TOWN OF GILFORD
BUDGET COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
December 28, 2017
6:30 PM

Members present: Timothy Sullivan, David Horvath, Harry Bean, S. Peter Karagianis, Dale
Channing Eddy, Norman Silber, David "Skip" Murphy, Karen Thurston (for
Chris McDonough), Dr. Leslie Suranyi Jr. (arrived at 7:22 pm) and Susan
Greene.

Members absent: Sean Murphy and Chris McDonough who was represented by Karen
Thurston.

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 12/14/17
meeting minutes. Dale Channing Eddy made a motion to approve the 12/14/17 minutes as
written seconded by David Horvath and passed; (8-0-1) (Karen Thurston abstained). Chair
Norman Silber asked if there were any errors, omissions or corrections to the 12/19/17 meeting
minutes. Skip Murphy made a motion to approve the 12/19/2017 minutes as written;
seconded by Timothy Sullivan and passed (3-0-6) (Bean, Karagianis, Eddy, Silber, Suranyi and
Thurston abstained as they were not present).

Subcommittee reports:
Gilford Fire/Rescue: Norman Silber presented the subcommittee report for the Fire/Rescue
Department in detail including the new fire engine lease/purchase and the lease/purchase of a
new 27-foot fireboat (fully equipped) to name a few. Mr. Silber also explained that the wage
and benefits lines have increased by the hiring of two additional firefighters in June of 2017.
Susan Greene made a motion to approve the Fire/Rescue budget for $1,993,541 as
recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Norman Silber for discussion. Skip
Murphy asked about the wages increase and Fire Chief Stephen Carrier explained the two new
fire fighters, how they cover shifts at the Fire Department, how many on duties, etc. Peter
Karagianis asked how much call volume is related to Meadowbrook. Chief Carrier explained
Meadowbrook, ambulance calls are at a cost, but Meadowbrook pays for EMS details. There
were 20-ambulance calls last year for Meadowbrook. David Horvath asked about the payments
for the new fireboat. Chief Carrier explained this would be put out to bid; discussion ensued.
Skip Murphy asked about calls to Gunstock. Chief Carrier said they has 100 incidents last year,
mostly transports. Timothy Sullivan discussed his displeasure with the large increase in pension

benefits for the New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS). Lengthy discussion ensued on this item and Chair Silber stated those changes need to occur on Concord (legislative). Chair Silber called the vote. Motion passes; (8-0-1). David Horvath abstained.

Forestry: Norman Silber presented the subcommittee report for Forestry and recommended approval. Harry Bean made a motion to approve the Forestry budget for $2,693 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Norman Silber and passed with all in favor; (9-0).

Emergency Management: Norman Silber presented the subcommittee report for Emergency Management and Fire Chief Stephen Carrier answered committee member's questions. Skip Murphy made a motion to approve the Emergency Management budget for $3,170 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Norman Silber and passed with all in favor; (9-0).

Fire Protection: Fire Chief Stephen Carrier explained the two categories of this budget, Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid (LRMA) and Hydrants (Laconia) in detail. Peter Karagianis asked about service charges, etc to use the system and for training. (There are no service charges) David Horvath asked about progress on the rebuild of the training center (due to a fire) and the Alvah Wilson Pond project. The committee asked Chief Carrier about the formula used determine the cost for Gilford to belong got the LRMFA. Discussion ensued. David Horvath made a motion to approve the Fire Protection budget for $ 129,688 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Norman Silber and passed with all in favor; (9-0)

Department of Planning and Land Use: Norman Silber presented the subcommittee report for the Department of Planning and Land Use and said that the budget includes a new hire for part time employee estimated at $15 per hour for 10 hours per week. The subcommittee, once again, expressed concern about the justification for continued membership in the Lakes Region Planning Commission (LRPC) and the dues associated with the membership. The subcommittee recommended approval of the total budget of $318,377, which is the Selectmen's recommended budget minus the $8,963 for the LRPC. Skip Murphy made a motion to approve the Department of Planning and Land Use budget for $318,377; seconded by Norman Silber for discussion. Norman Silber feels that the $8,963 for the membership to the LRPC is just another layer of government that they have no control over (he also expressed the same for the New Hampshire municipal Association (NHMA). Planning and Land Use Director John Ayer explained that 30 New Hampshire Towns are members of the LRPC and explained various programs that the LRPC offers/assists with in the various Towns. Discussion ensued around the Smart Growth program and the Household Hazardous Waste collection that is budgeted in the Department of Public Works budget. Mr. Ayer answered the committee's questions. Lengthy discussion ensued. Norman Silber stated that he would prepare a Petition Warrant Article to the effect that "The Town does not spend money to belong to the LRPC or the NHMA" and will bring the next meeting if anyone wishes to sign. Discussion ensued regarding the New Hampshire

Municipal Association. Chairman Silber called the vote. Motion passes; (7-2). Karen Thurston and Peter Karagianis opposed.

CIP Plan: These are presented as warrant articles and the Budget Committee votes on these at that time. No vote necessary at this time.

Solid Waste Budget: Norman Silber said that this item was tabled in hopes that Kevin Leandro would attend; he was not present. Town Administrator Scott Dunn explained where the process for the new Recycle Center was at (95% design complete) and also clarified that the 2018 proposed budget number is as if the new transfer station doesn't exist. He explained in detail to members that once the Recycle Center is built, Gilford will stop bringing trash to Laconia and commercial waste will not be accepted in Gilford. The Town will not charge its residents for Solid Waste. Some of the budget committee members expressed that they feel the information provided on the Recycle center was not clear. Town Administrator Scott Dunn said in his mind it was very clear and there were numerous meetings surrounding this project, etc. Lengthy discussion ensued. Karen Thurston made a motion to approve the Solid Waster budget for $647,592 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen; seconded by Norman Silber and passed; (7-3). Karagianis, Skip Murphy and Horvath opposed.

Public Comment: The Chair asked for public comment; there was none.

Other business: Skip Murphy asked Finance Director Glen Waring about the Town audit, specifically the affect, if any, of the retirement pension. Mr. Waring explained the Board of Selectmen evaluated the cost to have actuarial done and decided it was not a prudent expense and the Board voted not to adhere to GASB 45; Mr. Waring indicated that this choice has not affected the Town negatively. Chair Silber discussed the difference between a clean or qualified opinion (audit report) and it is a very complex issue. Discussion reverted to the New Hampshire Retirement System and its projected deficit. Town Administrator Scott Dunn said that the State has a 30-year plan to reduce the deficit and they are 6 years into it. Skip Murphy asked other questions regarding depreciation and the drug forfeiture fund. Mr. Waring and Mr. Dunn answered the committee's questions.

Next meeting
The next Budget Committee meeting will be on Thursday, January 4, 2018 at 6:30 pm.

Adjourn
The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Bovill

Angela A. Bovill
Executive Assistant