

GILFORD BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES
September 21, 2006
6:30 p.m.
Gilford Town Hall

Members Present: Doug Lambert, Skip Murphy, Phyllis Corrigan, John O'Brien, Bob Brent, Sue Greene, Dick Hickok, Tom Walters, Sean Murphy and Connie Grant.

The Budget Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Hickok stated that this meeting was convened to provide data to the Budget Committee on how Gilford's salaries compare with other towns with the same population. He provided a brief history of how this subject has been discussed in the past, but without any comparison data. Chairman Hickok stated that the Local Government Center publishes this salary data and Skip Murphy has sorted through it and will make a presentation tonight.

He further stated that this same type of meeting will be held next Wednesday, September 27, 2006, to review School District salary comparisons with similar towns. Chairman Hickok advised the Committee members that this is strictly an informational meeting and no action will be taken. He then turned the meeting over to Skip Murphy, who stated that he would like to go through the entire presentation first and take questions at the end. Mr. Murphy began his presentation by pointing out that there are some instances where "minimum" values were not presented, so the data is accurate using the maximum values. He also pointed out the number of towns involved in this comparison and that not all towns have the same positions.

Skip Murphy then proceeded to run through the various tables showing how Gilford ranks in several areas, including median income, density, etc. He also pointed out that these charts are available on his website – www.gilfordgrok.com. The Local Government Center is also a good resource for data. Chairman Hickok pointed out that in comparing the actual salaries, Assistant Town Administrator Shackett has provided the Committee members with Gilford salary information.

Discussion ensued on what the Budget Committee should do with the data that has been collected. Chairman Hickok stated that he feels this provides a good basis for comparison when the budget process begins. Skip Murphy would like this data to be available to the citizens of Gilford. He proceeded to run through various salary comparisons.

John O'Brien reported that he has compiled data on various employment advertisements that have appeared in local newspapers this year. He further

stated that it is strictly a matter of reporting what have been the posted salaries for various positions in the area.

Chairman Hickok stated that the salary and benefits are important and they will need data for benefits also. Skip Murphy stated that most towns are comparable as far as benefits are concerned. He also pointed out that it is a complicated issue, with various types of plans. More discussion ensued on the issue of benefits. Chairman Hickok encouraged all Budget Committee members to review the various tables that are available on the Internet. He further stated that there will be less data available for the School District since their salaries are not compared as extensively as those of the Town.

Doug Lambert asked if an agenda would be prepared for each meeting. Chairman Hickok advised him that when the Budget Committee's schedule is set, it will have a specific department(s) covered at each meeting.

Phyllis Corrigan asked for a listing of Sub-committee members and a list of contacts. Chairman Hickok stated that this would be provided.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra J. Bailey
Administrative Secretary