

TOWN OF GILFORD
BUDGET COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
December 3, 2015
6:30 PM

Members present: David Horvath (Acting Chair), Kevin Roy, Dr. Leslie Suranyi Jr., Harry Bean, Karen Thurston, Richard Grenier, Jeffrey Beane, Susan Greene and Norman Silber.

Members absent: Chairman Kevin Leandro and Robert Henderson.

Acting Chairman David Horvath called the Budget Committee meeting to order at 6:30 PM and led the assembly with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Budget Committee will review the School Budget including Federal Projects, Food Service and District Wide/Maintenance along with the Sub Committees recommendations.

Old Business – Merits

Acting Chairman David Horvath announced that the Budget Committee will move the full (Town) budget merit discussion to the December 10, 2015 meeting.

Introductions:

Acting Chairman David Horvath opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and proceeded with introductions. He then turned to Superintendent Kent Hemingway for his presentation/summary.

Superintendent Kent Hemingway – Budget presentation:

Superintendent Hemingway gave the members a copy of his power point presentation and lead with the 2016-2017 School Board Proposed Budget Summary. Superintendent Hemingway wanted to personally thank everyone for making Imagination Station 2.0 possible. He reviewed Enrollment history and stated that for the past 10 years student enrollment numbers have declined. He was happy to report that this year is the first year they have had an increase in enrollment and project an increase for next year as well. Superintendent Hemingway reported in detail the summary of major increases, reductions, enrollment and staffing trends, Proposed Maintenance Projects and Equipment along with lengthy discussion on the Elementary School Mechanical, Electrical Plumbing (MEP) Implementation at the Bond for this project. David Horvath asked if they could have the breakdown in square footage for the carpet for the computer labs at the next meeting. Superintendent Hemingway concluded his presentation and budget committee members asked various questions on the MEP Implementation, the Bond, a Clerk of the Works, energy efficiencies and lighting to name a few. David Horvath read a letter into record from Chairman Kevin Leandro to the Budget Committee due to the fact he was unable to attend.

School District Buildings and Grounds Budget:

Sue Greene reported the subcommittee met with members of the School on Monday and discussed their findings. The increase in the Buildings and Grounds budget was \$223,398 (2.5% over 2015) and a total decrease of \$114,068. The School Boards recommended budget was \$2,215,713. The subcommittee is proposing a budget figure totaling \$2,101,645. Sue Greene reviewed line by line the changes that the subcommittee made. Norman Silber made a motion to approve the Buildings and Grounds Sub Committees proposed budget of \$2,101,645; seconded by Jeffrey Beane for discussion. Discussions ensued on the budgeted cost for heating fuel. The committee questioned how much was used last year and the answer was approx. 79,000 gallons; the committee wanted to know why they are asking for 85,000 gallons this year. David Horvath made a motion to make the budget number for heating fuel \$2.50; seconded by Susan Greene. Norman Silber withdrew his motion of \$2,101,645 to adjust the number down based on the new heating fuel price of \$2.50) making the new Buildings and Grounds budget total \$2,080,395. David Horvath moved the question and the motion passes 5-4 (opposed).

School District Food Service Budget:

Susan Greene reported that there were no changes made to this budget and the subcommittee concurs with the School Board's recommendation of \$650,086. Norman Silber made a motion to approve \$650,086 as recommended by the School Board; seconded by Jeffrey Beane and passed with all in favor; (9-0).

School Board Federal Fund Budget:

Susan Greene reported that the subcommittee concurred with the School Boards recommended budget of \$472,299. Norman Silber made a motion to approve \$472,299 as recommended by the School Board; seconded by Jeffrey Beane and passed with all in favor; (9-0).

School District Wide Budget:

Susan Greene reviewed the District Wide proposed budget of \$9,641,462 with an increase of \$156,345. Ms. Greene reviewed the advertising, professional development lines, the audit, the Superintendent's Salary, heating oil and dental insurance increase to start. Jeffrey Beane asked for information on deductible amounts for dental insurance at the next meeting. Susan Greene discussed the longevity bonuses. David Horvath said that this should not be lumped into the same salary line item; this was discussed in great detail last year. Mr. Horvath recalled it was agreed last year that it needs its own separate line item. Superintendent Hemingway said after considerable discussions last year regarding the longevity portion of administrative compensation, the School Board went back to review the process and restructure the issue under their purview. David Horvath stated that the Budget Committee does not have the right to make policy changes, but when there is money associated with a policy change, they have the right to examine that cost. Mr. Hemingway stated that Administrative Longevity is not connected to policy in any way. David Horvath recalled that the Budget Committee did agree last year to have that line item and has his notes, etc. on the issue. Superintendent Hemingway said that they have no recollection at all about a separate line item, didn't see that in the minutes, etc. and felt that they would have to go back to the recordings for accuracy. David

Horvath said he would not like to vote on this particular budget tonight, so that he can go back on his notes and Superintendent Hemmingway said he would like to review the recordings. Norman Silber pointed out to the budget Committee that there are salary increases of 3% throughout the School District budget. The budget committee has been examining the Towns merit increases at 2.5% because they feel it is too high. Therefore, the budget committee needs to examine the Schools merit increases to be consistent between the Town and School Departments. Discussion ensued. Norman Silber made a motion to table the vote on the District Wide Budget until the 12/10/15 meeting when more data and research is complete; seconded by David Horvath and motion passes 8 -1 (Karen Thurston opposed).

Approval of Minutes:

Norman Silber made a motion to approve the 11/19/15 minutes as presented; seconded by Susan Greene and passed with all in favor; (9-0).

Next Budget Committee Meeting:

The next Budget Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, December 10, 2015 at 6:30 PM.

Adjournment:

Motion made by Norman Silber to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM; seconded by Jeffrey Beane and passed with all in favor; (9-0).

Respectfully submitted,



Angela A. Bovill
Executive Assistant