**TOWN OF GILFORD**

**BUDGET COMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**December 10, 2020**

**6:30 PM**

Members present: Sean Murphy, David Tyler, Kristin Snow, Kevin Hayes, Dorothy Piquado, Amber LaTorre and Johan Andersen. Stephen Hepburn, Gretchen Gandini and Thomas Chase participated via telephone.

Members absent: Michael Dowe.

Also Present Superintendent Kirk Beitler, Business Administrator Amie Leigh, Esther Kennedy, and Anthony Sperazzo.

Chairman Sean Murphy called the Budget Committee meeting to order at 6:30 pm, and Kevin Hayes led the assembly with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of minutes: The Budget Committee reviewed the 12/03/20 minutes. Kristin Snow made one change on page two. Dorothy Piquado made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Kristin Snow and passed with all in favor; (10-0) Roll call vote for telephone participants (Gandini-Y, Hepburn-Y and Chase-Y).

Article #5 - Town of Gilford Warrant: Town Administrator Scott Dunn reviewed the draft warrant article for the cost items associated with the Police Union Collective Bargaining Agreement.   It calls for a wage and benefit package of $50,749 to fund the estimated costs in the first year (2021) of the contract which must be approved by the voters. The estimated cost to fund wages and benefits in the second year (2022) is an increase of $52,014. Discussion ensued regarding the wording of the warrant article and the calculations used to estimate the cost in year 2.  Town Administrator Scott Dunn answered the committee’s questions.  Kevin Hayes made a motion to approve Article #5 of the Town Warrant as presented, seconded by Johan Andersen and passed with all in favor; (10-0). Roll call vote for telephone participants (Gandini-Y, Hepburn-Y and Chase-Y).

High School subcommittee report: Business Administrator Amie Leigh explained that during budget review, they found that the revised budget reports for GES, GMS and GHS are not calculating the “difference” column properly and explained in detail. She has provided new copies for the committee to reflect the corrected “difference” column. The “Proposed Budget” figures have NOT changed. David Tyler then reviewed the High School budget subcommittee report regarding salaries (increase due to Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) and went through line by line the various changes. Mr. Tyler reviewed in detail equipment lines, tuition for vocation education, various salaries, transportation (that experienced increases or decreases) to name a few. It was noted in the report that for Athletic transportation (31-2724-55190-47-00000) decreased by $6,300 (the report said $6,3000). Discussion ensued. The Grand total of the proposed high school budget is $4,253,178.00, which represents an increase of $34,360 (not the $22,664.30 as written in report due to the “difference” column issue correction). Amber LaTorre made a motion to approve the High School Budget as recommended by the School Board for $4,253,178, seconded by Gretchen Gandini and passed with all in favor; (10-0). Roll call vote for telephone participants (Gandini-Y, Hepburn-Y and Chase-Y).

Special Education/Federal Project subcommittee report: Kristin Snow explained that it is very hard to guess on numbers when putting together the Special Education budget. The proposed budget was estimated on numbers of special needs students in the district as of October 2020. Out-of-district placements incurring additional costs for tuition and/or transportation can exceed $100,000. Esther Kennedy reported special education personnel is unchanged for the 2021-2022 school year. Discussion ensued and Ms. Kennedy answered the budget committee’s questions. Kristin Snow then reviewed the changes for the elementary school, middle school and high school noting particular the line items with increases or decreases. Discussion ensued regarding funding and the contingency fund for Special Education, which can be used if all other funds run out. The Special Education budget has an overall decrease of $39,343. Dorothy Piquado made a motion to approve the Special education budget as recommended by the School Board for $3,359,661, seconded by Kristin Snow and passed with all in favor; (10-0). Roll call vote for telephone participants (Gandini-Y, Hepburn-Y and Chase-Y).

Federal Projects budget: Kristin Snow explained that this budget covers five federally funded grants. These grants are used to offset or enhance educational costs within the Gilford School District. The amount received in 2020-2021 was $485,128 and this number was used for the 2021-2022 proposed budget. Dr. Snow explained each grant and Ms. Kennedy and Superintendent Beitler answered the budget committee’s questions. Johan Andersen made a motion to approve the federal projects budget as recommend by the School Board for $485,128, seconded by Kristin Snow and passed with all in favor; (10-0). Roll call vote for telephone participants (Gandini-Y, Hepburn-Y and Chase-Y).

The budget committee reviewed the memo from Amie Leigh regarding bond questions from last week’s meeting. Dorothy Piquado asked how much Gilmanton pays for its students. Superintendent Beitler will get that information for the 12/17/20 meeting.

Chair Murphy expressed his thanks, on behalf of the budget committee, to retiring Captains Michael Balcom and Richard Andrews of the Gilford Fire/Rescue Department for their many years of dedicated service. The committee also wished Angela Bovill luck in her new endeavor and thanked her for her work with the budget committee.

Adjourn: With no further business to come before the Committee, Kevin Hayes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 pm, seconded by Amber LaTorre and passed with all in favor; (10-0). Roll call vote for telephone participants (Gandini-Y, Hepburn-Y and Chase-Y).

Respectfully submitted,

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Angela Bovill, Executive Assistant

Approved by the Budget Committee on 1/7/2021.