

**GILFORD BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**January 8, 2009, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Gilford Town Hall**

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

The Budget Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Hickok announced that the first item to be discussed tonight is a petition warrant article for the School District to support the Belmont-Gilford Cooperative Ice Hockey Team, in the amount of \$4,250.

Representing the Belmont-Gilford Cooperative Ice Hockey Team was Dave Caron. Mr. Caron stated that the cooperative team was established eight (8) years ago between the Towns of Belmont and Gilford and he feels that it has earned the consideration to be funded like other varsity sports.

Kevin Hayes inquired about transportation costs. Mr. Caron replied that Belmont (Shaker Regional School District) is the lead school and handles transportation arrangements. Doug Lambert then asked if the coaches receive a stipend. Mr. Caron replied yes, the coach did, but the assistant coaches do not.

Skip Murphy asked Mr. Caron what will happen when the balance of the funding, that is the responsibility of the Ice Hockey Boosters Association, erodes below the \$13,000 that is necessary to annually fund the program. Mr. Caron stated that the Boosters will undertake additional fundraising and if that is not sufficient, they will charge more to the players. He does not foresee complete public funding of the program.

Discussion ensued on the number of players in the program, as well as the amount of equipment needed for each player. Mr. Caron advised the Budget Committee members what equipment is supplied by the program and what equipment is supplied by the players. He also stated that spectator turnout for the ice hockey program is excellent.

Kevin Hayes moved to approve \$4,250.00 to fund the existing Belmont-Gilford Cooperative Ice Hockey Team. John O'Brien seconded. Motion carried by a vote of 6-yes and 5-no.

Doug Lambert expressed concern with paying the ice hockey coach a stipend. Brief discussion ensued.

The Budget Committee then reviewed the 2009-2010 School Budget Hearing Overview, with brief discussion ensuing on the impact of the budget on the tax rate. The Committee members made some suggestions to clarify budget amounts, whether the

amount does or does not include warrant articles. Assistant Superintendent Scott Isabelle will include additional notes in the handouts for the January 13, 2009 Public Hearing.

Terry Stewart inquired as to why the Budget Committee is not making a recommendation on the warrant article regarding the Meadows. Scott Isabelle explained that this warrant article will establish an expendable trust and there is no monetary amount attached to it. It is only intended to establish the account.

The Committee discussed the possibility of holding a regular meeting following the public hearings next week. The Committee determined that they will hold a meeting on the School District budget, immediately following their Public Hearing on January 13, 2009, as well as a regular meeting immediately following the Town Budget Public Hearing on January 15, 2009.

The Budget Committee proceeded to review the Town Budget next. Discussion ensued on the matter of compensation for the Supervisors of the Checklist. Kevin Hayes pointed out that the Board of Selectmen had discomfort with this issue, but due to federal regulations, it has forced tighter control on voter registration. He further stated that he feels the Supervisors are honest about their time and the additional compensation is warranted and supported by the Board of Selectmen.

Doug Lambert moved to approve all changes in the operating budget, as put forth by Town Administrator Dunn, with the exception of the part-time election line, which includes compensation for the Supervisors of the Checklist. A vote on the motion showed a vote of 6 -yes and 5-no. The Budget Committee recommendation of \$2,759, which is under the part-time election line, will not change.

Finance Director Ruggles distributed and briefly explained a Comparison of Outstanding Property Taxes from 2006 – 2008.

Town Administrator Dunn pointed out that Warrant Article C, which is for the Town's operating budget, has a new total amount of \$11,040,307. Terry Stewart moved to approve Warrant Article C in the amount of \$11,040,307. Doug Lambert seconded. Motion carried by a vote of 11- yes and 1-no.

Town Administrator Dunn also pointed out that a new figure has been received on Warrant Article B, regarding improvements to the Town Hall climate control system. The Board of Selectmen has not yet voted on this number, which has increased from \$500,000 to \$550,000.

Terry Stewart moved to not recommend Warrant Article S, a petition warrant article requesting \$8,762 for the Community Action Program. Doug Lambert seconded. Extensive discussion ensued on the accountability of the program. A vote on the motion show a vote of 10-yes, 1-no and 1-abstain.

Moving onto Warrant Article T, Doug Lambert moved to not recommend \$26,000 for the Youth Services Bureau. Terry Stewart seconded. This prompted further discussion on the role of government in the funding of outside agencies. A vote on the motion showed 9 – yes, 2 – no, and 1 abstained.

Town Administrator Dunn pointed out the wording used under Article K. He showed that the Budget Committee recommended \$50,000 by a vote of 7-2, where the Board of Selectmen recommended \$200,000 to be added to the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. The Budget Committee members agreed with this wording.

Town Administrator Dunn further informed that Committee members he intends to request the Board of Selectmen approve an expenditure of \$7,450, for repairs to the Town Hall heating system, at their meeting on Wednesday. This will greatly reduce the current balance of \$10,060 in the Building Repair Capital Reserve Fund. The Budget Committee did not recommend this appropriation at a previous meeting and chose to take no further action.

Margo Weeks moved to adjourn. John O'Brien seconded. The motion passed 12-0 and the meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra J. Bailey  
Administrative Secretary