

APPROVED

Town of Gilmanton
Budget Committee Meeting
Tuesday, January 26, 2010
7:00 P.M. – Gilmanton I.W. Town Hall

Members present: Stan Bean, Frank Bosiak, Mark Sawyer, Michael Hatch, Betty Ann Abbott, Dana Twombly, Brian Forst, Frank Gianni and Robert Potter, Sr. Steven Latici was absent.

Others present: Superintendent John Fauci, Principal Carol Locke, Director of Student Services Emily Reese, Business Administrator Christine Hayes, School Board Members Cindy Hatch, Renee Kordas, Philip Eisenmann and Zannah Richards, resident Joanne Gianni and recording clerk Rachel Hatch.

Stan Bean called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Confirmation was given that the meeting had been posted on December 29, 2009 in accordance with RSA 91-A.

School District Budget Presentation

Members of the School Board and administration introduced themselves as did members of the Budget Committee.

Superintendent John Fauci shared an overall summary of the proposed 2010-2011 budget. He stated that the overall budget has increased 5.9%. This percentage is after the school board has spent much time and effort reviewing the initial budget and voting to decrease it in several areas. The 5.9% increase includes the collective bargaining agreement funding for the teachers, addresses the district's corrective action plan as a result of the NECAP scores and the fact that the district did not meet the Average Yearly Progress standards set by the NH Department of Education last year. Gilford tuition has increased \$193,716, an increase of 2.17%. Special Education costs have increased by \$206,000, a 2.3% increase over the total budget from last year. The operation of plant section of the budget shows a \$22,000 increase and reflects an estimate of \$3.10 per gallon of fuel oil. Transportation costs have increased by 3% as the district is entering its fourth year of a five-year contract. Superintendent Fauci stated that the district has been notified that health insurance will increase by no more than 27.3% and so the budget reflects an estimated increase of 24.3%. Mr. Fauci stated that the district will be given the actual rate of increase after the school district meeting and so this percentage is only an estimate of the increase. The technology portion of the budget shows an increase of \$13,000, which reflects the continuing alignment of the district's current technology plan. Mr. Fauci explained that, in order for the district to apply for technology grants, a State approved Technology Plan has to be in place and be maintained according to State standards. Joyce Janitorial services have increased by 2%.

Superintendent Fauci indicated that the current contracted speech pathologist will not be returning to the district and that the administration has reconfigured this position, which will save the district \$8,600.00.

Business Administrator Christine shared an overview of each section of the budget as follows:

Regular Education

Ms. Hayes stated that the major increase in this section is in the Gilford tuition at an increase of \$193,000. The cost of tuition for each student is at \$15,124.00 as opposed to \$13,972.00 cost per student this current year.

Special Education

Ms. Hayes stated that there is an increase in the assistants' salaries due to specific IEP requirements for additional staff.

Co-Curricular

Ms. Hayes stated that this portion has increased slightly for the purchase of new soccer uniforms.

Guidance

Ms. Hayes stated that this portion of the budget includes the purchase of Language Arts assessment materials.

Health

Ms. Hayes stated that the school nurse, Betty Lines, is retiring at the end of this school year. The repair line item increase is offset by the decrease in request for supplies.

Psychological Services

Ms. Hayes stated that this portion of the budget shows an increase due to an individual student's needs in contracted services.

Speech

Ms. Hayes stated that this portion of the budget shows a new delivery method for speech services in the district. A full time speech therapist will be hired, which will drastically reduce the contracted services and a speech language assistant's position. A portion of the salary, fixed charges and benefits is covered by the IDEA grant.

PT/OT Services

Ms. Hayes stated that the district currently has a part-time occupational therapist and a part-time certified occupational therapy assistant that are both employed by the district. This portion of the budget shows an increase in the occupational therapy salary line item, which reflects the need to increase the COTA to a full time position to meet individual students' needs.

Technology

Ms. Hayes stated that the technology budget reflects the district's current technology plan. It includes funding the replacement of work stations and a new mail server. The district's State approved plan calls for the replacement of 20% of the work stations on an annual basis.

Instructional Development

Ms. Hayes stated that this portion of the budget shows a reduction in the request for course reimbursement last year. The district anticipates several teachers pursuing advanced degrees next year and it is contractually mandated to fund this at a level to meet the spirit of the teacher's collective bargaining agreement.

Library

Ms. Hayes stated that this portion of the budget shows a reduction in costs.

School Board

Ms. Hayes stated that this portion of the budget has increased by \$850.00 to cover the costs in the annual audit due to the management of the 403B plan.

Superintendent

Ms. Hayes stated that any salary increase for the superintendent and the administrative assistant is included in the salary adjustment account.

Student Support Services

Ms. Hayes stated that this portion of the budget funds dues, travel and conference expenses for the director of student services.

Principal

Ms. Hayes stated that the secretarial salaries line item has decreased due to the school board cutting the second part-time receptionist, a position that was initiated this past year. This is being done in an effort to keep the budget costs down and does not, in any way, reflect on the need for keeping this position. It was noted that this position had been initiated to address the everyday demands of the school building office.

Fiscal

Ms. Hayes stated that this portion of the budget includes an additional ten (10) days for contracted services for business administration, bringing the number of days per year up to seventy (70) days.

Operation of Plant

Ms. Hayes stated that the estimated amount budgeted for fuel oil is at \$3.10 per gallon. The proposed facility manager's position has been cut from the budget. Special projects were also cut by the school board in an attempt to lower the operating budget.

Transportation

Ms. Hayes stated that the transportation contract with First Student is in its fourth year of a five-year contract. The budget cost reflects the agreement of the contract with First Student.

Benefits

Ms. Hayes stated that there was a proposed three percent (3%) salary increase for the administration and that the school board cut the increase down to two percent (2%). The district was notified by HealthTrust of a maximum health insurance increase of 27.3%. The budget reflects an estimated overall increase of 24.3% in the cost of health insurance.

New Positions

Ms. Hayes stated that this section of the budget includes the warrant article for the teacher's collective bargaining agreement.

Food Service District Support

Ms. Hayes stated that any salary increase for the food service director is included in the salary adjustment account.

Debt Service

Ms. Hayes stated that this reflects the payment schedule for the district's bond.

Grants

Ms. Hayes stated that this portion of the budget shows an estimate of all federal and other grants that the district may qualify for.

Food Service Fund

Ms. Hayes stated that the accounting procedure for this portion of the budget was changed four years ago. It took the food service director's salary out of this section of the budget which, previously, did not follow proper accounting. The amount raised in this section of the budget is completely offset by projected revenues and represents the anticipated operating cost of the food service program. This portion of the budget now reflects the correct amount. There was some discussion about the accounting mechanism that is outlined in this portion of the budget. Funds have to be raised in order to allow for the revenues to be expended which, essentially, self-funds this portion of the budget.

Warrant Articles

Ms. Hayes reviewed the proposed warrant articles with members of the Budget Committee. She stated that Article IV is the approval of the two year collective bargaining agreement. Article VI is a change of the purpose of the Leach Field Pump Station Capital Reserve Fund to the Gilmanton School Septic System Repair and Replacement Capital Reserve Fund. The amount of \$8,000.00 is earmarked to be placed in this newly named fund. She also shared an overview of the remaining warrant articles

including placing monies in the current Special Education Expendable Trust Fund (\$30,000.00), the Roof Replacement Expendable Trust Fund (\$20,000.00), the Fuel Storage Tank Capital Reserve Fund (\$3,500.00), the Water Storage Tanks Capital Reserve Fund (\$1,040.00), the Paving Capital Reserve Fund (\$5,000.00), the Boiler Replacement Expendable Trust Fund (\$5,000.00) and the Tractor Replacement Expendable Trust Fund \$2,400.00).

Robert Potter inquired when the fuel tank will be replaced. Ms. Hayes stated that the fuel tank would be replaced prior to paving the parking lot.

There was brief discussion concerning the capital reserve funds. No further questions or input was offered by either the members of the Budget Committee or other members in attendance of the budget presentation.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Frank Bosiak, seconded by Robert Potter, Sr., members of the Budget Committee adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully,

Rachel Hatch,
Recording Clerk