

Gilford Budget Committee Minutes  
April 26, 2012  
6:30 p.m.  
Town of Gilford

Members Present: Sue Allen (School Board Rep), Phyllis Corrigan, Dale Dormody, Sue Greene, Richard Grenier, Dave Horvath, Pat Labonte, Kevin Leandro, Kevin Roy and Allen Viovod

Members Absent: Gus Benavides, Fred Butler, Rae Mello-Andrews

Pat Labonte opened the meeting at 6:30 and the Budget Committee recited the pledge of allegiance. Pat Labonte welcomed the two new Budget Committee members, Richard Grenier and Allen Viovod and everyone introduced themselves.

Pat Labonte called for nominations for Budget Committee Chair, Kevin Roy nominated Phyllis Corrigan and Dale Dormody seconded. Sue Greene nominated Dave Horvath and Pat Labonte seconded. Dave Horvath asked if Pat was interested in being chair to which Pat stated no.

Pat Labonte called for a vote for Budget Committee Chair;

6 votes for Phyllis Corrigan

3 votes for Dave Horvath

Pat Labonte abstained from voting.

Phyllis Corrigan is Budget Committee Chair.

Pat Labonte called for nominations for Budget Committee Vice Chair, Sue Allen nominated Dale Dormody, Kevin Roy seconded. Sue Greene nominated Dave Horvath and Phyllis Corrigan seconded.

Pat Labonte called for a vote for Budget Committee Vice Chair;

6 votes for Dale Dormody

Dale Dormody is Budget Committee Vice Chair.

Pat Labonte turned the meeting over to Phyllis Corrigan.

Phyllis Corrigan asked if there was an agenda for the meeting to which Pat Labonte stated there was not that she could run the meeting as she wanted.

Phyllis Corrigan stated that she did not see a need to change the way things had been in the past. She stated that she is big on civility and wanted to remind all members that they have to work together and live together, they are the voices of the citizens of Gilford. Phyllis spoke of a survey done at Plymouth State University which asked how important politeness and manners were and the survey found that it is really important to be polite and have manners. Phyllis asked if Thursday was a good night for all to meet and stated that she would talk with Scott Dunn and Kent Hemingway as well.

Dave Horvath discussed the issue with the fire truck and stated that they would need to meet prior to this issue going to the voters. There will be a deliberative session and may need to meet to give a yes or no vote on the subject.

Phyllis Corrigan stated that she would talk with Scott Dunn.

Discussion ensued regarding meeting every Thursday, Pat Labonte stated that the meetings don't start until September, the conference room is occupied every other evening during the week and stated that Friday is not a good night to meet. Richard Grenier stated that he had training every other Thursday but will be at the meetings.

Phyllis Corrigan asked if everyone wanted to have the same procedure for the sub-committees, Kevin Roy suggested that she explain the procedure with the new members. Phyllis Corrigan explained that they break down the Budget Committee into sub-committees that meet with and review each department's budget within the town and school. The sub-committee then makes a presentation to the entire Budget Committee and all vote to either approve or not approve the budgets.

Kevin Roy stated that at the sub-committee review it is opened up for discussion and amendments prior to voting on the budget.

Phyllis Corrigan stated that it was very fluid last year with a few exceptions the voting happened the same night as the sub-committees presentation to the entire Budget Committee. Phyllis then explained that each department had a sub-committee of either two or three Budget Committee members and they would choose which budgets they would like to be part of.

Allen Viovod asked how many sub-committees there were.

Discussion ensued regarding all the departments within the town and school budget.

Discussion ensued regarding the budget for Gunstock Acres Water Commission, since it does not affect the tax rate it is more of a formality that they present their budget to the committee.

Dave Horvath stated that there are time constraints with the school budget, it seems that they spend a lot of time on the town budget but rush through the school budget and asked if they could spread that out a bit.

Sue Allen stated they can't get the school budget to the Budget Committee any sooner that their hands are tied as to the time frame.

Kevin Roy asked if there was a way to reduce the amount of paper in the budget binder.

Discussion ensued regarding the amount of paperwork submitted from outside agencies that could be reduced, maybe make one or two copies that could be distributed and reviewed as necessary.

Discussion ensued regarding the "Right to Know" and what needs to be made available to the public. All minutes are made public and put on the website. A suggestion was made to limit public input to three minutes per person, Kevin Leandro stated that he felt they should not limit the public input.

Discussion ensued regarding the sub-committee minutes needing to be kept.

Richard Grenier made a motion to incorporate the sub-committee reports that are provided to the entire Budget Committee and have those become the minutes. Kevin Leandro seconded.

Phyllis Corrigan called for a vote to make the sub-committee overview the minutes for the sub-committee meetings.

Motion passed with all in favor.

Discussion ensued regarding whether Phyllis Corrigan would be a voting member, Phyllis stated that she hadn't yet thought about it. Pat Labonte stated that Phyllis should be an alternate. Dale Dormody stated that Richard Hickok voted sporadically however last year the Committee asked that he vote. Kevin Leandro stated that she is an elected member and should vote. Phyllis stated that she would vote. Sue Greene stated that Dick Hickok voted in order and didn't wait until the end to give his vote.

Kevin Roy made a suggestion that the Chair should recognize who wants to speak. Phyllis Corrigan stated that she would prefer to have people raise their hand and wait to be recognized before speaking. Kevin Leandro asked if they would continue videotaping the meetings and asked if Dale Dormody would continue working the controls. Dale Dormody stated that he would prefer someone else take over and Kevin Leandro stated that he would do it.

Pat Labonte stated that he does not feel the Selectman should be voting on the budget as they have already voted once, and he doesn't feel the school board rep should be voting on the town budget.

Phyllis Corrigan stated that during one of her first years Dennis Doten stated that how the Selectmen voted may not be how he votes personally during town vote, however for the purpose of the Budget Committee he votes as the Selectmen agree to. Phyllis stated that it is perfectly legal for them to vote, there is no purpose of them sitting in the meeting if they are unable to vote.

Sue Allen agreed that they have every right to vote.

Kevin Leandro stated that HB1279 will make representing members nonvoting members. At large members can't be full time employee or part time Department head, there is no such restriction for member representatives. IE: Sheldon Morgan can run for School Board and get elected and sit on the committee and vote on the DPW budget.

Sue Allen stated that the School Rep has every right to vote on town budget, they are hearing it for the first time it is not a school board decision but a personal one.

Kevin Leandro clarified that is why they interpret the representative members here to represent the official position.

Phyllis Corrigan stated she will check the policy and will wait until the law goes into effect.

Dave Horvath stated that he does not feel it is fair for the Gunstock Acres Water Commission member to get a vote feels they get two bites out of the apple.

Phyllis Corrigan stated that there had been no representative prior to John Obrien and according to the rules they are allowed a representative.

Discussion ensued regarding what constitutes a district, and representative members ability to vote.

Phyllis Corrigan stated that as long as the rules have not changed they will continue as they have in the past.

Kevin Roy made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Kevin Leandro seconded all approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mia Gagliardi  
Recording Secretary