 6:00 PM and Kevin Leandro led the assembly with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Overview: Norman Silber reviewed the meeting schedule for the School budget review. He also reminded members that the Library subcommittee will make their recommendations at the 12/08/16 meeting prior to the school budget review. The two special warrants (HVAC and Transfer Station) will be done at the 12/15/16 meeting prior to the school budget review. Norman Silber also distributed the list of School budget subcommittees.

Approval of minutes: Dale Chan Eddy made a motion to approve the 11/17/16 minutes as written; seconded by Geoffrey Ruggles. Sean Murphy made one correction to the vote on minutes in the 11/17/16 minutes (change to 7-0-3); motion passes; (10-0-1) Chris McDonough abstained.

Subcommittee reports

Chairman Norman Silber gave a verbal report on the subcommittee meeting with school officials regarding the default budget, federal projects, food service, district wide maintenance and revenues. Items that were discussed in detail were school health insurance numbers, longevity bonuses. He also reported that the School Board voted to consolidate line items into salaries for a total compensation number that included longevity bonuses. Norman Silber asked the Superintendent to break those items out and gave the committee a two page printout. There was extensive discussion on the default budget as proposed.

Federal Fund Budget: Norman Silber reviewed the Title I Grant, Title II Grant, IDEA Grant and the Pre-School Grant. Discussion ensued. There is no official vote by the Budget Committee due to the fact that these are grants.

Food Service Budget: Norman Silber asked Mr. Kim Dubuque to approach the podium so that he could answer the committee's questions while reviewing various parts of the Food Services Budget. Mr. Silber discussed the nutria-kids program and the costs associated for breakfast and lunches in each of the schools for both students and teachers. Discussion ensued. Mr. Dubuque deferred a financial question to Scott Isabelle regarding transfers in the budget at which point Chairman Silber

made a motion that any testimony, questions etc. from Scott Isabelle is to be given under Oath; seconded by Kevin Leandro. Chris McDonough objects to the motion stating that it is highly inappropriate, it is not a court of law and that no one else has been asked to do this. Chairman Silber called the question; (5-5). Motion fails due to a tie.

Default budget and budget columns: Scott Isabelle explained how budget transfers were made. Chairman Silber said the budget columns can be misleading when looking at what was budgeted last year versus the default budget column. Some columns are understated the way the budget reads. Kevin Leandro said the current budget column should be what's in the default budget and that they need a current budget column so that accurate numbers can be compared (transfer amounts before and after). Mr. Leandro feels the budget committee cannot proceed until an accurate accounting of the budget and the default budget is stated and made a motion to table the budget and not proceed further until an accurate accounting of the entire budget including the default is shown; seconded by Norman Silber. Lengthy discussion ensued. Superintendent of Schools Kirk Beitler addressed the Budget committee and said it was his understanding that from the year 2000, this is the way the School Board has presented their budget. Kevin Leandro said that is incorrect. Mr. Beitler said the bottom line has not changed; they are still operating within the budget that the voters approved last March. The budget committee wants to see where the money is being moved around and where it is being spent. Lengthy discussion ensued.

Discussion then turned to administration salaries, longevity. Scott Isabelle explained how the longevity pay works in the budget. Some members of the budget committee felt that it was trickery with the numbers and that the staff is making more money long term. Lengthy discussion ensued.

Chairman Silber reiterated the standing motion which is to defer action on all of the School District items pending revisions of all of their proposals so that the default budget is shown and the budget difference is shown as compared to the default budget (the default budget is the approved budget) by adding an additional column. There was further discussion. Chairman Silber called the motion; (9-2) Motion passes.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted, .



Angela Bovill, Executive Assistant