

**TOWN OF GILFORD BUDGET COMMITTEE**  
**REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEE**  
**ON THE**  
**GILFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT**

The Budget Committee's subcommittee covering the Gilford Police Department met at the Gilford Police Department on December 12, 2017, commencing at 9 AM.

Present from the Police Department were Chief Anthony Bean Burpee, Deputy Chief Kristian J. Kelley, and Lt. James G. Leach.

Present from the Budget Committee were members Norman Silber, Sue Greene, Tim Sullivan & Harry Bean.

The number of calls for service (19,241 in 2015, expected to total **20,500 by year-end**), breakdown of calls for service by type, and number of arrests were all discussed at length. Arrests have increased dramatically from 446 in 2014 to 936 this year at October 11- as of the date of our meeting, the 2017 arrest total was 992 (**projected to be 1,050 by year-end**). Approximately 40 – 50% of the arrests are for felonies. The illegal drug epidemic has likely accounted for a large portion of the increase.

New software (“When To Work”) has been obtained to facilitate proper scheduling of officers assigned to details as well as in-house employees. The Exacom system is a software product that records & stores all communication center radio & telephone traffic- the \$11,800 is the first-year payment (a bump from prior years because of a new contract and new equipment & software requirements)- after this initial payment, the next 4 years' payments will drop to \$2,360 each. The initial payment is about \$4,000 less than paid for the original system 5 years ago.

The proposed budget includes purchase of two Stop Sticks- at present, none of our cruisers have stop sticks which are tire deflation devices utilized to end pursuits quickly & safely [see them work on Live PD].

The proposed budget also includes two new FireIce cruiser fire suppression canisters that apparently can be rotated among cruisers as desired.

The proposed budget contemplates trading in a Ford Fusion and a Ford Crown Victoria and the purchase and equipping of two new Sport Utility Vehicles, which is the current type of vehicle being used for patrols. **It should be expected that vehicle replacements should be a regular annual necessity.** Of course, this costs money.

The radio communication system is operating utilizing **mostly obsolete equipment** that can no longer be serviced by Motorola. The proposed budget includes a new maintenance service agreement with Ossipee Mountain Electronics, and future expenditures for new equipment can be reasonably anticipated as older equipment becomes unusable. Of course, this costs money.

**The present staffing level is significantly below national standards.** The FBI national standard is recommended to be 3.1 officers per 1,000 population. Gilford has just less than 1.5 officers per 1,000 population. The ratio drops even more during the summer with the influx of seasonal visitors. This is discussed mainly to alert everyone to the probable need to increase staffing (patrol officers) in the near future. Of course, this costs money.

The wage and benefits lines have increased by the proposed hiring of two additional officers, calculated at 7 months for each, with expected hiring in May after the annual Town Meeting.

Although the Gilford PD has participated in an annual active shooter training and officers are required to re-qualify with their firearms once per year, the better practice would be to have firearms re-qualifications at least 2 or 3 times per year. Of course, this costs money.

The PD has only 3 AED (automatic electronic defibrillator) units and we should probably have one in each cruiser- the PD is trying to raise money for the additional AED's through private fundraising. This is very important to complete because of the well-known graying of our town's population. Of course, this costs money.

Because of problems with carbon monoxide poisoning in police cruisers experienced by some other NH departments this year, the Gilford PD has installed CO detectors in its cruisers.

Two members of the Gilford PD participate as members of the Belknap County Special Operations Unit, a/k/a SWAT, which is on-call based. We were advised that the Belknap County SWAT has a better response time to local issues than calls to the State Police SWAT, which is also an on-call unit that draws from several areas of the state. And it was stated that the frequent training for the members of the Belknap County SWAT team is excellent. Please note that one of the Gilford Selectmen is a member of the Belknap County SWAT team.

The Gilford PD has written agreements with the police departments of surrounding towns regarding mutual aid, obviating any need for so-called "regionalization," which already appears to exist by voluntary agreements between police and fire departments.

Acquisition of a new K-9 is being done so far based on private fundraising through the Gilford Police Relief Association. The ask is for at least \$75 per person to purchase an engraved brick in the PD's Commemorative Park in front of the flagpole at the main entrance, as well as any other donations. I do not know whether giving a donation provides for a face licking or petting opportunity. I have already sent in my own personal check and encourage others in the Town to do so as well.

Mobile data terminals in the cruisers have been rejected because of their tendency to distract officers from their on-scene work.

A discussion was held regarding the disposition of the mandatory fines assessed against individuals for unlawful possession of alcohol. The subcommittee was advised that **\$50,400** of such fines were collected in 2016 and a total of **\$63,000 is expected for the full year 2017**. All of these funds go directly to the Town of Gilford's General Fund, rather than to the Police Dept.,

and have the effect of reducing the amount needed to be raised from taxes to support all Town functions

Each line item showing a change, plus or minus, was discussed at length, and the Subcommittee agreed with the PD brass that \$57,587 should be restored to the line item for Overtime. Thereupon, upon motion duly made, seconded and passed by a unanimous vote, a proposed budget of \$2,836,763 for the Police Department was recommended for approval by the full Budget Committee.

Thereupon, the subcommittee meeting was adjourned at approximately 11 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ *Norman J. Silber*

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