

GILFORD BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 4, 2010

6:30 p.m.

Town Hall

Members Present: Dick Hickok, Dale Dormody, Kevin Roy, Phyllis Corrigan, Fred Butler (arrived at 6:35 p.m.), Paul Blandford, Skip Murphy, Dave Horvath, Sue Greene and Pat Labonte

Members Absent: Gus Benavides, Terry Stewart

Also in attendance were Town Administrator Scott Dunn, Finance Director Geoff Ruggles, Executive Secretary Sandra Bailey, Director of Public Works Sheldon Morgan, DPLU Technical Assistant Stephanie Verdile-Philibotte, Police Chief John Markland, Deputy Police Chief Kevin Keenan, Cemetery Trustees Susan Leach, Judy Cott and Dee Chitty, and Conservation Commission members John Goodhue and Lee Duncan.

The Budget Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Hickok stated that scheduled for tonight's meeting are the vote on the Cemetery budget and reviews of the Conservation Commission and Police Department budgets. He further stated that sub-committees for the School District's budget review would be assigned at next week's meeting on November 11th.

Phyllis Corrigan moved to recommend \$44,000 for the Cemetery budget. Dale Dormody seconded. Motion carried by a vote of 9-0.

Stephanie Verdile-Philibotte, Technical Assistant for the Department of Planning and Land Use, was in attendance to present the budget of the Conservation Commission, which totals \$22,525. She pointed out that the Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen did not recommend their request for funding for Professional Services in the amount of \$2,700, but the Commission is hopeful that this will be funded at some date in the future.

Moving onto Membership and Dues, the \$825 requested is vital for the Commission to receive assistance with easements, from such organizations as the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests and the Belknap County Conservation District. Conservation Commission Chairman Lee Duncan stressed the importance of the Groundwater Protection monitoring that continues each year.

Stephanie Verdile-Philibotte then provided information regarding the request for \$18,500 under Invasive Species Management. This program for milfoil removal and control has been very successful at Smith Cove and Lakeshore Park.

Brief discussion ensued regarding the Membership and Dues line item. Stephanie Verdile-Philibotte provided additional information on the benefits of membership to

various organizations that provide technical assistance for easements and grants. Lee Duncan pointed out that the grant assistance on the Gunstock Brook restoration project would have cost between \$35,000 and \$40,000 if the Town had to pay for it. Conservation Commission Chairman John Goodhue also pointed out that the recent purchase of Camp Winsheblo would not have been possible without the \$175,000 funding from the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests.

More discussion ensued regarding how the Conservation Commission's duties have expanded over the years, to fulfill their charge as the Town of Gilford grows. Chairman Goodhue also praised the efforts of Conservation Commission member Doug Hill, who has provided the Commission with invaluable legal assistance over the years at no cost to the Town.

Phyllis Corrigan moved to recommend \$22,525 for the Conservation Commission. Dale Dormody seconded. Motion carried by a vote of 10-0.

Kevin Roy presented the report of the Police Budget Sub-committee, which also included Dale Dormody and Dave Horvath. He stated that the overall budget is down \$8,790 from 2010 and of the 34 line items in their budget, that 23 have been level funded or reduced.

He began his presentation with Non-Discretionary Spending. Chairman Hickok questioned why the overtime line had been increased where there has been a trend in other departments to reduce or remove overtime. Deputy Police Chief Kevin Keenan replied that the amount budgeted for overtime in 2010 was reduced and is not sufficient to cover overtime costs. He added that as officers have longevity the amount of shift coverage due to vacations, etc. increases.

When the Committee reached the section on Vehicle Fuels, discussion ensued regarding fuel consumption and the cost of fuel. Deputy Chief Keenan emphasized that the Department is always looking for ways to reduce fuel costs. He also provided an explanation of the line items listed under Small Equipment, focusing on vests and ammunition.

Kevin Roy next presented information on police cruiser replacement. He stated that the Board of Selectmen were only recommending one cruiser be replaced this year, rather than the usual two vehicles per year. Deputy Chief Keenan stated that police vehicles need to be at their best for the officers and get worn out between when they reach 90,000 to 100,000 miles. He further pointed out that the vehicles are then cycled to other departments for additional usage. Town Administrator Dunn added that the Board of Selectmen recognizes the need to replace three cruisers in 2012 to maintain the replacement schedule.

Brief discussion ensued regarding the eventual changeover from Crown Victoria cruisers to Taurus cruisers. Deputy Chief Keenan stated that they have been assured that the equipment would be able to be changed over from the Crown Vic to the Taurus.

Kevin Roy moved to recommend \$2,195,211 for the Police Department budget. Phyllis Corrigan seconded. Skip Murphy brought up the Membership and Dues line item, to which Deputy Keenan stated that this line item is reduced each year if they determine the membership is not of value to the Department. Chief Markland added that membership in various professional organizations provides the Department with training opportunities at reduced rates. Motion carried by a vote of 10-0.

Paul Blandford moved to approve the minutes of the October 28th meeting. Skip Murphy seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Pat Labonte expressed concern with the condition of the sander storage building. Town Administrator Dunn stated that this is a high priority among the many buildings and grounds improvements that were requested in the 2011 budget.

Paul Blandford moved to adjourn at 7:44 p.m. Phyllis Corrigan seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Bailey
Executive Secretary