

GILFORD BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES
November 2, 2006
6:30 p.m.
Gilford Town Hall

Members Present: Doug Lambert, John O'Brien, Bob Brent, Dick Hickok, Bill Phillips, Paul Blandford, Sean Murphy, Dennis Doten (Selectman Representative for Connie Grant) and Phyllis Corrigan.

Members Absent: Sue Greene, Skip Murphy

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 Public Works Department budget.

Doug Lambert, a member of the DPW Budget Sub-Committee, provided revised recommendation information for the Committee. He began the DPW voting by moving to recommend \$175,653 for DPW Administration. John O'Brien seconded. Mr. Lambert stated that this portion of the budget covers salaries for three employees.

A show of hands on the motion indicated a unanimous vote. (8 –Yes) Motion carried.

Doug Lambert moved to recommend \$1,000 under Emergency Management. Bob Brent seconded. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Doug Lambert moved to recommend \$1,363,591 under Highways and Streets, decreasing the amount under Seasonal Wages by \$14,784. John O'Brien seconded. This reduction provides for four (4) seasonal employees, rather than the six (6) originally budgeted. Motion carried by a voice vote. Sean Murphy was opposed.

Doug Lambert moved to recommend \$539,717 under the Solid Waste budget. Bob Brent seconded. Mr. Lambert indicated that this is the same amount that was recommended by the Board of Selectmen. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Doug Lambert moved to recommend \$232,292 under Vehicle Maintenance, reflecting a reduction of \$10,329 under Fuels. John O'Brien seconded. Brief discussion ensued on the projected cost of gasoline. Motion carried by voice vote. Sean Murphy was opposed.

Doug Lambert moved to recommend \$18,240 under Bridges and Street Lights. Phyllis Corrigan seconded. Brief discussion ensued on the matter of placing \$1.00 in the Bridge line item. Mr. Lambert clarified that his total motion for this section is \$18,240, leaving \$1.00 under Bridges and \$18,239 under Street Lights. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Doug Lambert moved to recommend \$776,683 under Sewer, which reflects a reduction of \$9,946. This is broken down as \$8,000 less in Engineering Services and \$1,946 less in Contracted Services. John O'Brien seconded. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Doug Lambert moved to recommend \$252,633 under Buildings and Grounds. Bob Brent seconded. Reductions include \$500 under the Overtime line, \$5,000 under Specialized Services (magnetic door holders) and \$8,435 under Library Maintenance, which had previously been discussed.

Brief discussion ensued on the matter of the Fire Department's boiler replacement. Sheldon Morgan stated that he did not have any change in writing, so he feels the Committee should use the \$15,000 figure. Further discussion ensued regarding the magnetic door holders in the Town Hall. Paul Blandford feels that Town buildings should be in compliance with current building codes. A show of hands vote on the motion indicated a vote of 1-Yes, 6-No. Motion failed.

Doug Lambert then moved to recommend \$257,633 under Buildings and Grounds, restoring the \$5,000 for magnetic door holders. Phyllis Corrigan seconded. A show of hands indicated a unanimous vote. Motion carried.

The Budget Committee then proceeded to review the Police Department budget. Phyllis Corrigan, a member of the Police Department Budget Sub-committee, provided Committee members with a summary sheet on the Police Department budget. She commended the Police Department for coming in with only a 3.24% increase over 2006.

At this time, Police Chief John Markland provided the Budget Committee with some further reductions in the budget. Under Publications, Chief Markland listed several items that have been deleted, totaling \$1,100. Also, under Radio Maintenance, this amount can be reduced from \$16,000 to \$14,700. Chief Markland also provided some background on his first full year as Police Chief and how he tracked the budget on a weekly basis. Discussion also ensued on a Ford cruiser vs. Dodge Charger cruiser. Chief Markland clarified that his choice of the Dodge Charger over a Ford was based on safety issues for his officers. The reductions in tonight's presentation bring the new Police Department total budget to \$1,410,453.

Doug Lambert inquired about the Communication Specialist uniform item. Captain Kevin Keenan advised him that this provides for completely outfitting a dispatcher, in the event of turnover. He described their uniforms, which are police uniforms but they do not require as much equipment as a police officer. Chief Markland advised the Committee that if someone leaves the Town of Gilford's employment, their uniforms are turned in and attempts are made for their re-use. He also pointed out that dry cleaning the uniforms provides them with a longer life.

Phyllis Corrigan pointed out that although the Oil and Tires line is up from 2006, the Police Department has no control over the amount due to State bidding. Discussion also ensued on the Special Detail line item of the budget. Chief Markland pointed out that this figure had been budgeted at \$25,000 for many years, and although this is offset by revenue, it provides a more realistic figure using \$80,000.

Chief Markland also pointed out that Captain Keenan has been able to reduce the Vest line item under Capital Outlay from \$3,000 to \$2,000, having received better pricing. Chief Markland then briefly reviewed the Police Department's fleet of vehicles. Discussion ensued on the existing "paddy wagon" and Astro van, and proposed Econoline van, which could be used for both prisoner transport and patrol. Chief Markland stated that he plans to basically replace the two existing vehicles with the Econoline van. He added that he will keep the "paddy wagon"

but not invest any money into repairs. He is not sure of the fate of the Astro van at this time.

Chief Markland provided an explanation of how his vehicle rotation plan works. He also advised the Committee that the cost per vehicle is tracked and that determines its replacement sequence.

John O'Brien provided the Committee members with information under RSA 91-A, indicating that sub-committee meetings do not have to be posted, unless there is a quorum present. Bill Phillips moved that sub-committee meetings no longer be posted, unless a quorum is going to be present. Bob Brent seconded. Motion carried by voice vote, 7-Yes, 1-No.

Chairman Hickok then stated that there is a conflict with the scheduled Administrative Budget Sub-committee meeting, since Skip Murphy is unable to attend the November 7th afternoon meeting. After extensive discussion on this matter, Chairman Hickok will confer with Assistant Town Administrator Shackett tomorrow about the possibility of a Monday, November 6, 2006 meeting at 10:00 a.m.

John O'Brien moved to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2006 meeting. Sean Murphy seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra J. Bailey
Administrative Secretary