

TOWN OF GILFORD
BUDGET COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
December 8, 2016
6:00 PM

Members present: Sean Murphy, Harry Bean, Geoffrey Ruggles, Dale Channing Eddy, Norman Silber, Kevin Leandro, Chris McDonough, Timothy Sullivan, Susan Greene, S. Peter Karagianis (arrived 6:25 pm) and Dr. Leslie Suranyi Jr., (arrived at 6:30 pm).

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.

Approval of minutes: Norman Silber made a motion to approve the 12/01/16 minutes as written; seconded by Dale Chan Eddy; motion passes; (9-0).

Sub Committee Reports

Library Subcommittee: Norman Silber presented the subcommittee report of the Gilford Public Library and items that were discussed. There was an overall bottom line increase in the budget of 3.27%. Discussion ensued. Sean Murphy made a motion to approve the Library budget for \$514,596 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Harry Bean and passed with all in favor; (9-0). Discussion then ensued regarding the 10,000 per year figure for Capital reserve for the library. Library Trustee Kate Bishop Hamel explained that the capital outlay of \$10,000 per year is for capital reserve for the building which is nearing 10 years old (painting etc) and for a backup generator. They put the generator in there based on a potential FEMA grant to be a shelter in case of emergency. Chris McDonough asked why this was needed as the Gilford High School is the designated shelter in Town. Discussion ensued. It was the opinion of some budget committee members this was well intended, but there is no need for it.

Gilford Middle School Subcommittee/New Budget Sheets & Columns: Sean Murphy presented the subcommittee report on the Gilford Middle School and items that were discussed including salaries, text books, new equipment, the after school program to name a few. Discussion ensued regarding the items with increases and decreases as compared to last year. Superintendent Kirk Beitler explained the new budgets sheets that were handed out for tonight's meeting in detail. Superintendent Beitler explained the columns to make sure that everyone is on the same page. He also said the bottom line has not changed. Lengthy discussion ensued. Kevin Leandro also said that on the default budget they voted to eliminate the fuel line item and level fund and also the guaranteed maximum rate for health insurance. He said that the School Board voted to pledge that if it comes in less, that they will turn the money back to

the taxpayers (general fund). Kevin Leandro is looking for that in the operating budget as well. Chris McDonough suggested that they go back to the Middle School budget to be productive/move forward. There are 8 line items in the GMS budget that are different from the new numbers. He suggested the committee review to get an understanding of the numbers and new columns as presented and made a motion to that effect; seconded by Geoffrey Ruggles. Norman Silber said many members just received the blue sheets tonight and is recommending the committee defer action on all items until he has time to analyze the column numbers to insure they are correct. Chris McDonough said the committee originally voted to reserve the right to go back to change numbers in the budget at their discretion and that they should move forward. Discussion ensued. Norm Silber reiterated the motion to go back to review the middle school budget; Kevin Leandro also included the district wide budget; the motion was amended to include review of the GMS budget and the District wide budget (instead of deferring) and Kevin Leandro seconded; motion passes (9-0-2, Silber and Bean opposed).

District Wide Budget Subcommittee: Norman Silber presented the subcommittee report on the District Wide Budget and items that were discussed. Lengthy discussions ensued. Kevin Leandro is not in favor of the School Board Association lobbying and would support the organization if they separated that out. Chris McDonough and Superintendent Beitler reiterated how useful the organization was for training, RSA compliance advice and policies to name a few. Kevin Leandro suggested the Kirk Beitler lead the discussion with the School Board Association to have them separate lobbying for funding purposes. Discussion on the guaranteed maximum rate for Health Insurance ensued. The Chairman asked the Superintendent for a letter stating this GMR from the insurance provider. Lengthy discussions ensued. Norman Silber made a motion to approve the District Wide Budget for \$10,112,231 (5,300 removed for SB Association funding) as recommended by the subcommittee along with the right to go back to the numbers if needed; seconded by Dale Chan Eddy. Discussion ensued on health insurance and the employee contributions for health insurance premiums. Chairman Silber called the vote; motion passes (8-0-3 Bean, Greene and Karagianis opposed).

Gilford Middle School Subcommittee continued: The committee went back to Sean Murphy's subcommittee report and continued review the Gilford Middle School budget. Kevin Leandro said that you cannot leave \$1 in a onetime expenditure line accordingly to the law (in a default budget) it should be zero. Discussion ensued regarding the Assistant Principal Salary and the Nurse along with one reading teacher that did not return. Harry Beane stated that according to the budget, in his opinion, the school district gave themselves a 3% raise plus the 1.75% on top of that. Chris McDonough said that it is 3% in year one and 1.75% in year two. Discussions ensued. Norman Silber made a motion to approve the Gilford Middle School budget for \$2,260,390 as recommended by the subcommittee subject to the 14.4% increase in health insurance in that if it comes in as less, the School Board decides to turn back to the taxpayers in

the operating budget deliberations; seconded by Sean Murphy and passed with all in favor; (11-0).

Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee: Norman Silber reported on the Buildings and Grounds subcommittee meeting and items that were discussed at length including fuel gallon usage (\$2.50 budgeted per gallon), replacement of a mower unit; it is a \$14,000 item, replacement drapes in the gym, special contracts and repairs to the track to name a few. Discussions ensued. Norman Silber made a motion to approve the Building and Grounds budget for \$1,784,685 as recommended by the subcommittee; seconded by Peter Karagianis and passed with all in favor; (11-0).

Food Service Fund: Norman Silber reiterated the discussions that took place at the 12/01/16 budget meeting on this budget. Kevin Leandro made a motion to approve the Food Service budget for \$697,998 as recommended by the subcommittee; seconded by Norman Silber and passed with all in favor; (11-0).

Federal Projects budget: Norman Silber said this item was also reviewed at the 12/01/16 meeting. These numbers are set forth by State and Federal grants. Kevin Leandro made a motion to approve the Federal Fund budget for \$465,419; seconded by Harry Beane and passed with all in favor; (11-0).

Subcommittee meetings for school budget review: The following dates have been set for subcommittee meetings: Elementary School 12/14/16 at 3:30 pm at the GES, High School 12/13/16 at 5:30 pm at GHS, Technology 12/13/16 at 9:00 am at GHS and Special Education 12/13/16 at 10:00 am at SAU Office. Chairman Silber stated that he and Kevin Leandro would work on the review of the default budget.

Solid Waste Committee/Recycle Center update: Kevin Leandro reported the Engineers did a presentation on the Recycle Center Project to the Board of Selectmen on 12/7/16. He was disappointed in the numbers presented because he felt they were too high. In his opinion, the numbers are not realistic and he thinks it can be done for a lot less. He recommended the Selectmen put off this warrant article for another year to take the time to do the project right. This will be discussed with the full budget committee at the 12/15/16 meeting.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Angela Bovill, Executive Assistant