

Gilford Budget Committee Minutes

December 5, 2013

6:30 p.m.

Town of Gilford

Members Present: Phyllis Corrigan, Sue Greene, Richard Grenier, Dave Horvath, Kevin Roy, Richard Grenier, Robert Henderson, Jeffrey Beane and Karen Thurston.

Members Absent: Gus Benevides, Fred Butler, Kevin Leandro, Allen Voivod

Phyllis Corrigan opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and the Budget Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Phyllis thanked everyone for attending and introduced the Gilford School District Administrators in attendance: Kent Hemingway, Superintendent of Schools; Scott Isabelle, Assistant Superintendent for Business; Danielle Bolduc, Gilford Elementary School Principal; Marcia Ross, Gilford Middle School Principal; Kara Lamontagne, Gilford Middle School Assistant Principal; Anthony Sperazzo, Gilford High School Assistant Principal; Peter Sawyer, Gilford High School Principal; Esther Kennedy, Director of Student Services; Brenda McGee, Technology Director; Scott Laliberte, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Sue Allen, Gilford School Board Chair; Paul Blandford, Gilford School Board member; Tim Bartlett, Director of Buildings and Grounds. Also present was Sean Walsh, Gilford High School teacher.

2014-2015 GILFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPOSED BUDGET REVIEW

Kent Hemingway distributed copies of his proposed Superintendent General Fund Budget as presented to the committee at \$23,558,379. The figure represents a 2.47 percent increase over the present budget. Kent next reviewed a Power Point presentation, summarized as follows:

- The proposed “premium holiday” from Local Government Center will be accepted as a credit at \$115,000.
- Savings in life, disability, and worker’s compensation insurance total approximately \$46,576.
- Heating oil savings resulting from a lower quantity and price total approximately \$10,225.
- Enrollment history shows a continued decline, mainly at the elementary and middle school buildings. Personnel have been reduced accordingly.
- The budget proposes one full-time equivalent teacher reduction and a .29 full-time equivalent support reduction at the elementary school, with one full-time equivalent teacher reduction at the middle school. Combined with salary and benefits savings these reductions will yield approximately \$176,908 in savings.
- A portion of this budget’s increase comes from proposed Capital Improvement Plan and Maintenance Projects which were deferred but lead a list of priorities.
 - A new telephone system is proposed at \$200,000 to replace the current outdated, non-supported system

- New auditorium seats are proposed at \$105,000
- New paving at the elementary school is proposed at \$200,000 for budget year 2015-2016
- The GSD-GEA negotiated agreement will carry a cost impact of \$111,798 for the first year. That agreement reflects a savings of \$156,186 in health insurance costs derived from a change in mail-away prescription medication providers and a restructuring of plan options.
- Non-contractual increases include a three percent increase for support staff and 2.75 percent for administrative staff.

Kent next reviewed warrant articles.

- Warrant Article III, Multi-Year Agreement
To see if the Gilford School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Gilford School Board and the Gilford Education Association which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the prior fiscal year:

Year	Estimated Increase
2014-2015	\$111,798.00
2015-2016	\$257,911.00
2016-2017	\$260,323.00

 and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$111,798.00 for the 2014-2015 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributed to the increase in salary and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the prior fiscal year?
- Warrant Article IV, Authorization for Special Meeting on Cost Items
Shall the school district, if Article III is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article III cost items only?
- Warrant Article V, Fund Balance Retention
Shall the School District vote to authorize, indefinitely until rescinded, the retention of year-end unassigned general funds in an amount not to exceed in any fiscal year, 2.5% of the current fiscal year's net assessment, for the purpose of having funds on hand to use as a revenue source for emergency expenditures and over-expenditures under RSA 32:11, or to be used as a revenue source to reduce the tax rate, all in accordance with RSA 198:4-b, II?

Kent explained that the law was passed over a year ago but we waited to see how other districts handled this. The law allows district's to retain no more than 2.5 of the current fiscal year's net assessment. The Board's intention is to use it only to reduce the tax rate.

Kent stated that the overall increase to the 2014-2015 proposed budget, including the first year of the teacher contract, is \$675,838 which reflects a 2.73% increase.

Dave Horvath questioned why the \$156,186 health insurance savings is applied in Collective Bargaining rather than the total budget. Scott Isabelle replied that the RSA requires you to show all tax impacts of the Collective Bargaining Agreement. The savings has to be shown in the warrant article because it's the tax and fiscal amount and can't be taken out of General Fund. "We have to identify all cost impacts in the warrant article."

Scott Isabelle gave an overview of the federal projects budget. Scott stated that these funds do not have an impact on the local tax base.

- Title I: last year the district received \$133,494 and anticipates receiving \$153,494
- Title II: last year the district received \$47,121 and anticipates receiving \$42,265
- IDEA: last year the district received \$241,219 and anticipates receiving \$224,564
- A small preschool grant for which last year the district received \$2,975 and anticipates receiving \$2,764

Dave Horvath made a motion to approve the Federal Projects in the amount of \$423,087.00. Bob Henderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with all in favor.

Scott Isabelle next reviewed the food services proposed budget, noting that the increase for support staff is the same three percent as the general fund increase. There is also a \$6,000 decrease in health insurance and a \$3,000 increase in supplies and repairs.

Dave Horvath questioned the Food Service Directors salary increase showed a 2% increase. Scott Isabelle responded that it was a typo and should be 3%, the same as the other support staff.

Discussion ensued regarding how much food waste occurs.

Dave Horvath asked if there was any change in staffing levels. Scott responded that they are still flat.

Phyllis Corrigan moved to accept the Food Service Budget in the amount of \$680,744.00. Kevin Roy seconded the motion. It was a unanimous vote with all in favor.

Scott informed the committee that the school board approved the default budget at its December meeting and he will have copy for Budget Committee with a revenue statement with the tax impact for next meeting. Scott stated that there is approximately a \$200,000 decrease if the default budget is passed.

Phyllis Corrigan announced that Lt. Kelley and Lt. Leach were available to take a tour of the police department after the meeting. Lt. Leach stated they would be happy to give tours anytime. Phyllis informed the Budget Committee that a formal presentation for the public will be presented at the Selectmen's meeting on January 8th. The Budget Committee is invited to attend.

Dave Horvath stated that he appreciated the Districts efforts in prioritizing the proposed maintenance projects and also for giving the foresight on the paving needed at GES in 2015-2016.

Phyllis Corrigan informed the committee that they were missing two sets of minutes from prior meetings and she would check with Mia. She also informed the committee that they had received packets from Belknap County to review.

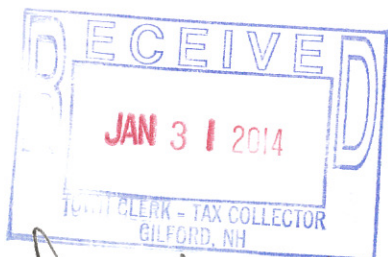
Dave Horvath asked if there would be separate presentation on the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Phyllis stated it would be presented to the entire panel at the last meeting – January 2nd.

At 7:20 p.m., Sue Greene moved to adjourn the meeting. Richard Grenier seconded the motion. Motion to adjourn passed with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Varricchio

Kimberly Varricchio
Recording Secretary



Denise M. Sawyer

Mark Williams