

**GILFORD BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**November 15, 2007**  
**6:30 p.m.**  
**Gilford Town Hall**

Members Present: Doug Lambert, Skip Murphy, John O'Brien, Bob Brent, Sue Greene, Dick Hickok, Bill Phillips, Margo Weeks, Gus Benavides, Dale Dormody,  
Terry Stewart and Phyllis Corrigan

Members Absent: None

Town Administrator Evans Juris, and Assistant Town Administrator Debra Shackett were not present this evening. In attendance was Recording Secretary, Melinda Ferreira.

The Budget Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Hickok welcomed the Committee to tonight's meeting to review the Parks & Recreation as well as Library Budgets.

John O'Brien requested moving the Outside Agencies discussion to another night to give the Sub-Committee more time to get responses and look into matters. Short discussion ensued. Chairman Hickok agreed to move discussion to the next meeting on November 29<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Hickok then handed the meeting over to Phyllis Corrigan to go over her Sub-Committee's meeting with Herb Greene, Director of Parks & Rec on November 6<sup>th</sup>. A handout of the highlights of the meeting was distributed to Budget Committee members.

Phyllis Corrigan explained to the Committee that the budget was down overall in both the Parks & Rec and Skating Rink budget areas and that revenue as of October 31, 2007 was \$17,477.58. She added that seasonal wages, which went down due to a position being inadvertently double budgeted, were reviewed and found to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest on the pay scale. Old Home Day appropriation stayed the same at \$8775 although it costs \$30,000; the remainder is raised through donations. There is one full time and two part time employees. John O'Brien inquired as to why part time and overtime accounts increased. Herb Greene explained this was due to instances in where the Beach Supervisor would need overtime due to the part timer not being qualified to do so. Brief Discussion ensued.

The Skating Rink budget was then reviewed the Committee asked about the amount of usage the rink received. Herb Greene added that it is heavily used on weekends, but that an exact calculation could not be made due to his decision to not pay an attendant to remain at the rink. The Committee commended his judgment as he had concluded that the costs of the attendant were more than the revenue received for this area.

The three year phases of adding Playground Equipment for the Village Fields was then discussed as well as the cost saving reasons for Herb Greene's choice of ADA compliant loose wood fibers for the playground footing. Selectman Benavides explained the Board of Selectmen's position that the Town needed a park that is not on School property so it may be utilized during school hours and so on. Margo Weeks added that it would be heavily used as well by the siblings of students in attendance for after-school sports.

John O'Brien motioned to approve \$192,655 for the Parks & Recreation Budget and was seconded by Phyllis Corrigan. Motion carried. Phyllis Corrigan then motioned to approve \$8,030 for the Skating Rink portion of the budget. Sue Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried.

After a short discussion regarding the Recreation Facility Maintenance Fund line item in the Capital Reserve portion of the Capital Outlay Budget, Bill Phillips motioned to approve the \$22,000 line item. He was seconded by Sue Greene. Motion carried.

Moving on to the Library portion of the Culture & Recreation Budget, Skip Murphy explained the highlights of his Sub-Committee's prior meeting. He, Sue Greene and Bob Brent had met on November 8<sup>th</sup> with Katherine Dormody, Library Director. Discussed at length was the increase of one full time position to now total five full time employees. Two of these full time positions did not received health benefits. There are also two part time employees. This was due to one previously part time position increasing 12 hours per week to become full time. Discussion ensued. Skip Murphy then stated that the Library was requesting 4 items, that the Board of Selectmen did not recommend, be reconsidered this evening for inclusion back into the budget. These items, as explained by Katherine Dormody and Robert Kammeraad, Library Trustee, were a new telephone system to replace an old antiquated one (\$4,000), replacement book drop due to the present one being too small (\$3,040), security system equipment to aid in behavioral issues the Library experiences (\$8,069), and ten more computers due to increased usage (\$10,200). The Library was also requesting an additional \$15,000 for moving expenses that were overlooked which therefore hadn't previously gone before the Board of Selectmen with the Library's regular budget. Selectman Benavides informed the Committee that the Board of Selectmen had actually just voted at their meeting the evening before to not endorse the moving costs as their thought was that it should've been included in the total building costs. The Sub-Committee also did not recommend including the moving expenses, nor the four additional items which they also contended should have been included in the building costs of the new Library. Lengthy discussion ensued. Bill Seed, Library Trustee and Building Committee Chairman, read the original warrant article and spoke at length about his thoughts that furnishings were not to be included. Chairman Hickok expressed his concerns regarding the language used and that the wording was misunderstood by many people. A majority of Budget Committee members agreed. Dale Dormody explained his thoughts of these additional items not being solely due to a new Library, but due to the normal increased growth and usage the Library had experienced over the years. Margo Weeks added that everyone had their own perception of what was spoken in the past. Further lengthy discussion ensued. Some Budget Committee members would like to see items added in over time and not all at once as they recommend to all other departments as well. Kate Hamel of Friends of the Gilford Public Library also spoke to her side of the issue. Terry Stewart congratulated the private entity's fundraising efforts but also agreed with the Board of Selectmen's recommendation that some of the items belonged incorporated into the new building budget. Further discussion ensued. Bill Phillips motioned to end discussion and was seconded by Skip Murphy. Motion carried.

Skip Murphy then motioned to approve the original \$281,522 appropriation for the Library Budget. Bob Brent seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Dale Dormody amended the motion to include the \$40,309 in additional items for a total of \$321,831. Margo Weeks seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Motion failed. Skip Murphy motioned to again approve the original appropriation of \$281,522 and was seconded by Bob Brent. Motion carried. Margo Weeks then motioned to reopen the Library Budget and was seconded by Dale Dormody. Motion failed. Selectman Benavides stated that he did not want this to become

adversarial; adding that all parties involved were good people and that good work had been done.

Chairman Hickok informed the Committee that Outside Agencies would be discussed at the next meeting. Phyllis Corrigan motioned to approve the November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes and was seconded by John O'Brien. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda N. Ferreira  
Recording Secretary