

TOWN OF GILFORD  
BUDGET COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES  
December 14, 2017  
6:30 PM

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

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

Approval of Minutes:

Chair Norman Silber asked if there were any errors, omissions or corrections to the 12/07/17 meeting minutes. Sean Murphy said under "other items" GMS needed to be changed to GES; Dale Channing Eddy made a motion to approve the corrected minutes; seconded by David Horvath and passed with all in favor; (11-0)

Chairman Silber gave members an updated schedule of meetings.

Subcommittee reports:

Gilford Elementary School: David Horvath presented the subcommittee report for the Gilford Elementary School in detail including salary projections, leases, new equipment, student activities, after school activities, course reimbursement to name a few. Principal Danielle Bolduc discussed these items as well as various others in detail and answered the committee's questions. There was discussion on the Guidance Department and why that salary is so high. David Horvath asked for a copy of the contract and Superintendent Beitler said that was sent in an email to the Budget Committee. There was discussion on the Principal and Vice Principal salaries and the bond, which Mr. Isabelle said that the first two phases are complete and the third phase is security in entrances. Norman Silber asked about contracts and teachers, aides and nurses and indicated that he would recommend that non-contractual employees (support staff) receive the same increase as the Town of 2.5% versus the School Boards proposed 3%. Skip Murphy asked questions regarding the building/teacher ratios. Principal Bolduc read the School Board Policy IIB-IV relative to this and Superintendent Beitler also explained that the State sets minimum standards; the School Board compares with similar sized districts and sets their policy. David Horvath said the subcommittee did not make a recommendation on the GES budget, as they wanted to discuss with the full Budget Committee. Chair Norman Silber asked for any public comment on the Gilford Elementary School budget. There was none. Skip Murphy made a motion to defer the vote on the GES budget so they could receive the information needed from the SAU Administration and make a clean vote later; seconded by Norman Silber and passed (8-3). (McDonough, Sullivan and Sean Murphy opposed).

School Technology Budget: Skip Murphy presented the subcommittee report for the School District Technology stating the committee talked in detail regarding NOTES lines (software, hardware, service etc.), and the technology change over from PC's to Chrome Books. Skip Murphy reported that the subcommittee members were mostly satisfied with the answers that Technology Director, Ms. Brenda McGee gave explaining infrastructures, monitoring processes, outsourcing to name a few. Skip Murphy also stated that like previous budgets, they would like to have more of the bundles line items ("NOTES") broken out for all items listed as "NOTES". The subcommittee unanimously voted no on the technology budget until they receive the broke out lines items. Superintendent Beitler stated that he sent this info in an email; Skip had not reviewed it yet. Skip Murphy also indicated that this is not a budget issue but rather an accounting issue and that they need to have more information, therefore postponing the vote on this budget. Discussion ensued. Skip Murphy made a motion to defer the vote on the School District Technology budget; seconded by Norman Silber for discussion. There was discussion regarding RSA 32 and interpreting Budget Law. Skip Murphy suggested having a working session and defining the governing body. Chris McDonough said the subcommittee wanted to postpone the vote on this budget because they wanted items broken out, but the Town only had five line items in their technology budget, and that passed. Discussion ensued. Norman Silber said he had a lengthy discussion with a representative from DRA today. In short, the Budget Committee can break out line items as much as possible from the format that is given to them by the School or Town. Nevertheless, if the budget committee then zero's out these separate line items line by line, it would be a useless process. This is because each account listed on the MS forms (MS-27) stand-alone. The MS forms are the only forms that DRA cares about. If it is aggregated with other items, it does not make a bit of difference. The DRA only cares about the accounts listed on their forms and that each department within each Town/School/County budget is submitted. Each department would be held in their respective budget to that bottom line amount period. Mr. Silber said that separating all these line items will not get the budget committee anywhere and is a waste of time. Chair Silber then called the vote. Motion passes; (9-2). (Sean Murphy and Chris McDonough opposed)

School District Special Education budget: Timothy Sullivan presented the subcommittee report for the School District Special Education in detail highlighting salary increases, increases in GES Special Ed Tutors/Aides/Nurses, salaries for the summer, contracted services to name a few. Special Education Director, Esther Kennedy, explained many of these items including a change in the number of employees. Chair Norman Silber asked Ms. Kennedy about the handicapped items on pg. 3 of the budget and Ms. Kennedy confirmed that those services are for those out of district. Ms. Kennedy will also provide the Budget Committee the number of kids that are currently in Special Education that justify the \$116,000 in line item 53300-37-00000 as requested. Peter Karagianis asked how long the process to take care of children is. Ms. Kennedy said until the child graduates or their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. Ms. Kennedy also discussed that Federal funding has gone down and that the School had to contract another Nurse to meet their needs. Chairman Silber would like the hourly rate and a copy of that contract. Discussion ensued. Tim Sullivan said the subcommittee did not make a recommendation on the Special Education budget, as they wanted to discuss with the full Budget Committee. Dave Horvath made a

motion to defer the vote on the School District Special Education budget; seconded by Skip Murphy and passed; (7-4). (Sullivan, Sean Murphy, Karagianis and McDonough opposed).

School District Revenues: Assistant Superintendent of Business, Scott Isabelle, presented the report on Revenues and Credit for the Gilford School District for 2017-2018. There is an estimated \$.06 increase on the estimated tax rate. Mr. Isabelle reviewed in detail the fund balance, investments, Medicaid reimbursements, revenues from Federal, State and other sources to name a few. David Horvath brought up a discussion regarding football, as did Peter Karagianis regarding hockey. Discussions ensued around costs, Memo of Understanding (MOU) with Belmont for football, fees for hockey participants and the schools responsibilities for sports. Lengthy discussions ensued regarding a policy for the costs of sports. Chairman Silber suggested putting a policy into place and the School Board agrees with that thinking with a phase in schedule. Mr. Silber asked if there was any public comment on the revenues. There was none.

Next meeting

The next Budget Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, December 19, 2017 at 6:30 pm.

Other business:

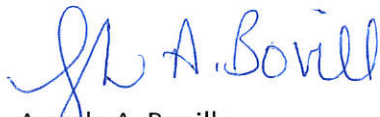
David Horvath asked about the \$220,000 for parking lot lighting in the School District's electrical budget. The High School and Middle School combined are \$228,000. Mr. Horvath was interested in knowing how much power savings is gained by going to low voltage and what the return/payback period is. This will be discussed at a future meeting. Mr. Tim Bartlett answered the committee's questions regarding replacement poles, fixtures, exterior lighting and wall packs. Discussion ensued.

Superintendent Kirk Beitler asked if the Distric Wide Budget would be discussed this evening. Chairman Silber said that it would be moved to the 01/04/2018 meeting.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Angela A. Bovill  
Executive Assistant