

**TOWN OF GILFORD
BUDGET COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
December 15, 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 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.

Old business: Chairman Silber announced the Budget Committee would not be discussing the two Town items being the Solid Waste/Recycle Center and the HVAC system for Town Hall. He said Town Administrator Scott Dunn did not have the needed data to discuss further in time for tonight's meeting. Kevin Leandro said that the Solid Waste Committee is meeting at 9:30 am tomorrow (12/16/16) and anticipated that the Board of Selectman should make a recommendation thereafter.

Chairman Silber reminded Budget Committee members that their next scheduled meeting is Thursday, January 5, 2016 at 6:00 PM where they will discuss any Town Budget changes and Warrant Articles, School Budget changes and Warrant Articles and the GAVWD Budget. Mr. Silber introduced members of the Budget Committee and School Officials for the record.

Sub Committee Reports

Gilford Elementary School Subcommittee: Sean Murphy presented the Gilford Elementary subcommittee report and items that were discussed including textbooks, salaries for the summer program, Librarians salary and AV repairs to name a few. Discussion ensued regarding summer programs/supplies and the revenues that offset those costs. There was also discussion on the AV projector as a being a replacement item, not a new item. Superintendent Kirk Beitler explained the Elementary Librarian is retiring and that they will be shifting an existing teacher into that position from GES, thus the deduction in the budget. Norman Silber discussed salary increases for non union personnel. Discussion ensued. Sean Murphy made a motion to approve the Gilford Elementary School Budget for \$2,400,941 as recommended by the subcommittee and to go back if needed to review the 1.75% salary increase for non-union employees; seconded by Harry Bean. Kevin Leandro discussed longevity/bonus. Norman Silber called the vote. Passed with all in favor; (11-0).

Technology Budget Subcommittee: Norman Silber presented the Technology subcommittee report and items that were discussed. Mr. Silber had asked if the Technology Coordinator position was contractual. Superintendent Beitler answered no. There was discussion on chrome books, computer replacements in the High School and employees. Discussion ensued. Norman Silber made a motion to approve the Technology budget for \$404,330 as recommended by the subcommittee subject to review the 1.75% salary increase for non-union employees if needed; seconded by Sean Murphy and passed with all in favor; (11-0).

Special Education subcommittee: Norman Silber presented the subcommittee report and items that were discussed in great detail including tuition handicapped non public (pres-school program for children 3-5 years), transportation handicapped, contracted services (to replace a salaried staffer who retired) and speech services to name a few. Superintendent Beitler said that they have had a challenge trying to hire for a speech therapist, so they have had to retain contracted services. Norman Silber specified that the Special Education teacher is split between the three schools. Superintendent Beitler explained the increase in psychological services/consultation and the fact that some of that is IEP (Independent Education Plan) driven. Most of these services are federally mandated and the School is required to provide them. Discussion ensued. Norman Silber made a motion to approve the Special Education budget for \$3,390,822 as recommended by the subcommittee subject to review the 1.75% salary increase for non union employees if needed; seconded by Sean Murphy. Peter Karagianis asked how many students are covered out of district. Esther Kennedy explained the numbers are always fluid. There are two categories and Ms. Kennedy explained in detail how this works. These are highly sophisticated special needs programs for behavioral or medically impaired students; motion passed with all in favor; (11-0).

Gilford High School & 57 Accounts: Norman Silber presented the Gilford High School and 57 Accounts subcommittee report. Various items were discussed were salaries, contracted services on instructional equipment, band jackets, tuition vocational program and robotics to name a few. Ms. Jackie Dreever the Robotics Programs Coach was present and gave the committee a detailed overview of how this program works. Two students who participate were also present. Chris McDonough explained the school boards theory when increasing this line item. Discussion on athletic supplies for boys and girls were discussed. Nurse's salaries were discussed along with the principals' salaries. Mr. Silber said that from the default budget number to the number being sought, it comes up to 5.1% salary increase versus the 1.75%. Superintendent Beitler said that the principal was given a 3% increase and there was also a market adjustment given. Extensive discussion took place on the dues and professional line item and Superintendent Beitler gave the committee a print out of the acronyms so that they would know what each organization stood for along with the dollar amount in the budget. Norman Silber made a motion to approve the Gilford High School and 57 accounts Budget for

\$4,497,515 as recommended by the subcommittee subject to review the 1.75% salary increase for non union employees if needed; seconded by Dr. Les Suranyi and passed with all in favor; (11-0).

Norman Silber said the School Board default budget is being recalculated. The School Board will meet on 12/19/2016 at 7:30 am at the SAU office. Once the default budget is approved it will be forwarded to the members of the Budget Committee.

School Warrant Articles: Geoffrey Ruggles asked Superintendent Beitler why they singled out the roof project instead of including it in the building and maintenance capital reserve fund. Kevin Leandro agrees with Geoffrey Ruggles in that it should be put under building maintenance capital reserve; it makes more sense (instead of just for that one purpose).

Public input: Chairman Silber asked if there was any public comment. There was none.

Approval of minutes: Norman Silber made a motion to approve the 12/08/16 minutes as written; Sean Murphy made one change to page to read "Middle School" instead of "High School"; seconded by Sean Murphy; motion passes; (10-0-1). Kevin Leandro abstained as he had not had time to review the minutes.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Angela Bovill". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Angela Bovill, Executive Assistant