

GILFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
January 27, 2012

The Board of Selectmen convened a public budget work session on Friday, January 27, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Selectmen's Office at the Gilford Town Hall, 47 Cherry Valley Road, Gilford, NH.

Selectmen present were: John O'Brien, Chairman (who arrived at 6:45 p.m.), Gus Benavides, Vice-Chairman, and Kevin Hayes, Clerk. Also present were Town Administrator Scott Dunn, Chairman of the Board of Fire Engineers Bill Akerley, Fire Chief Steve Carrier and Budget Committee members Dick Hickok, Pat Labonte, Susan Greene, Kevin Leandro and Skip Murphy.

The Selectmen recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice-Chairman Benavides opened up the meeting to public comment. Budget Committee Chairman Dick Hickok stated that he does not support having a 9-year old fire truck put into reserve and Engine 4 needs to be repaired to last until a replacement is purchased.

Kevin Leandro commented that his advice to the Board is for them to help the Town make a good decision and purchasing a new fire truck would be irresponsible. He further stated that a better vehicle program is needed at the Fire Department. Skip Murphy added that he is not in favor of purchasing a new fire engine at this time and Sue Greene agreed that it does not make sense to have an 8-year old truck as a back-up.

Chairman of the Board of Fire Engineers Bill Akerley stated that he hopes that the Selectmen will continue to support the purchase of a new fire truck and let the taxpayers of Gilford decide.

Selectman Hayes stated that he is tired of hearing about the economy and to delay the purchase does not save the Town money – it postpones spending. He will not support Article 8. Chairman O'Brien stated that he would like the voters to decide. Selectman Benavides stated that he wants to support the Fire Department but he cannot ask the voters to support a \$450,000 purchase and therefore, moved to not recommend Article 8. Selectman Hayes seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Selectman Benavides moved to recommend Article 24. Selectman Hayes seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Regarding Article 25, Selectman Benavides asked Dick Hickok for his opinion on this article. Budget Committee Chairman Hickok stated that the default budget does not give voters a choice because it is higher than the proposed budget. He further stated that he has never heard any criticism of the Town's default budget.

Selectman Benavides moved to not recommend Article 25. Selectman Hayes seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Selectman Benavides moved to sign and approve the 2012 Town Warrant, as amended.

Selectman Hayes seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Selectman Benavides moved to sign and approve the Default Budget. Selectman Hayes seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 31, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. Chairman O'Brien will participate by telephone.

With no further business before the Board, the Board of Selectmen's January 27, 2012 budget work session was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Kevin Hayes, Clerk