

TOWN OF GILMANTON  
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING  
FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2012

Members Present: Brian Forst (chair), Mark Sawyer, Frank Gianni, Richard Bakos, Raymond Daigle, Ralph Lavin (selectmen's rep.), Mike Hatch (alternate for Ella Jo Regan)

Members Not Present: Ella Jo Regan, Israel Willard, Steve Latici, Steve Bedard

Also Present: Annette Andreozzi (clerk)

Meeting opened at 7:01 PM

**Public Hearing on the possible approval of the cost item included in the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Gilmanton School Board and the Gilmanton Education Association .**

Mr. Forst stated that the meeting was a public hearing.

Mr. Hatch reiterated the points of the contract he had mentioned on July 18, 2012. He read some of the specific language from the contract that had been agreed upon, and stated that it was a two year agreement. There will be no increases of any kind in the first year; year two will only have a step increase. Presently, eleven teachers will be eligible for longevity pay in the second year of the contract.

Mr. Forst said that Ms. Clairmont had given the committee a break down of costs. The 2012-13 column consisted of numbers already approved in the budget.

**Public input**

Question was asked about the differences from the contract turned down at March Meeting. Ms. Clairmont said that now in year one there are no increases, and in year two the teachers will be a year behind because they will not be credited with this present year.

One person said that they would like the Budget Committee to support the contract

because the increase was modest.

Mr. Bean said that there were a lot of variables between now and the second year of the contract. He asked what the tax impact would be. The School board did not know.

Ms. Gianni asked what would happen if the contract did not pass. Ms. Clairmont said the union and the school board would renegotiate and bring a contract to March meeting. Mr. Forst said the present teachers contract stays in place with the same rates until a new contract is accepted.

Ms. Williams stated that the teachers have met the voters ½ way in good faith, and the contract is not a lot of money.

Ms. Clairmont said the newer teachers are getting more of a step increase than teachers that have been in the district longer.

Mr. Forst asked if the contract contains the percentages that are paid for health insurance.

Ms. Kordas said it was decided not to discuss some pieces of the contract, because the Board did not have enough time to negotiate health care percentages. The plan is to do that in the next negotiation round, which is why it is only a two year contract.

Mr. Bakos asked who makes the decision on each health plan. He stated that one of the biggest expenses is health care. He mentioned that switching to health savings plans could save employer & employee. Ms. Clairmont said a study has not been done to see if there could be alternatives. Ms. Kordas stated that the contract could be reopened for discussion if both parties agree. Mr. Fauci said the health care premiums cost the taxpayer less this year than last year.

Mr. Forst asked the school board to understand that the budget committee inquired during the 2012-13 budget cycle and was told that the health care costs were mandated by the collective bargaining agreement, and now they were talking about approval of the agreement. So some discussion is needed.

Mr. Bakos commended the school board on what was done on the contract. He wanted to make sure teachers and taxpayer get the best deal on health care, because the costs could go through the roof.

Someone in the public said that the teachers have been trying to get the best deal for themselves and the taxpayers, and they are not out to gouge the system.

Mr. Forst explained that what had been presented at school district meeting was an increase of about \$67,000 over 2 years. The new agreement was a \$40,349 increase in the second year only. The contract could not be changed at the Budget meeting. It will be this contract or none.

There was discussion on the procedure of being a SB2.

Mr. Bakos asked what the committee could expect from the school board in looking at health care. Ms. Kordas said it was on the top of her list to do. Mr. Fauci stated that there will be an impetus to look at the cost to all.

Mr. Gianni said that there are a lot of people on a fixed income that get no help with their health care cost. He wanted to know how costs could be leveled off at the school district.

Mr. Forst explained the time frame under SB2 for this special warrant.

Motion by Mr. Lavin to close the public hearing. Mr. Bakos seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Gianni stated that no town employees got a raise and they might not in the second year.

Mr. Forst said the employees make things happen and the town has to support them to a degree.

Mr. Bakos said that salaries in the school agreement were a good deal, but the elephant in the room is health care. He said the school board needs to make a better plan, if they can't raise the cost to the teacher. He knows that people have worked on it, but no change has been made.

Mr. Lavin stated that the school budget has gone up a half million dollars every year. Cuts have been made to the town budget to the point that there is no money to fix the roads so that school buses can get through.

A teacher said that she keeps asking questions, but never gets answered.

Mr. Forst stated that he hoped people were listening to the concerns expressed, and that they will be acted on during budget season.

Mr. Hatch moved to recommend the contract agreement between the teachers and the school district for an increase cost of \$40,349.  
Second by Mr. Lavin. Vote was unanimous.

APPROVED

Adjournment at 8:32

Respectfully submitted,  
A. Andreozzi