

Gilford Budget Committee Minutes  
September 29, 2011  
6:30 p.m.  
Town of Gilford

Members Present: Richard Hickok, David Horvath, Dale Dormody, Kevin Leandro, Kevin Roy,  
Fred Butler, Pat Labonte, Gus Benavides, Rae Mello-Andrews, Skip Murphy,  
Sue Greene and Phyllis Corrigan

Members Absent: None

The Budget Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Hickok stated the purpose of tonight's meeting was an overview of the budget and to hand out budget books.

Dave Horvath stated as a point of order was looking at the people assigned to the different sub committee's and noticed three with four people on them and three with only two people is that acceptable?

Richard Hickok stated we have always had a minimum of two but would be desirable to have three.

Dave stated he would be willing to drop Fire Department Sub Committee and replace it with the Planning Department subcommittee. Richard Hickok agreed and stated the Planning subcommittee does the Conservation Commission also. Chairman Hickok opened the floor to public input.

Barbara Aichinger from Edgewater Drive spoke, thanked everyone for their service and stated that the state reduced its budget by 11%, not a cut in their increase but an actual cut of 11% and wanted to make sure everyone was aware of that.

Skip Murphy made the following motion;

Anyone on the Budget Committee that has any financial interest, directly or indirectly, contained within the budgets that we are analyzing, should recuse themselves. Further, anyone that has already had a material interest in assembling the budgets to be overseen by the committee should be allowed to comment but not vote on such budgets, as that would effectively give them an unfair advantage of representation by having the ability of voting twice on a budget that they represent while the rest of the

committee gets but a single vote.

- Richard Hickok clarified school and selectmen.
- Motion seconded so people could comment on it.
- Richard Hickok asked if the RSA was reviewed for this motion.
- Skip Murphy stated it was not but felt he would bring it up due to discussions of last meeting.
- Richard Hickok stated one of the benefits the town has is a large committee.
- Kevin Leandro stated he has a financial conflict of interest with the road improvement budget as he does subcontracting with one of the major contractors would like to recuse himself from that portion of the budget.
- Dale Dormody stated that he made a commitment to the voters and stated he would participate on the Library budget however will not participate on voting related directly on his wife's salary. Usually this committee does not get involved on Salaries with the exception of last year and he did recuse himself. Stated his business is developing web sites and he does for the Library however he donates 100%
- Rae Mello Andrew's wanted to go on record that she thinks that someone would think that she would not be smart enough to recuse herself on the Fire Department is out of control however regarding the school part she is on the school board and she feels she should have a say and a vote doesn't feel this year should be any different from the last.
- Kevin Roy appreciated Kevin Leandro recusing himself from DPW however stated he did not feel he needed to. Stated his wife works in the schools when he ran he hid nothing, people know what he is here for will not recuse himself from any school voting does not sit on the Elementary school subcommittee.
- Further discussion ensued.
- Richard Hickok stated his opinion is they do not have to recuse themselves. Stated he spoke with a lawyer from LGC and asked if a rule could be made requiring members to recuse themselves and the lawyer stated no those are elected officials and rules are made by election and you as a committee cannot stop them from voting.
- Further discussion ensued.
- Phyllis Corrigan stated it was her understanding members vote as

their boards direct and do not vote according to their personal beliefs. She does not see the need to recuse oneself and is appalled at some of the members of the committee's behavior hopes by the end of this session all would be able to speak cordially.

- Dave Horvath stated he would like to hold off voting until a review of the RSA could be made.
- Comment was made regarding representation Gunstock Acres Water Commission has the right to vote multiple votes. RSA was checked and it is allowed.
- Richard Hickok stated it would be a good idea to hold off a vote until RSA could be reviewed.
- Scott Dunn states that the statute that gives legal authority for a Selectman's rep, School Board rep to sit on this committee is the same exact statute that allows every other member that has been elected to serve on this committee. RSA 32 Specifically puts a Board of Selectmen on this committee with no restraints on their ability in that capacity.
- Richard Hickok states that this is a mute point and calls for a vote.

- Vote:

In favor	3
Apposed	9

Richard Hickok asks if there is a plan for discussion

- Scott Dunn states on behalf of the Board of Selectmen you have a recommended budget that significantly reduces the size of government for the town of Gilford.
  - o Position has been eliminated at the Police Department
  - o Position has been eliminated at the Department of Public Works
  - o At the Fire Department the position of Fire Inspector 32 hours a week has been eliminated, the position of Executive secretary has been downgraded from a full time position to a part time position with no benefits.
  - o The Department of Planning and Land Use a full time position there has been reduced to a part time position.
  - o 2 big tickets items have a zero impact on the tax rate
    - \$450,000.00 Fire Truck that is proposed to be bonded

entire expenditure will be offset by an equal amount of revenue.

- \$120,000.00 Backhoe for DPW monies coming from capital reserve funds

- Gus Benavides also wanted to highlight items to keep in mind.
  - Would like to thank town employees, Dept. heads, Town Administrator Dunn very difficult budget to put together. Made the goal to come back with a 0% increase.
  - Reduced budget by ½ million dollars from what was requested by the departments.
  - Budget does not include a merit pay for Department Managers or Town Administrator Dunn for a second year in a row had to freeze their pay scale again.
  - Selectmen have agreed to forgo their annual \$2500.00 stipends total more than \$8,000.00 including payroll taxes. Did not feel right in cutting Department Managers and Town Administrator's pay without them being affected as well.
  - Outside social agencies are again not included in the budget they are included as a warrant article for the taxpayers to vote on.
  - \$450,000.00 expenditure is necessary this particular piece of equipment will replace a 1988 fire truck that has failed a pump certification and he supports the Fire Department 100%.
  - Very difficult cuts have been made, this will affect services.
  
- Skip Murphy asked how many people are in the Department of Public Works
  - Scott Dunn did not know at this time.
  - Dave Horvath interested in finding out how general revenue streams have been affected.
  - Scott Dunn stated overall revenues have diminished slightly from last year.
  - Skip Murphy asked how many permits have been pulled this year over last year.
  - Unknown.
  - Fred Butler asked Scott – with the legislature cutting retirement costs were there any other substantial state level cuts that will need to be offset.

- Scott Dunn stated boat revenues have gone down slightly, retirement costs have gone up. It remains to be seen what will happen long term as regards to health insurance when the Federal health insurance law takes place in 2014.
- Question was asked what happened this year with health insurance.
- Scott Dunn stated that they budgeted a three year average increase which translated to 11% overall health insurance is the same as last year due to employee cuts.
- Fred Butler asked if there was a percentage for merit wage increases.
- Scott Dunn stated budgeted a 3% average increase.
- Question was asked if budgets are available electronically.
- Scott Dunn stated he would e-mail them to every Budget Committee member.

Richard Hickok asked who would head up the first subcommittee and set up a meeting, as a contact. Also had members introduce themselves.

Richard Hickok took minutes from last meeting, Sandy Bailey typed them up, asked if there were any comments?

Motion was made to approve minutes. Motion seconded. Motion carried with all in favor with Phyllis Corrigan and Susan Green abstaining.

Discussion ensued regarding agenda's and posting of future meetings of subcommittee.

Gus Benavides to announce that Kevin Keenan is the new police chief.

Richard Hickok asked if there was any other business, motion to adjourn.

Phyllis so moved Gus seconded all approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Mia Gagliardi

Recording Secretary