

Gilford Budget Committee Minutes
November 17, 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 and Sue Greene

Members Absent: Phyllis Corrigan

The Budget Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Richard Hickok started the meeting with a review of the evening's agenda starting with the review of Fire Department request for new fire engine, Buildings and Grounds and finally total budget review with ideas to offset the cost of the additional officer.

FIRE TRUCK WARRANT ARTICLE:

Steve Carrier spoke stating that he was caught off guard last week regarding the request for a quote to refurbish engine #4. Steve stated he had a chance to speak with Valley Fire Equipment, that has done work in the past, and gave a hand out showing the work needed, preliminary estimates to refurbish Engine #4 total \$131,245.00 with no guarantees on price or work.

Richard Hickok stated that two Board members, Kevin Leandro and Pat Labonte, looked at Engine #4. Kevin Leandro stated that looking at the truck he didn't see anything wrong with the transfer case. Looking at the quote there are things listed that aren't necessary. Kevin Leandro feels that some of the work listed on the quote could be done in house, either at the Fire Department or at DPW. Kevin made a few calls and found that if the pump needs to be rebuilt it would cost approximately \$9,000.00 other than that he didn't see anything that needed to be done. He didn't see hinges rusting off, noticed surface scaling on spring packs and hangers due to not being cleaned.

Pat Labonte stated that they crawled underneath with creepers and saw the pump leaking from the seals.

Dale Dormody asked if the quote received was from the same company that had bid on the sale of a new piece of equipment.

Steve Carrier stated that they did but they have nothing to gain by giving a quote to refurbish.

Dale Dormody asked how long this company had been in business.

Steve Carrier stated over 30 years.

Dale Dormody asked if they work exclusively on fire trucks. Steve Carrier confirmed that they did.

Kevin Leandro asked what Lakes Region Fire Apparatus would have to gain by giving a quote of \$9,000.00 to rebuild the pump.

Steve Carrier stated that the conversation he had today with Lakes Region Fire Apparatus, the price of \$9,000.00 could rebuild the pump and moving parts in the pump but not the complete rebuild that Valley was quoting. There are many other components that are needed to be repaired to have this truck working properly. Steve Carrier stated that Shawn the Technician from Lakes Region stated that \$9,000.00 would not take care of all the pump issues. They are dealing with a 25 year old piece of equipment it has to be relied upon at a very high level of reliability to perform functions in emergency situations.

Dave Horvath asked what a reasonable life would be if it was rebuilt.

Steve Carrier stated that no one knows. It had a complete refurb in 1998, in 2003 it was rotated down to a back up and it lasted 12 years however the pump was rebuilt in 2006 and needs to be redone again.

Skip Murphy asked if the truck is in service all the time and how many miles it did last year.

Steve Carrier stated that he didn't know the mileage but it goes out on 60 emergency calls a year to

building fires, chimney fires etc. The truck also serves as an important piece of equipment in training. Skip Murphy asked how many times it was used as a first line piece of equipment.

Steve Carrier stated that it is set up to mirror engine #2, which is a first line attack piece. If there was a fire in this building tonight engine 2 would pull up to the building stretch hose lines off of it, engine 1 would supply water, engine #4 would serve as a secondary attack piece at the very least it carries personnel to a fire. When it becomes critical is when engine 2 is out of service, or at another fire either in Gilford or another community, it is then used as a first line piece of equipment.

Skip Murphy asked how many times it actually has been called out when engine 2 was out of service. Dominic Decarli, Firefighter of Gilford Fire Department spoke stating that engine 2 was out of service on two different occasions in the last six months; first time it was out four or five days and the second time it was out two or three days.

Skip Murphy asked during the time engine 2 was out of service how many times engine 4 hit the pavement.

Dominic Decarli stated it was hard to say, on average the fire engine goes out at least once a day. The other part of the equation is engine 4 also goes out to motor vehicle accidents for additional fire protection and as a piece of blocking equipment to protect emergency personnel.

Sue Greene asked if Valley Fire Equipment was a dealer.

Dominic Decarli stated they were and they make their own bodies.

Sue Greene asked if Gilford was considering purchasing the truck from Valley Fire Equipment.

Dominic Decarli stated they did participate in the bid process however they were significantly higher than the company that was chosen.

Sue Greene asked if Lakes Region Fire Apparatus was a dealer.

Dominic Decarli stated they are and they did participate in the bid process they sell HME which has been in business since early 1900's. The fire department had five to seven companies participate and bring trucks to Gilford for review however they felt that the company that they chose had better construction and was significantly less money than either Valley Fire Equipment or Lakes Region Fire Apparatus.

Dale Dormody asked how much of the cost to refurbish is for cosmetic repairs.

Dominic Decarli stated that in the short amount of time it was difficult to have people give a price for what they were asking without actually looking at the truck. Some of it is cosmetic but there are issues with engine 4 that need to be fixed there is corrosion behind the hinges that are forcing the doors together making it difficult to open.

Discussion ensued regarding standards of refurbishing fire apparatus and the work that engine # 4 needs.

Dave Horvath asked procedurally what happens. \$450,000.00 for the new vehicle would be bonded and the first payment would not be due until 2013 and would not have an impact on the 2012 budget. A refurbishment would have an impact on the 2012 budget. What can we do to buy time to get a better estimate on actual work needed and eliminate some work that is unnecessary?

Richard Hickok stated that technically they have until they finalize for the public hearing.

Discussion ensued regarding what is needed to repair engine #4.

Richard Hickok stated that this is going back and forth and would not be settled tonight, gave Steve Carrier time to respond.

Steve Carrier deferred his time to Bill Akerly.

Bill Akerly has been a Fire Engineer for 18 years. The pump was rebuilt 5 years ago and now needs to be rebuilt again. Bill spoke about his experience with the rehabilitation of truck 1, when they started lifting diamond plates they found broken mounts, leaking transmission, they were getting stickers saying the vehicle was road worthy but in reality it wasn't. A refurbishment can open up a can of worms. The fire department went to great lengths to reduce the budget, making sacrifices with personnel knowing this purchase was coming up. It doesn't make sense to put 25% of the value of a new vehicle into an existing

vehicle that is 25 years old. Also the \$51,000.00 expenditure for breathing apparatus ends this year. Kevin Roy asked if the Select board voted unanimously.

Gus Benavides stated that they stand behind the Fire Department and have tried to do everything to cut the budget, this is a huge thing that the Fire Department needs. Gus made a Motion to endorse the \$450,000.00 bond to purchase the equipment

Rae Mello-Andrews seconded.

Sue Greene asked what the impact will have on the tax rate.

Geoff Ruggles stated that every \$15,000.00 in expenditures raises the tax rate a penny so the impact will be three cents.

Gus Benavides stated that the Fire Department knew the \$450,000.00 expense was coming and worked hard to reduce the budget as a result there were decisions that were made and cuts that were tough to take but they did that knowing that this was coming.

Discussion ensued regarding CIP.

Dave Horvath made a motion to amend the previous motion and delay the vote until better numbers can be obtained, to include what is necessary and what is cosmetic.

Dale Dormody seconded.

Richard Hickok stated that the motion on the table is to delay the vote until January 5th and called for a vote.

7 yes

4 no

Motion passed 7 to 4.

Richard Hickok moved the meeting to Buildings and Grounds that was previously missed.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS:

Kevin Leandro motioned to approve the Buildings and Grounds budget of \$225,393.00.

Kevin Roy seconded.

Richard Hickok stated that the budget is down 5.6%, hard to argue with this budget and asked if there were any concerns.

Kevin Leandro asked about the heating fuel for Rowe House, what that building was being used for.

Gus Benavides stated that it is a historic building. This building had pipes burst a few years ago.

Discussion ensued regarding Rowe House, heat is down as low as it can be Geoff Ruggles states that some of the costs are reimbursed by Thompson Ames Historical Society.

Richard Hickok asked if there were any further questions and called for a vote to approve the Buildings and Grounds budget of \$225,393.00.

11 yes

0 no

Motion passed with all in favor.

Richard Hickok moved onto the Building Repair Capitol Reserve Fund of \$20,000.00.

Gus Benavides motioned to approve \$20,000.00 for the Building Repair CRF.

Rae Mello-Andrews seconded.

Richard Hickok asked if the \$20,000.00 would be adding to the fund or if that was it.

Geoff Ruggles stated that there was \$12.00 at the beginning of the year.

Skip Murphy asked if the amount was cut in half would that be enough.

Geoff Ruggles stated that there were a lot of repairs that were vying for the \$20,000.00 and reducing the amount would further delay repairs.

Discussion ensued regarding what repairs are needed such as issues with the heat in town hall, leaking roofs etc.

Skip Murphy asked if they could get a list of the repairs. Geoff Ruggles stated yes.

Dave Horvath asked if \$20,000.00 was approved could it be used for anything else.

Geoff Ruggles clarified that if \$20,000.00 was put in a capitol reserve account it can only be used for that purpose, and if it is not used it would remain in the account.

Discussion ensued regarding unexpended funds balance which is approximately five million (in cash and assets) some is used to keep the tax rate down. The state recommends between 5 and 10 percent of the budget but the Government Finance Office's Association recommends between 8 and 17, which is what the bonding agencies look at. Any funds that are used from this would have to be court approved.

Richard Hickok called for a vote on the \$20,000.00 Building Repair CRF.

10 yes

1 no

Motion passed with all in favor.

Richard Hickok moved to the Glendale Facilities Capitol Reserve Fund of \$10,000.00

Gus Benavides motioned to approve the \$10,000.00 Glendale Facilities CRF.

Kevin Roy seconded.

Richard Hickok asked what work was needed down at Glendale.

Geoff Ruggles stated he was unsure of what exactly needed to be repaired believed the small dock ramp but stated he could get that list.

Richard Hickok stated that vote could be held off until next week.

Richard Hickok continued with the discussion of adding the police officer, did a review of accounts that could be used to come up with the money to fund it and reviewed the summary in the front of the budget book. Richard Hickok asked Geoff Ruggles how much money was left over at the end of each year.

Geoff Ruggles gave a hand out with a ten year history.

Richard Hickok looked at all the big departments, with \$400,00.00 and up and came up with;

\$3,000.00 out of the Tax Collectors part time hours.

\$19,000.00 out of Public Works, striping, paving or employees

\$2,000.00 out of Parks and Recs.

\$25,000.00 if you buy the repeaters with money remaining at the end of the year.

\$9,000.00 merit wage lump sums.

Adding these together you come up with \$58,000.00 which is what is needed for the officer.

Rae Mello-Andrews asked about the lump sums and clarified that there isn't \$9,000.00 in merit wage lump sums due to the union contracts.

Skip Murphy made a motion to create a small subcommittee to look at this more closely.

Dave Horvath seconded.

Fred Butler stated that if the Police want the position can they go back and renegotiate.

Chief Keenan stated that negotiations are over it is being voted on now.

Discussion ensued regarding the value of having a subcommittee.

Richard Hickok called for a vote on creating a subcommittee.

5 yes

6 no

Motion failed 5 to 6.

Richard Hickok stated that everyone will review this on their own and discuss it at the next meeting.

Richard Hickok stated there are two sets of minutes to approve, didn't have a problem with them and asked if there were any issues.

Gus Benavides made a motion to approve the minutes.

Skip Murphy seconded.

Richard Hickok called for a vote

11 yes

0 no

Motion to approve the minutes passed with all in favor.

Kevin Leandro gave a handout regarding the default budget, nothing can be done this year however feels it should be addressed and petitioned.

Discussion ensued regarding default budgets for the town and the school.

Gus Benavides made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Skip Murphy seconded.

Richard Hickok called for a vote to adjourn.

11 yes

0 no

Meeting adjourned at 8:22pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mia Gagliardi
Recording Secretary