

TOWN OF GILFORD
BUDGET COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
November 16, 2017
6:30 PM

Members present: Sean Murphy, Timothy Sullivan, Harry Bean, S. Peter Karagianis, Dale Channing Eddy, David "Skip" Murphy, Dr. Leslie Suranyi Jr. and Susan Greene.

Members absent: Norman Silber, Chris McDonough and Geoffrey Ruggles.

Vice Chairman Skip Murphy called the Budget Committee meeting to order at 6:30 pm and led the assembly with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair Skip Murphy asked if there were any errors, omissions or corrections to the 11/09/2017 meeting minutes. There were none. Sean Murphy made a motion to approve the minutes as written; seconded by Dale Channing Eddy and motion passed unanimously; (8-0).

Resignation

Vice Chair Skip Murphy announced that Geoffrey Ruggles has resigned his seat on the Budget Committee. This position has been advertised and he asked committee members to reach out to constituents to try to fill the position in a timely manner. Interviews are scheduled at the 11/30/17 meeting.

Sub Committee Reports:

Cemeteries: Timothy Sullivan presented the subcommittee report for the Cemeteries budget and items that were discussed. Staffing and compensation was a main topic of the subcommittee's discussion. It is becoming more and more difficult to get part time/seasonal help. The subcommittee added wages with corresponding costs of payroll to the Selectmen's recommended budget. Other items discussed at length was that the Town is running out of space for burial and cremations. Discussions ensued. Timothy Sullivan made a motion to approve the Cemeteries budget for \$52,186 as recommended by the subcommittee; seconded by Peter Karagianis. Motion fails; (5-3). Sean Murphy made a motion to approve the Cemeteries budget for \$49,955 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Dale Chan Eddy and passed: (5-3)

Patriotic purposes: Timothy Sullivan presented the subcommittee report for the Patriotic Purposes/Other Culture and explained that there is \$125 in that budget for the Memorial Day Parade. The candlelight stroll was budgeted at zero as the Candlelight Stroll organizers decided to take a few years off from this event. Discussion ensued. Timothy Sullivan made a motion to approve the Patriotic Purposes/Other Cultures budget for \$125 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Sue Greene and passed with all in favor; (8-0).

DPW – Buildings and Grounds: Sean Murphy presented the subcommittee report for the Buildings & Grounds budget and items that were discussed. Sean reviewed the changes in particular line items in the budget over the 2017 figures and explained in detail. Discussion ensued. Sean Murphy made a motion to approve the Buildings & Grounds budget for \$338,338 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Les Suranyi and passed with all in favor; (8-0).

DPW-Administration: Sean Murphy presented the subcommittee report for the Administration budget. There is decrease in the budget due to turnover and elimination of a position. Discussion ensued. Sean Murphy made a motion to approve the DPW Administration budget for \$188,642 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Peter Karagianis and passed with all in favor; (8-0).

DPW – Highway Budget: Sean Murphy presented the subcommittee report for the Highway budget and the increase from 2017 in full time wages due to the fact that the Board of Selectmen voted to add a new laborer versus hiring an Operations Manager. Discussion ensued. Sean Murphy made a motion to approve the Highway budget for \$2,313,330 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Harry Bean and passed with all in favor; (8-0).

DPW – Bridges and Street Lights: Sean Murphy presented the subcommittee report for Street lighting for \$29,000, which was a decrease of \$500 and bridges, which is Zero. Discussion ensued. Sean Murphy made a motion to approve the Bridges/Street Lighting budget for \$29,000 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Peter Karagianis and passed with all in favor; (8-0).

DPW – Vehicle Maintenance: Sean Murphy presented the subcommittee report for Vehicle Maintenance and items/projects that were discussed. There are six one-time expenditures in this budget, which is most of the \$37,664 increase over the FY2017 budget. Discussion ensued. Peter Karagianis made a motion to approve the Vehicle Maintenance budget for \$548,367 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Les Suranyi and passed with all in favor; (8-0).

DPW – Sewer Budget: Sean Murphy presented the subcommittee report for Sewer and items that were discussed. Sean Murphy made a motion to approve the Sewer budget for \$751,139 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Peter Karagianis and passed with all in favor; (8-0).

DPW – Solid Waste: Sean Murphy presented the subcommittee report for Solid Waste. Lengthy discussions ensued regarding the new recycle center; some members felt that this change will not save residents money but, in their opinion, would actually cost taxpayers. Some also felt that this was not explained well enough last year and there were details they were not aware of. After some debate, Sean reported that the subcommittee voted to bring this to the full committee without a recommendation. Discussions ensued. Town Administrator Scott Dunn gave budget committee members a packet that was handed out last year, which included the MOU with the City of Laconia for the Laconia Transfer Station, the report of the Solid Waste Committee, the Resolution establishing the Solid Waste Committee, a financial analysis and the proposed site plan. Town Administrator Dunn answered the budget committee's questions. Discussion ensued. Peter Karagianis made a motion to table this budget vote until the 11/30/2017 meeting; seconded by Harry Bean and passed with all in favor; (8-0).

Next meeting

The next Budget Committee meeting will be on Thursday, November 30, 2017 at 6:30 pm.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Angela A. Bovill
Executive Assistant