

APPROVED

Town of Gilmanton
Budget Committee
Thursday, January 22, 2009
7:00 P.M. – Gilmanton Iron Works Town Hall

Members present: Stan Bean, Robert Potter, Sr., Frank Bosiak, Mark Sawyer, Betty Ann Abbott, Russell Knowles, Tom Farley, Steven Latici, Dana Twombly and Brian Forst.

Others present: Town Administrator Timothy Warren, Michael Hatch, Candace Daigle, Judi Williams, Gary Lines, Steven Bedard, Anne Kirby, Bill Foster, Alice Bean, Paul Osborne, Nancy Stearns, Nanci Mitchell, Mary McKenna, Richard Kordas, Kelly Untiet and recording clerk Rachel Hatch.

Stan Bean called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Confirmation was given that this meeting had been duly posted on December 24, 2008 pursuant to RSA 91-A.

Miscellaneous Budget Presentations

Gilmanton Year Round Library

Anne Kirby, member of the Gilmanton Year Round Library Association, stated that the GYRL is petitioning a warrant article to support the operation budget in the amount of \$75,000.00. She indicated that the library building is completed and ready to open. The GYRL is still in the process of applying for endowments and grant funding to fund the library's operating budget but is asking the town to fund the operating budget this year in order to open the library to the residents. She stated that \$675,000.00 was seen in contributions, \$162,000.00 in grant funds and fundraising yielded \$58,000.00. Over 50 businesses offered their services and over \$12,000.00 in books have been donated. The library has six computers with internet access. She indicated that the library would also offer a gathering place for residents to congregate. The tax impact would be sixteen cents per thousand assessed value. For example, a dwelling assessed at \$250,000.00 would see an impact on their taxes by \$40.00 per year to fund the operating budget of the library.

Brian Forst inquired if this is a one time request? If the endowment does not come forward next year, what would the committee have to do to continue funding its operating budget? Anne Kirby stated that the GRYL would then come back to the town next year for another year of funding the operating budget.

Parks & Recreation Department Budget

Gary Lines, Judi Williams and Richard Kordas were in attendance representing the Parks & Recreation budget. Gary Lines stated that they had brought forward a warrant article in

the amount of \$14,000.00 to fund all new electrical work due to safety issues but that the Board of Selectmen were not supportive of the warrant article this year. Betty Ann Abbott inquired if this project could be done in stages, addressing the safety issues first, this year? It might allow the town to fund this project in stages and have minimal tax impact on the residents. Mr. Lines stated that he would meet with the electrician and get an estimate on the cost to fix the safety issues first and then meet with the Selectmen.

Contributions to Agencies Budget

Kelly Untiet from Genesis stated that they were asking, again, for a \$5,000.00. This amount is the same as that requested last year. She thanked the Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen for supporting this funding and stated that it is used in its entirety and is greatly appreciated.

Rocky Pond Association

Mary McKenna spoke on the Rocky Pond Association's request for funding to address the milfoil problem. She stated that the town had given them \$2,500.00 last year and the Association is requesting the same amount this year. She indicated that the Selectmen had proposed \$500.00 for this year. She asked that the Budget Committee recommend contributing the same amount requested at last year's meeting. Stan Bean asked if the residents pay association dues? Ms. McKenna stated that most of the residents contribute \$150.00 each year but that it is not mandatory for the Rocky Pond residents to contribute to the association. Mark Sawyer asked if it is necessary for the town to contribute to this project. Tim Warren stated that the town needs to fund some monies in order for the state to fund the project for milfoil removal.

Conservation Commission Budget

Nanci Mitchell, member of the Conservation Commission indicated that their budget was level funded for this year. Steven Latici asked what the objective is of the Commission with regard to maintenance of timber in the forest. Ms. Mitchell stated that the goal was to allow for multi-use; i.e. recreational use, more trails, harvesting, etc. Mr. Latici stated that the Commission may want to consider residents harvesting firewood in the forest for residents that meet financial hardship requirements. This would allow qualifying residents to get free firewood to heat their homes. Ms. Mitchell stated that she would bring up the idea to the Commission. Bob Potter stated that there would be a lack of control and would also cause a liability to the town.

Cemetery Trustees' Budget

Candace Daigle spoke on behalf of the cemetery trustees. She stated that the town has 31 burial sites that the trustees manage. She explained what the trustees are responsible for; namely, maintaining the cemeteries, update all cemetery records in the town vault, posting required signs, maintaining their web page, etc. The trustees are proposing the purchase and installation of a gate at the Buzzell Cemetery this year.

The town will be asked to accept the Beech Grove Cemetery site consisting of 5.7 acres off of Route 107. Ms. Daigle stated that they have many volunteers to assist in maintaining the cemeteries.

Frank Bosiak inquired if the budget had been completed before or after the ice storm suffered in recent months. Ms. Daigle stated that the budget had been drafted before the last ice storm. She was aware of the extensive spring clean up that will have to be completed at the cemeteries.

Gilmanton Snowmobile Association

Paul Osborne, member of the snowmobile association requested that the budget committee consider funding them \$2,500.00, the same amount at last year in order for them to be able to continue maintaining the 35 miles of trails. He stated that it would benefit the town in keeping the trails well maintained when it comes to timber harvesting, horseback riding, joggers, hunters, etc. It was noted that the Selectmen decided to zero fund this line item as they believed that the \$2,500.00 request was a one time request a few years ago. The budget committee took his request under advisement.

Next Meeting

Mr. Bean stated that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 29, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Iron Works Town Hall.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Robert Potter, seconded by Betty Ann Abbott, the Budget Committee members voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 P.M.

Respectfully,

Rachel Hatch,
Recording Clerk