

Gilford Budget Committee's Public Hearing Minutes
2006 Proposed Budget
1/17/2006 6:30 pm
Gilford High School Auditorium

Members Present: Dennis Doten, Sean Murphy, Phyllis Corrigan, Derek Tomlinson, Dick Hickok, Don Sibson, Sue Greene, Connie Grant, Bob Brent, John O'Brian, Diana Goodhue

Absent: Bill Phillips

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Dick Hickok, Chairman, explained the purpose of the meeting and how it would be run. He reviewed the rules of conduct a second time when Joe Hoffman arrived.

The Chairman noted that he would be following the handout and proceeded to review the summary pages. He then reviewed, by department, each page of the budget handout, noting any significant items. There were several questions asked and answered during the review of proposed expenditures and revenues.

- # of police vehicles
- which streets are planned for maintenance
- 3 people spoke in favor of funding the Thompson – Ames Historical Society before Joan Nelson made a presentation of the history of the society.

Joe Hoffman was asked to leave at 7:05, after his disruptive commentary.

- Doug Lambert questioned the need for cruiser replacement, expressed his opposition to the radar trailer, and suggested that a police station could be funded through capital reserve savings rather than a bond issue.

Dick Hickok reviewed the Gunstock Acres budget and the Budget Committee's position on each of the warrant articles.

There was a discussion about the Laconia Airport, with one voice supporting the funding and one opposed. There was a request to reword the warrant article to include some of the intent from last year's amendment.

Peter Milham suggested that a stipulation be added to the Selectmen's article for the Thompson – Ames Society to prevent both articles passing.

The default budget was discussed. Doug Lambert questioned the preparation and suggested that the TA Historical funding should not be included, as it should not be considered a "recurring expense".

Doug questioned the Budget Committee's process of reviewing wage increases and asked about the status of the letter sent to the Board of Selectmen. Dick explained that the Committee intends to begin work on this topic earlier next year. Doug supports the "lump sum" theory.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Shackett, Finance Director
Assistant Town Administrator