

GILFORD BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES
Town Budget Public Hearing
January 14, 2016
7:00 PM
Gilford High School

Members Present: Chairman Kevin Leandro, Richard Grenier, David Horvath, Robert Henderson, Susan Greene (arrived at 7:20 pm), Harry Bean, Norman Silber, Kevin Roy, Jeffrey Beane and Dr. Leslie Suranyi Jr.

Members Absent: Karen Thurston.

Chairman Kevin Leandro called the meeting to order at 7 pm and The Budget Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Leandro began the meeting by welcoming members of the public and thanking them for attending tonight's public hearing. Chairman Leandro told the public that the Board of Selectmen voted to adopt the Budget Committees recommended Budget and to include the Police Departments Collective Bargaining Contract totaling \$2,351. He then asked the members of the Budget Committee to introduce themselves.

The Budget Committees Town Budget recommendation is \$12,510,514. The Board of Selectmen's Town Budget recommendation is \$12,512,866. The difference is the \$2,351 which the Selectmen included for the Police Departments Collective bargaining Contract. The Budget Committee would need to approve this number. Overall this budget is a .89% increase over 2015.

Chairman Leandro explained the default budget and that the FY2016 Default budget is \$12,015,382 (approx. \$500,000 less than the proposed budget). Chairman Leandro opened the public hearing for questions and comments asking member to please approach the podium and state their name and address for the record.

Ms. Miriam York, who is a representative on the Parks and Recreation Commission, asked the budget committee to put the \$650 back into the maintenance line item in the Parks and Recreation Department that they removed for the fire suppression system for the snack bar/grill. They need this apparatus for safety reasons. It is extremely hard to find a vendor to sell food at the snack bar and this would make it even harder.

Ms. Sandra McGonagle questioned the reduction in the welfare budget. Chair Kevin Leandro explained this was based purely on historical data. The cost of heating fuel and electricity has gone down as well as the number of persons requesting assistance. The Welfare Department is funneled through Erika Johnson, the Welfare Director. Erika Johnson is appointed by the Board of Selectmen and Geoffrey Ruggles, Finance Director is her Supervisor and back up. Ms. McGonagle just wanted to make sure that all needs were being met; they are.

With no further public questions or comments, Chairman Leandro closed the public meeting at 7:20 PM.

Chairman Leandro called a Budget Committee Meeting to order at 7:20 PM.

Chairman Kevin Leandro announced the Police Department contract is a two year contract. Town Administrator Scott Dunn told the Budget Committee that Article #10 spells out the contract funding etc. and copies of the contract have been provided to all.

The Gunstock Acres Village Water District (GAVWD) final budget was given to the budget committee; all members signed.

Chairman Leandro stated that by Statute, the Budget Committee's only involvement with CBA's (Collective Bargaining Agreements) are the cost items associated with them. Norman Silber made a motion to increase the Budget Committee's recommended budget of \$12,510,514 to an increased amount of \$12,513,515 which includes the \$2,351 increase for the Police Department's CBA along with the \$650 for the Parks and Recreation snack bar/grill fire suppression system; seconded by Kevin Roy and passed with all in favor; (10-0).

Chairman Leandro said the Budget committee would discuss the Warrant Articles relative to outside agencies. Ms. Tammy Mosher spoke in support of article #25 for the Central New Hampshire VNA & Hospice. They are a nonprofit agency and they are requesting \$23,500 (level funding). Customarily the Board of Selectmen votes not to recommend the outside agency warrant article requests as they feel it is best left to the voters to decide. Norman Silber said that warrant articles 23-28 are citizen petition warrant articles. They provide good services. Mr. Silber gives to a lot of charities and agrees that in his opinion, it would be highly improper for budget committee members to recommend or not (same as Board of Selectmen so it is not forcing taxpayers). If it is voluntarily, it is good; if it was in the town budget, not voluntarily it would not be good. In his opinion, Mr. Silber also believes agencies should seek monies/donations from the private sector. Discussion ensued. Norman Silber made a motion to not recommend article #25 for \$23,500; seconded by Jeffrey Beane and passed; (9-1). (Kevin Roy opposed).

Norman Silber made a motion to not recommend Article #23 for \$3,000; seconded by Jeffrey Beane (who indicated that Child and Family Services has large endowments they can draw from) and passed; (9-1). (Kevin Roy opposed).

Norman Silber made a motion to not recommend Article #24 for \$9,000; seconded by David Horvath; (Richard Grenier indicated that he would not vote on this because he drives the bus for CAP) passed; (8-1-1). Kevin Roy opposed and Richard Grenier abstained)

Norman Silber made a motion to not recommend Article #26 for \$2,630 for New Beginnings; seconded by Susan Greene and passed; (9-1). (Kevin Roy opposed)

Norman Silber made a motion to not recommended article #27 for \$21,000 for Genesis; seconded by Jeffrey Beane. Ms. Kristen Welch and Ms. Deb Pendergast spoke in favor of article #27 and explained the formula used to arrive at this funding request along with numbers of Gilford residents that were served. Discussion ensued. Chairman Leandro called the question; passed; (8-2). (Kevin Roy and Robert Henderson opposed)

Norman Silber made a motion to not recommend article #28 for \$750 for the Candlelight Stroll; seconded by Harry Bean; discussions ensued regarding other funding that takes place for the Candlelight Stroll. Ms. Sandra McGonagle spoke to article #28 and stated that she understand why the Selectmen and Budget Committee vote no so that they don't force citizens. This is one of the occasions where the greatness of the Lakes Region and Gilford come together. The

Candlelight Stroll is positive for the community and good for Gilford. Chairman Leandro called the question; passed; (8-1-1). (Kevin Roy was opposed and Robert Henderson abstained)

Norman Silber read into the record an email he sent to Scott Isabelle and members of the School Board regarding the School District Default budget specifically calling their attention to the provisions of the first page of the NH DRA Form MS-DS defining the default budget and page 7 where the School Board members sign "under penalties of perjury". In the email, he called the members attention to the criminal provisions of New Hampshire RSA Chapter 641. Based on previous meetings, Mr. Silber feels there were more one time expenditures that were not removed from the default budget. Mr. Silber formally requests and demands that they withdraw the default budget previously submitted and immediately prepare and submit a correct default budget excluding onetime expenditures; that the new and revised default budget aggregate total is shown on the warrant article regarding the school budget being voted on in the March 8, 2016 election.

Chair Kevin Leandro discussed article #30 to ban the Budget Committee. He told the committee they could take a vote on their recommendation on article #30, though it is not required for them to have a vote/recommendation. Kevin Leandro made a motion to vote to recommend or not recommend article #30; seconded by David Horvath and passed; (8-1-1). Kevin Roy abstained and Richard Grenier was opposed).

Kevin Leandro made a motion to not recommend article #30 and to ask the Board of Selectmen to place on the ballot; seconded by Norman Silber for discussion. Lengthy discussion ensued; the motion was withdrawn.

Richard Grenier made a motion to approve the minutes of the 01/07/16 as written; seconded by Norman Silber and passed; (10-0).

Geoffrey Ruggles Finance Director stated that he would have all of the proper forms to be signed by the Budget Committee in one place to make it easier. They will be in his office and he will send an email to the Budget Committee once completed. Norman Silber said he would not sign if there was reference to the default school budget on the form.

Budget committee members commended the Town employees for their cooperation, transparency, professionalism and all their hard work on the budget.

At 8:10 pm, Richard Grenier made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Kevin Leandro and passed; (10-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Angela A. Bovill
Executive Assistant