

## GILFORD BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 19, 2006

6:30 p.m.

Gilford Town Hall

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

Also in attendance were Assistant Town Administrator Debra Shackett and Administrative Secretary Sandra Bailey.

The Budget Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Hickok began the meeting by stating that recommendations would be made for the Library budget. Library Director Dormody provided the Committee members with circulation data that was requested at the last meeting. Phyllis Corrigan moved to recommend \$266,366 for the Library budget, reducing the Selectmen's budget by \$1,375. Sean Murphy seconded.

Discussion ensued on the issue of computer and printer replacement. Selectman Grant and Chairman Hickok expressed concern on cutting computer equipment if you have a replacement plan in place. Doug Lambert expressed concern with voting on the Library budget without reviewing the salaries involved. A vote on the motion showed that the motion failed.

Phyllis Corrigan moved to recommend \$267,741 for the Library budget. Sean Murphy seconded. Motion carried.

The Committee then reviewed the Library Maintenance section of the Buildings and Grounds budget. Although this will be formally voted on during the DPW budget presentation, it was the consensus of the Board to reduce the \$10,000 in the Selectmen's budget as follows:

Painting exterior of building	\$3100.00	(This can be accomplished this year.)
Painting interior of building	\$1680.00	
Carpeting lower level	\$3500.00	(Deleted by Selectmen at last meeting.)
Reducing unscheduled maint.	\$ 250.00	(\$1000 to \$750)

This leaves a balance of \$515 for floor runner rentals, \$300 for pest control and \$750 for unscheduled maintenance, totaling \$1,565.

The next item covered by the Committee was Outside Agencies. Doug Lambert moved the sum of \$86,285 for Outside Agencies, which includes the following reductions:

Red Cross	\$3,300
New Beginnings	\$1,800
Genesis MHC	\$8,749

Sean Murphy seconded. Discussion followed. Chairman Hickok asked Fire Chief Hayes to provide an opinion on the services of the Red Cross. Chief Hayes stated that he supports the services of the Red Cross since they provide both rehab services at a fire scene, as well as emergency shelters. He also stated that without the latter services provided by the Red Cross,

it could impact the Town's Welfare budget.

More discussion ensued on the impact of not funding various agencies. John O'Brien moved to amend the motion to \$88,599, restoring \$2,314 for the Red Cross budget. Bob Brent seconded. A vote on the amendment showed that the amendment failed.

Returning to the vote on the main motion of \$86,285, the motion carried.

The Committee then began their review of the Fire Department budget. Bill Phillips proceeded to review the 4-page worksheet provided by the Fire Department Sub-committee. Discretionary items were discussed, with Mr. Phillips pointing out items that the Sub-committee felt could be reduced.

The next item addressed was Fire Department – Buildings and Grounds. Discussion ensued on the replacement of the boiler, the humidity problem in the storage area, installation of a fire-rated ceiling in the storage area and installation of an inside stairway to the storage area. Paul Blandford stated that safety and code issues should be priorities. Chief Hayes pointed out that money was included in the 2006 budget for some of these issues, but they could not be accomplished due to other unanticipated expenses. When asked what his priority would be, Chief Hayes indicated that it would be the stairway.

Next, discussion ensued on the Forestry truck. Chief Hayes outlined his proposal to utilize the chassis from the retiring DPW truck and add \$3,000 back into the budget for a body. Chief Hayes feels that for the limited use of this vehicle, this would be adequate for their needs. Committee members commended Chief Hayes for this prudent use of Town equipment and funds.

Extensive discussion followed on the call company. Chief Hayes provided several statistics for the Committee members on actual fire calls and protocols that are utilized. Doug Lambert inquired about the newly proposed Fire Inspector position. Chief Hayes provided an explanation of how this function is currently carried out and why it is not feasible for the duty shift to perform these inspections. He did state, however, that the duty shift does provide general fire safety inspections.

The matter of the MRI report was briefly discussed. Assistant Town Administrator Shackett stated that Town departments do refer to this report and have implemented many of the recommendations. She further stated that these recommendations continue to be addressed. Regionalization of fire services was also briefly discussed.

The last portion of the Fire Department budget to be reviewed concerned Capital Outlay. Chairman Hickok stated that although there is no dollar amount recommended for the fire truck replacement, it is important for the Budget Committee to hear the presentation from the Fire Department.

Discussion then ensued on the "two ambulance system". Bill Phillips provided his views on whether or not the Town should maintain one or two ambulance(s). Chief Hayes provided an explanation of how the "two ambulance system" evolved in the year 2000, when an ambulance slated for replacement was not actually replaced, but kept as a back-up ambulance. This prompted further discussion on the service and revenue benefits of having a second ambulance.

John O'Brien asked for a copy of the balances in Capital Reserve funds. Assistant Town Administrator Shackett will provide this information.

Chief Hayes then asked to respond to the matter of cutting Dues and Memberships and a hard copy of the National Fire Code. Chief Hayes explained that the \$15 per firefighter for dues with the New Hampshire Firefighters Association provides, among other benefits, injury and death benefits for firefighters. He also explained the benefits of having a hard copy of the Fire Code available.

Deputy Beland provided a brief history of the call company, including the fact that a few years ago, the Fire Engineers and the Board of Selectmen asked the department to re-vitalize the call company and increase the size of the roster.

Sean Murphy moved to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2006 Budget Committee meeting. John O'Brien seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Hickok provided Committee members with a revised schedule for Town and School Budget Committee meetings, as well as a Benefit Summary he prepared. He also distributed a draft of a letter prepared by Bob Brent for the Board of Selectmen.

Sean Murphy asked when the default budget would be available. Assistant Town Administrator Shackett stated that she would take care of this.

Skip Murphy presented two documents – one requesting a copy of the budget in Excel format and the other requesting that a Sub-committee be created to decelerate Town salaries. Assistant Town Administrator Shackett indicated that she has already addressed the matter of having the budget available in Excel format. Mr. Murphy indicated that his second request would be discussed at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra J. Bailey  
Administrative Secretary