

GILFORD BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES
November 20, 2008, 6:30 p.m.
Gilford Town Hall

Members Present:~~Dale Dormody, Terry Stewart, Kevin Roy, John O'Brien, Richard Young, Richard Hickok, Skip Murphy, Sue Greene, Doug Lambert and Bill Phillips.

Members Absent: J. Kevin Hayes, Margo Weeks.

The Budget Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Hickok announced that the items to be discussed tonight are Outside Agencies, Supervisors of the Checklist, the School District budget review schedule and the Gunstock Acres Village Water District budget.

Dale Dormody proceeded to explain the report of the Outside Agencies Sub-committee. He stated that the Sub-committee agrees with the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen to support Lakes Region Community Health and Lakes Region Family Services.

He further explained that the Sub-committee is recommending to the Board of Selectmen that all future requests of Outside Agencies be submitted by means of petition warrant articles. In addition, they would like a detailed breakdown of each agency's operating budget, including information on their funding sources and the cost and value of services provided to Gilford residents. The Committee feels that these decisions should be made by the voters and would like the Board of Selectmen to consider their recommendations.

Chairman Hickok concurred with these recommendations.

Dale Dormody moved to approve \$26,900 for Outside Agencies - \$23,500 for Lakes Region Community Health and \$3,400 for Lakes Region Family Services. Doug Lambert seconded. The motion passed 10-0.

Next, the Committee reviewed the Gunstock Acres Village Water District 2009 budget. Water District representative Richard Young stated that the goals of the District are to keep the water system healthy and functioning. The District is self-funded.

General discussion ensued on how the Water District's precinct tax rate is computed. The Committee also briefly discussed the fact that the role of the Water District is for water supply, not fire suppression.

Richard Young moved to accept the Gunstock Acres Village Water District 2009 Budget, as presented, in the amount of \$212,322. Kevin Roy seconded. The motion passed 10-0.

Chairman Hickok stated that the matter of compensation for the Supervisors of the Checklist would be discussed next. Since there were two members of the Supervisors of the Checklist in attendance, he informed them that they could address the Budget Committee. Supervisor Connie Moses stated that the intent is for tonight's meeting is to correct an error that was made in the calculation of projected hours for the Supervisors of the Checklist in 2009. The 186 hours that was presented is a huge underestimate.

The Board of Selectmen reconsidered the Supervisors' budget and increased the compensation amount by approximately \$1,600.00. Supervisor Moses provided a detailed explanation of the volume of the hours that the Supervisors have worked over the past few years. Frequent transient voters in Belknap County have increased their workload, as well as the transition of records to a computerized system.

Sue Greene inquired if the Town Clerk's Office also inputs voter registration information. Supervisor Moses replied yes, but it is their responsibility to review and approve their work. Extensive discussion ensued on the functions of the Supervisors, their compensation and workspace in the Town Hall.

Supervisor Mary Lou Grevatt stated that the role of the Supervisors is different from that of other elected officials. She further stated that she has worked forty (40) hours, since the November 4th General Election, due to deadlines at both the state and federal levels. More discussion ensued on the concern that this proposed increase would lead to creating a new department within the Town Hall. Supervisor Grevatt also pointed out that the Election Day set-up was excellent and ran very smoothly throughout the day.

Richard Young moved to recommend \$15,803 as the amended total under Elections. Dale Dormody seconded. Richard Young encouraged the Budget Committee members to approve the motion, since the integrity of elections is so important. A show of hands vote on the motion indicated 4-yes and 5-no. Motion failed by a vote of 4-5.

The Committee then discussed the upcoming public hearing in January. The Budget Committee concurred that the School District Budget and Town Budget public hearings should be held on different nights. Chairman Hickok is concerned with potential for lengthy discussion on the teachers' contracts. The School District Public Hearing will be held on January 13, 2009 and the Town Public Hearing will be held on January 15, 2009. Both public hearings will commence at 6:30 p.m. at Gilford High School.

The Committee then addressed some additional voting that is required to be done. Terry Stewart moved to approve \$125 for Memorial Day. John O'Brien seconded. Motion passed 10-0.

Skip Murphy moved to approve \$504,741 for Debt Service. John O'Brien seconded.

Motion passed 10-0.

Brief discussion ensued on Capital Projects. Town Administrator Dunn advised the Committee that these figures would need to be separated out, in order to determine which items still required voting. This will be available at a future meeting, which was scheduled for Tuesday, December 30, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall. Town Administrator Dunn also stated that additional budget figures will be forthcoming on the Police Department renovation/addition, the Teamster's contract, the AFSCME contract and geothermal heating for the Town Hall.

Terry Stewart moved to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2008 Budget Committee meeting. John O'Brien seconded. Motion passed 10-0.

The Committee briefly discussed the upcoming School District budget. Chairman Hickok stated that he has been informed that the Collective Bargaining Review will be done on December 4th. The first Sub-committee presentation will be made on December 11th.

Terry Stewart moved to adjourn. Sue Greene seconded. The motion passed 10-0 and the meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra J. Bailey
Administrative