

GILFORD BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES
Town Budget Public Hearing
January 16, 2007
6:30 p.m.
Gilford High School

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

Member Absent: Phyllis Corrigan

The Budget Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Hickok began the meeting by welcoming members of the public and thanking them for attending tonight's public hearing. Chairman Hickok further explained that the purpose of tonight's hearing is to receive public input on Town Budget items. He briefly reviewed rules for the public hearing and then provided an explanation of the role of the Budget Committee.

Chairman Hickok proceeded to run through the information contained in the handout entitled "Budget Committee's Public Hearing – 1/16/07". Included in this information packet were a Town Budget Overview, Summary of Changes, 2007 Budget Worksheet, 2007 Estimated Revenue Report, 2007 Sewer Department Budget, 2007 Warrant Articles and 2007 Default Budget. A copy of this handout is attached to the minutes of this public hearing.

When Chairman Hickok came to the Police Department budget in the 2007 Budget Worksheet, Town Administrator Juris read a prepared memo regarding a request for an additional allocation under Radio Maintenance, #4210.2-463. Town Administrator Juris explained that due to a recent townwide power failure, a major component in the Emergency Power System failed. This high capacity UPS system needs to be replaced, at a cost of \$5,131.32. He asked the Budget Committee to consider adding this amount to the 2007 Budget at their meeting on Thursday, January 18, 2007.

Chairman Hickok proceeded with running through the Town budget and when he came to Health Services, Town Administrator Juris asked the Budget Committee to reconsider placing at least \$1.00 in the line items for New Beginnings and Genesis MHC, so that funds could be transferred to these line items. Town Administrator Juris further stated that he feels there has been a misunderstanding in who these groups service. When asked why the Budget Committee cut these two agencies, Chairman Hickok stated that the Budget Committee struggled with these outside agencies because many people struggle to pay their property taxes and these two agencies provide a narrow use of funds.

Phil Arel urged the Budget Committee to re-instate funding for these two agencies. Joe Wernig also urged the Budget Committee to reconsider funding. He stated that many people in Gilford do utilize the services provided by New Beginnings, which helps battered women and children, but they are not likely to come forward at a public meeting and show support.

Chairman Hickok continued to run through the 2007 Budget Worksheet, briefly highlighting some of the changes made. He also stated that revenue is up in 2007 since both the Bean property article and fire truck article need to be shown as revenue.

Chairman Hickok then reviewed the 2007 Warrant Articles. Town Administrator Juris stated that due to reduced pricing for the fire truck, there could be a motion on the floor at the Deliberative Session to change this article. In the event of a substantial price decrease, a direct purchase option would be proposed.

Dick Campbell stated that he feels the wording of the second Warrant Article is confusing. He also stated that it would have been helpful to have the information packet prior to the meeting. Chairman Hickok responded that this is part of the overall budget process and is to provide additional information for the Deliberative Session in February. He also reminded members of the public that the Budget Committee will meet again on Thursday, January 18, 2007 and the public is welcome to attend that meeting as well.

Chairman Hickok concluded his presentation by briefly reviewing the Default Budget.

Dave Buckman asked for additional information on the Persons Farm. Bill Seed provided an overview of the project, which will not be funded by taxpayers.

John O'Brien, who is a Gunstock Acres Village Water District Commissioner, provided an overview of the District's 2007 Budget, as well as accomplishments for 2006 and goals for 2007. The Budget Committee will vote on this budget at their January 18, 2007 meeting.

The public hearing was adjourned at 7:26 p. m. The next Budget Committee meeting will be Thursday, January 18, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. at Gilford Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra J. Bailey
Administrative Secretary