

**GILFORD BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**December 10, 2009**  
**6:30 p.m.**  
**Town Hall**

Members Present: Sue Greene, Dick Hickok, Margo Weeks, Dale Dormody, Fred Butler, Mark Corry, Kevin Roy, Skip Murphy and John O'Brien

Members Absent: Phyllis Corrigan and Terry Stewart

Also in attendance were Superintendent Paul DeMinico; Asst. Superintendent for Business Scott Isabelle; School Board member Sue Allen, Technology Director Brenda McGee and Building and Grounds Supervisor Tim Bartlett. Also in attendance was Executive Secretary Sandra Bailey.

The Budget Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Hickok welcomed the Committee to this evening's meeting and stated that the date for the School District's Deliberative Session needs to be re-scheduled. It was decided that their Deliberative Session will be held on Monday, February 1, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at Gilford High School. The date of the Budget Committee's Public Hearing on the School District's budget was clarified to be Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at 6:30 p.m., also at Gilford High School.

Chairman Hickok stated that two areas of the School District's budget would be reviewed tonight – Technology and Administration/Operation and Maintenance of Facilities. Mark Corry began with the report of the Technology Sub-committee, which also includes Skip Murphy. He stated that the Technology budget has been level funded with very few changes. The District continues to replace computers at a rate of 20% per year. Mark Corry explained how the cost of Technology salaries is divided proportionately between the three schools based on enrollment. He also stated that the District is moving towards the use of virtual servers, which will result in considerable cost savings.

Brief discussion ensued regarding the number of computers for use by students. Brenda McGee stated that at this time, there are approximately 205 student computers. When Dale Dormody inquired about funds for Smartboards and was advised that they are in the budget under Instructional Equipment, not Technology.

Margo Weeks moved to approve \$354,372 for Technology. Mark Corry seconded. Motion carried by a vote of 9-0.

The next portion of the School District's budget to be reviewed was that of Administration/Operations and Maintenance of Facilities. Fred Butler ran through the Sub-committee's finding on these District Wide expenses. The Sub-committee also included Dick Hickok and Terry Stewart.

Fred Butler stated that the Administrative portion of the budget totals \$8,270,526, which was arrived at by subtracting out all Technology items. The biggest driver of this part of the budget, contributing to the increase, is the cost of health insurance. The biggest reduction driver is the early retirement incentive that is offered. Any changes from the 2009 to 2010 budget in excess of \$5,000 have been highlighted in the Sub-committee's findings.

Continuing on, Fred Butler stated that the Sub-committee had no issues with the wage items because they are contract driven. They also had no issue with discretionary spending.

Dale Dormody questioned how the flood at the Gilford Middle School earlier in the year did not impact the 2010 insurance rates. Scott Isabelle provided an explanation of this matter, which was attributed to the fact that the larger insurance pool offset the cost of flood damage.

Margo Weeks moved to approve \$8,270,526 for the School District Administration budget. Kevin Roy seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Brief discussion then ensued regarding the SAU moving into the old library building. Scott Isabelle stated that they are currently negotiating a lease agreement with the Board of Selectmen and any long-term lease, such as this one, would also need the approval of voters at Town Meeting.

Scott Isabelle further stated that the District has budgeted approximately \$13,000 for the cost of utilities at the old library building in next year's budget. The District will be eligible for building aid from the State, although any reimbursement would not be received until November 2010.

Dale Dormody inquired about the new roof at the old library building. Scott Isabelle replied that this construction was paid for by the Town. He also added that the Town will bear the cost of removal of the underground oil tank.

A vote on the motion indicated it carried by a vote of 9-0.

The final area of the budget for review is Overall Operations and Maintenance of Facilities. Fred Butler indicated that this budget has decreased by 12% from the 2009 budget, which was primarily driven by a reduction in fuel oil and utility costs. He asked Building and Grounds Supervisor Tim Bartlett to clarify the decrease under C/S Special Projects of \$33,800. Tim Bartlett replied that this is due to the final phase of rewiring the electric panel in Building #1 requiring only \$1,200 to be completed.

Scott Isabelle provided an explanation of how the District purchases fuel oil through other school districts and municipalities in the area, resulting in significant savings. Fred Butler continued with his discussion of changes of \$5,000 or more in the discretionary spending portion of the Operation and Maintenance of Facilities budget.

Dale Dormody then brought up the matter of the \$4,000 expense for the wiring of the Middle School Smartboards. Tim Bartlett provided an explanation of this cost. He stated that it is necessary to have two contractors – one for low voltage and one for high voltage – take care of the wiring. In addition, the circuits would need to be run back to the electrical panel. Another factor in this expense is the fact that romex wire cannot be used, since it does not meet the electrical code for schools.

Margo Weeks moved to approve \$1,882,464 for the Operations and Maintenance of Facilities Budget. Fred Butler seconded. Motion carried by a vote of 9-0. Margo Weeks then commended Scott Isabelle and Tim Bartlett for their hard work and attention to detail in preparing this budget.

Margo Weeks moved to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2009 Budget Committee meeting. Chairman Hickok seconded. Motion carried by a vote of 8-0 with Selectman O'Brien

abstaining.

Margo Weeks moved to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. Dale Dormody seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Bailey  
Executive Secretary