

**TOWN OF GILMANTON
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
SUPER SATURDAY-SCHOOL
JANUARY 16, 2016**

APPROVED

Members Present: Brian Forst -Chairman, Stan Bean- Vice Chairman, Anne Kirby-Member, Michael Jean- Selectman's Rep, & Robert Carpenter-School Board Rep, and Richard Gelatt-Member

Members Absent: Steve Bedard-Member, Mark Sawyer-Member, Richard Bakos-Sawyer Lake Rep

Also Present: Heather Carpenter-Recording Secretary, John Fauci-Superintendent, Carol Locke- Principal, Nancy Fournier, Annemarie Gilligan, Michael Hatch-Chairman of School Board, Malcolm MacLeod-Vice Chairman of School Board, Adam Mini-School Board Member

Meeting Opened at 8:35 A.M.

Welcome by Chairman Brian Forst. He explains that he will read the warrant articles that will be the motion, there will be a second and then it will be up for discussion and the vote.

WARRANTS-

#1- Election of Officers- No monetary value, no vote from Budget Committee.

#2- District Officers' Salaries

MOTION: by Brian Forst

Seconded: by Stan Bean

VOTE: Board votes UNANAMOUSLY to recommend yes on Article #2.

#3- Gilmanton School Leach Field Pump Station Capital Reserve Fund

MOTION: by Brian Forst

Seconded: by Stan Bean

VOTE: Board votes UNANAMOUSLY to recommend yes on Article #3 in the amount of \$11,339.

#4- Roof Replacement Expendable Trust Fund

MOTION: by Brian Forst

Seconded: by Stan Bean

VOTE: Board votes UNANAMOUSLY to recommend yes on Article #4 in the amount of \$21,319.

#5- Water Storage Tanks Capital Reserve

MOTION: by Brian Forst

Seconded: by Stan Bean

Discussion:

Brian Forst Q: What was the proposed target on this and the proposed date in CIP?

School Board members-A: Proposed date is 2022 and projected cost is \$26,000
Discussion on the specifics size of the tanks, projected date, cost and the idea/goal behind the CIP is to save 70% of the cost.

VOTE: Board votes UNANAMOUSLY to recommend yes on Article #5 in the amount of \$2,091.

#6- Paving Capital Reserve

MOTION: by Brian Forst

Seconded: by Stan Bean

Discussion:

Scope of work includes all of the paving, not just pieces, water mitigation, drainage, and frost heaves.

VOTE: Board votes UNANAMOUSLY to recommend yes on Article #6 in the amount of \$20,000.

#7- Boiler Replacement Expendable Trust

MOTION: by Brian Forst

Seconded: by Stan Bean

Discussion:

On the interest of Biomass and the system that Merrimack Valley uses, how it could be done on a smaller scale, grants available and the savings, eventually that it could produce. The feasibility of that kind of system now is low due to the buyback vs the low cost of fuel. Definitely a conversation for the future.

VOTE: Board votes UNANAMOUSLY to recommend yes on Article #7 in the amount of \$2,908.

#8- Tractor Replacement Expendable Trust**MOTION:** by Brian Forst**Seconded:** by Stan Bean**Discussion:**

The lifespan of the replacement tractor, the importance of putting money away in the CIP and why long term projection is necessary in terms of saving 70% of the targeted amount for these large amounts and not putting the burden of the whole amount all at once on the town. The idea behind capital improvement is to try and take capital expense and smooth them out over a period of time so the tax rate on those capital expenses are somewhat level.

VOTE: Board votes UNANAMOUSLY to recommend yes on Article #8 in the amount of \$2,300.**#9- Asbestos Tile Replacement Expendable Trust****MOTION:** by Brian Forst**Seconded:** by Stan Bean**Discussion:**

The original corridor of the building has been done, two of the rooms off that corridor have not been done. The office, nurses office, the entire 3-5 wing is suspect, the cafeteria floor tile is asbestos. The hope is to do it in pieces due to the cost and sectioning off those pieces of the building. It is important to do a large section at a time over the summer months. The end result will be to get rid of all the asbestos in the building.

VOTE: Board votes UNANAMOUSLY to recommend yes on Article #9 in the amount of \$15,000.**#10- School Replacement Fuel Storage Tanks****MOTION:** by Brian Forst**Seconded:** by Stan Bean**Discussion:**

Projected cost \$80,000, projected time frame forty years. One tank has been recently replaced at a cost of approximately \$90,000. The other tank had been done five to six years ago.

VOTE: Board votes UNANAMOUSLY to recommend yes on Article #10 in the amount of \$3,000.

#11- Operating Budget**MOTION:** by Brian Forst**Seconded:** by Stan Bean**Discussion:**

This budget is gone over line by line, the motions and discussions are reflective of that.

MOTION: by Stan Bean to move \$5,340,468 for the total of Regular Education.**Seconded:** by Robert Carpenter**Discussion:**

The position for the computer teacher is an area of critical shortage. The discussion around the salary line for this position to reflect the difference between the incoming teacher vs that of the current teacher who is retiring and she was paid more due to longevity and what surrounding towns pay for a comparable position. The position is a specialty item in reference to the fact that you need a person that has teaching credentials on top of having the computer/technical piece as well.

MOTION: by Brian Forst move to amend Regular education to the amount of \$5,337,968 for discussion.**Seconded:** by Stan Bean**Discussion:** It is a twenty-five hundred dollar reduction. Brian states that if we can show that we did something with this, then it shows the public that we are working with it and we can hope to avoid the Default budget.**VOTE: Board votes UNANAMOUSLY to recommend an amendment for Regular Education to the amount of \$5,333,968.****Special Education-****MOTION:** by Stan Bean to move \$780,814 for the total of Special Education.**Seconded:** by Michael Jean**Discussion:**

Direct Support Specialist is an outside contractor for high need individuals. It is much more cost effect having these needs met in-house vs out of district. Keeping these programs has caused more issue with space but there is a tradeoff due to the fact that the cost for an out of district day program is close to a \$100,000 per student. Overall in-house is more productive for the student as well and more cost effect as a whole. The amount of children involved with the program include ages 3yrs- 21yrs of age, there are 34 in K-8, 13 in high school, 1 out of district, 2 in charter school, and 3 in preschool for a total of 54 students. Total cost per

student for the Special Education program when broken down on average is \$14,459.

The other thing to remember is that this program is federally required and not federally funded.

VOTE: Board votes UNANAMOUSLY to recommend an amendment for Special Education to the amount of \$780,814.

Co-Curricular-

MOTION: by Stan Bean to move \$61,377 for the total of Co-Curricular.

Seconded: by Robert Carpenter

Discussion:

Increase in the fund for student activities vs fund raising. The programs that fall under this category are Sports, Music, Drama, & Spanish.

Sports has always been funded for uniforms and events. Music has needed to fund raise for the Great East Festival which is \$1,800, Drama has had fund raising for costume needs and equipment, and Spanish club has had fund raising for Destination Imagination. The thought is to look at the bigger picture of what extracurricular looks like, not everyone participates in sports. To help support other extracurricular activities for a more inclusive approach.

MOTION: by Stan Bean move to amend Co-Curricular by the amount of \$3,970 for discussion.

Seconded: by Michael Jean

Discussion:

The other needs of the extracurricular are important and valid the Budget Committee hears the need to help the other groups but given that sports are funded, to help level the playing field better the thought would be to give some of the cost for the other clubs needs and ask the sports to do some fundraising or ask area business to donate. The School Board would need to approve donations like that due to the fact that it is free advertising for those business.

Stan Bean withdraws his motion to amend. New amendment made by Anne Kirby as follows.

MOTION: by Anne Kirby move to amend Co-Curricular by the amount of \$1,470 for discussion.

Seconded: by Stan Bean

Discussion:

VOTE: Board votes UNANAMOUSLY to recommend an amendment for Co-Curricular to the amount of \$59,907.

Attendance-

MOTION: by Stan Bean move \$1 for discussion.

Seconded: by Robert Carpenter

VOTE: Board votes UNANAMOUSLY to recommend the amount of \$1 for the Attendance budget.

Guidance-

MOTION: by Stan Bean to move \$111,570 for Guidance.

Seconded: by Michael Jean

Discussion:

Increase is mainly due to salaries. Discussion of how long the Guidance Department has been funded using two teachers and the difference of the budget because of it but how they are used to the fullest potential.

VOTE: Board votes UNANAMOUSLY to recommend the amount of \$111,570 for Guidance.

Health-

MOTION: by Stan Bean to move \$47,650 for Health.

Seconded: by Michael Jean

Discussion:

The importance of the nurse and the consistency that needs to be kept for the needs of medically fragile children, which there are four in the school. The needs of these children are great and require a tremendous amount of nursing so much so that unless a nurse is present they cannot attend school.

VOTE: Board votes UNANAMOUSLY to recommend the amount of \$47,650 for Health.

Psychological-

MOTION: by Stan Bean to move \$58,000 for Psychological.

Seconded: by Michael Jean

Discussion:

The anticipation of the IED grants to diminish a great deal. Grants across the board are being reduced, like Title 1, Title two and catastrophic aid.

VOTE: Board votes UNANAMOUSLY to recommend the amount of \$58,000 for Psychological.

Total Speech-

MOTION: by Stan Bean to move \$60,406 for Total Speech.

Seconded: by Michael Jean

Discussion:

This is another area we are losing money from a grant.

VOTE: Board votes UNANAMOUSLY to recommend the amount of \$60,406 for Total Speech.

Total Physical and Occupational Therapy-

MOTION: by Stan Bean to move \$122,252 for Physical and Occupational Therapy.

Seconded: by Michael Jean

Discussion:

The \$25,000 budgeted last year for physical therapy was based on student need, less was expended from that line due to a change in that need. This year's anticipated need is more which explains the request.

VOTE: Board votes UNANAMOUSLY to recommend the amount of \$122,252 for Physical and Occupational Therapy.

Technology-

MOTION: by Stan Bean to move \$180,494 for Technology.

Seconded: by Michael Jean

Discussion:

The biggest jump in this budget is due to the assistant position. The School Board felt that due to the fact the technology is continually being used as large part of education which includes testing and the requirements of the technology department are ever increasing leaving that area vulnerable without backup. The conversation of the use of United Stream vs the free use of YouTube and looking into within the next year what is going to be useful and what needs to be phased out.

MOTION: by Anne Kirby to amend to the amount of \$178,494 for Technology.

Seconded: by Michael Jean

Discussion:

Anne believes that within the year they could realize some deductions and rather than waiting give a slight reduction now.

VOTE: Board votes 1-Oppose, 4-For to recommend the amount of \$178,494 for Technology.

Instructional Development-

MOTION: by Stan Bean to move \$47,519 for Instructional Development.

Seconded: by Michael Jean

Discussion:

VOTE: Board votes UNANAMOUSLY to recommend the amount of \$47,519 for Technology.

Library-

MOTION: by Stan Bean to move \$67,068 for the Library.

Seconded: by Michael Jean

Discussion:

VOTE: Board votes UNANAMOUSLY to recommend the amount of \$67,068 for the Library.

School Board-

MOTION: by Stan Bean to move \$42,375 for School Board.

Seconded: by Michael Jean

Discussion:

The audit was higher this year and is anticipated to go up a bit due to the GASB (Governmental Accounting Standards Board) which includes auditing of the New Hampshire Retirement as well.

VOTE: Board votes UNANAMOUSLY to recommend the amount of \$42,375 for School Board.

Superintendent-

MOTION: by Stan Bean to move \$141,872 for the Superintendent Office.

Seconded: by Michael Jean

Discussion:

The topic of mileage, school board policy on raises, aside from the collective bargaining agreement. The school board felt comfortable with a 3% raise which will show up in the salary adjustment account line.

VOTE: Board votes UNANAMOUSLY to recommend the amount of \$141,872 for Superintendent.

Student Support Services-

MOTION: by Stan Bean to move \$69,920 for Student Support Services.

Seconded: by Michael Jean

Discussion:

The perception of how salaries are shown through gross budgeting, how the IDEA grant shows up, how it offsets salary amounts and the importance that voters understand the budget and the perception is clear so that they are educated.

VOTE: Board votes UNANAMOUSLY to recommend the amount of \$69,920 for Student Support Services.

Principal-

MOTION: by Stan Bean to move \$265,264 for Principal.

Seconded: by Michael Jean

Discussion:

On page 55 and page 56 have typographical errors the number that the committee should be moving is \$260,264.

VOTE: Board votes to UNANAMOUSLY OPPOSE the amount of \$265,264 for Principal.

MOTION: by Stan Bean move to amend to the amount of \$260,264 for Principal Office.

Seconded: by Michael Jean

Discussion:

The expended line of contracted service was at \$0 but the services have been used. Discussion on where the money came out of. These contracted services are for the copiers.

VOTE: Board votes UNANAMOUSLY to recommend the amount of \$260,264 for Principal Office.

Fiscal Services-

MOTION: by Stan Bean to move \$95,539 for Fiscal Services.

Seconded: by Michael Jean

VOTE: Board votes UNANAMOUSLY to recommend the amount of \$95,539 for Fiscal Services.

Operation of Plant-

MOTION: by Stan Bean to move \$393,731 for Operation Plant.

Seconded: by Michael Jean

Discussion:

Water testing and Sewage for septic pumping for the tanks. Bigger increase in this budget is due to a \$5,000 for electrical work, which is from work that needs to be done around the generator to make the building more efficient as an emergency center.

VOTE: Board votes UNANAMOUSLY to recommend the amount of \$393,731 for Operation Plant.

Transportation-

MOTION: by Stan Bean to move \$513,184 for Transportation.

Seconded: by Michael Jean

Discussion:

There is a concern that the buses aren't being used to their fullest capacity but we are still paying for full use. It is felt by the School Board that there is no significant way to reduce this budget. We are still required to provide the transportation and in the past there has been really no competition to the bus company that serves the area. The hope is in the next round of negotiations that there will be a competing bid, which will hopefully make First Student more conscience of their bids and more responsive to the districts concerns.

VOTE: Board votes UNANAMOUSLY to recommend the amount of \$513,184 for Transportation.

Support Services/Benefits-

MOTION: by Stan Bean to move \$1,482,218 for Support Services/Benefits.

Seconded: by Michael Jean

VOTE: Board votes UNANAMOUSLY to recommend the amount of \$1,482,218 for Support Services/Benefits.

Debt Service-

MOTION: by Stan Bean to move \$244,515 for Debt Service.

Seconded: by Michael Jean

Discussion: One of the bonds will be paid off within the next budget cycle but the modular is still being paid for. There is a need to start putting a plan together for the high school situation that will be happening by 2023. There are options,

building a high school just for our population isn't cost effective. Building and sharing cost with another district, and the other option would be renegotiating a contract with another school or with Gilford. The problem thus far with trying to talk with other district is the fact that they cannot project that far in advance, a more realistic time frame for them to consider is four years out to have a better idea of where their own communities will be. The Town needs to start having a serious conversation to decide what they would like to do. There is a large amount of planning that is required and the Town doesn't want to be in the position of not having enough time and having to make a quick decision like the last time. The suggestion of surveys with different options presented to the Town to get a better idea of what the public would like to do. Forming a committee to start getting a plan in place and setting up a Capital Improvement Plan to possibly place the bond money that will no longer be needed next year into one for a high school proposal, so in seven years there has been 1.4 million dollars put away towards this scenario and it doesn't affect the tax rate.

VOTE: Board votes UNANAMOUSLY to recommend the amount of \$244,515 for Debt Service.

Special Grants-

MOTION: by Stan Bean to move \$240,000 for Special Grants.

Seconded: by Michael Jean

VOTE: Board votes UNANAMOUSLY to recommend the amount of \$240,000 for Special Grants.

Food Service-

MOTION: by Stan Bean to move \$152,191 for Food Service.

Seconded: by Michael Jean

VOTE: Board votes UNANAMOUSLY to recommend the amount of \$152,191 for Food Service.

#11- Operating Budget

MOTION: by Brian Forst proposes Budget Committee's recommendation on the School Warrant to stand at \$10,507,458.

Seconded: by Stan Bean

VOTE: Board votes UNANAMOUSLY to recommend the amount of \$10,507,458 for proposed school budget.

John Fauci brings up the conversation on another Public Hearing to cover SB2 for the Petition Warrant Article, the policy for nepotism and the petition warrant article that effects the town and the school and whose ballot does it go on. The suggestion of the Budget Committee is to seek legal advice.

Anne Kirby-Q: Before we adjourn does the Budget Committee have any other meetings before Deliberative Session?

Brian Forst-A: We have to come back here Tuesday night for a Public Hearing on just the Bridge Warrant Article. I want to explain something to you people, I argued this very hard. We had a Public Hearing, I went to the Board of Selectmen on Monday night and said we don't agree with what's going on, we want to see changes to your presentation. They made the changes, when I shake my hands over there I'm shaking them at our representative, they made the changes. We had a Public Hearing where they did not have time enough to get the actual number from the engineering firm to give to us. So I warned, Heather has it in her minutes, a broad spectrum if it is one bridge its \$50,000, if it's two bridges it could be \$150,000, could be.

Mike Hatch- There are three bridges in town.

Brian Forst- There are three bridges in town that need to be fixed and they need to be fixed fairly soon, so we need to get the engineering process started going. So, I warned this. An individual in this town decided to challenge that and I'm not quite sure how this continues to happen in this town.

Anne Kirby- These individuals have that much authority.

Brian Forst- So this individual challenges that I'm not doing this properly and the Selectmen decide that we need to fix this. I have a discussion with Legal because I don't feel I'm wrong.

Stan Bean- No you're not.

Brian Forst- Legal says there is a possibility that if somebody challenged that it could be a possibility. So, we get to get together on Tuesday night and do this all over. I'm a little tired of this process where it's my feeling that a particular individual keeps challenging whether or not your Chairman is his job correctly.

Anne Kirby- Ok. So the other conversation we never had was the whole revenue thing. We can't set revenues, I know that.

Brian Forst- We can make a recommendation. Part of Tuesday evening meeting is going to be Public Hearing on this thing which I anticipate will be ten minutes. Then we are going to talk about the revenue sheets that we were given right hear and that fact they are extremely underestimated again.

Anne Kirby- That's where I was going, ok.

Brian Forst- We are going to make our recommendation for this. Last year somehow, somebody made one and we didn't do it. So this year, we are going to make ours, and they going to hear it and they're going to see it. I don't feel these revenue estimates are even close, that's my personal opinion.

Anne Kirby- They're low.

Brian Forst- We are going to address that on Tuesday night and all of our minutes that we've been setting aside.

Michael Jean- Tuesday night, do you want the other board members up here so we can discuss and Paul?

Brian Forst- The revenues?

Michael Jean- I think they should be here.

Brian Forst- I guess, do we want the Selectman at this meeting? In all fairness Mike...

Michael Jean- cause I have a bunch a questions

Brian Forst- in all fairness to you guys, you had your shot now it's our turn.

Michael Jean- yah

Brian Forst- I'm going to take this revenue thing and we are going to make our recommendation, you will be here to hear it if you want to take it back to your board and say the Budget Committee didn't agree with us or didn't agree with these revenue estimates.

Michael Jean- I just got a lot of questions to Paul because I got these at the same time you did. I didn't want to have a conversation with Paul and Marie beforehand and then come here and that's why I didn't know if we had a joint meeting Tuesday night.

Stan Bean- Thank you folks (speaks to the school board)

Brian Forst- Thank you again.

John Fauci- Thank you.

Agenda for the next meeting-

Tuesday night - Bridge Warrant Article, Revenues for the Town, and Approval of Minutes.

Motion to Adjourn: by Brian Forst

Seconded: by Robert Carpenter

Board voted unanimously to adjourn.

Adjournment: 12:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Carpenter