

## APPROVED

Town of Gilmanton  
Budget Committee Public Hearing  
On the Town Budget  
Thursday, February 4, 2010  
7:00 P.M. – Gilmanton I.W. Town Hall

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

Others present: Alice Bean, Police Chief Philip O'Brien, Fire Chief K.G. Lockwood, Road Agent Paul Perkins, Transfer Station Manager Justin Leavitt, Timothy Warren, Elizabeth Bedard, Stephen Bedard, Zannah Richards, Carolyn Baldwin, Mary McKenna, David Boles, Brenda McBride, Susan Barr, Desiree Tumas, Bill Foster, Kristen Welch, Genesis Behavioral Health representative, Terri Freeman 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.

Chairman Bean explained the purpose of a public hearing which is to disclose the proposed budget to the residents prior to the Budget Committee's work session, which is scheduled for Saturday, February 6, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. He stated that no further items can be added to the proposed town budget after this evening's public hearing. There is public comment allowed throughout the public hearing. Chairman Bean stated that all comments from the residents will be addressed to the chair. Mr. Bean stated that the Budget Committee will also hear a presentation of the Village District Precinct this evening. Concerning the proposed warrant articles, Mr. Bean stated that the last few warrant articles are petitioned warrant articles from residents. Chairman Bean stated that the Gilmanton Year Round Library will speak concerning the petitioned warrant articles requesting funding for the continued operation of the Gilmanton Year Round Library and indicated that he will be stepping down, a Budget Committee chairman, and that Frank Bosiak will be chairing this portion of the public hearing.

Betty Ann Abbott stated that all department heads increased their operating budgets by 2%. Last year, their operating budgets were below level funded. She stated that the transfer station operating budget is higher than 2% because of the tremendous increase in hauling and tipping fees. There is a warrant article for a proposed salary increase of 1% for all town employees. Ms. Abbott stated that health insurance costs have increased by 16.5% and that the Board of Selectmen had selected a different plan for the employees, which decreased the increase cost to 13.5%.

Zannah Richards inquired how many employees in the selectmen's office have health insurance. Timothy Warren stated that he is has a two-person plan. He stated that five other Academy building employees subscribe to health insurance plans. Tim Warren stated that one election was budgeted for last year and four elections are budgeted for this year.

Stan Bean stated that Town Clerk/Tax Collector Debra Cornett was not able to attend this public hearing as the town clerk's office is open this evening and, if she were to attend the meeting, it would leave the assistant town clerk/tax collector alone at the Academy building, which goes against town policy of employees being alone in the building.

In continuing through the proposed budget, Tim Warren stated that the legal expenses portion of the budget is for pending litigation. Under Planning, Mr. Warren stated that the Lakes Region Planning Commission line item has been moved to the outside agencies portion of the budget due to the fact that not only the Planning Board utilizes LRPC's services, but the Conservation Commission and the Fire Department utilizes their services as well.

Mr. Warren stated that, under the cemeteries portion of the budget, the bottom line amount has increased now that the Buzzell Cemetery is now owned and maintained by the town.

Police Chief Philip O'Brien stated that the police department shows five full time employees and one full-time secretary.

Fire Department K.G. Lockwood stated that the fire department's operating budget is up by 2%. Zannah Richards asked how many staff members are in the fire department? Chief Lockwood stated that there are four full time firefighters/EMT's including himself and 42 on-call personnel. The full time staff works Mondays through Fridays from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Mark Sawyer inquired about the paramedic intercept. Chief Lockwood stated that the funds for the paramedic intercept comes out of the non-capital reserve fund. Zannah Richards inquired why the large increase in health insurance for the fire department? Chief Lockwood stated that the department has seen two single employees leave their employ and he has hired two employees who have elected for plans other than single coverage plans.

Betty Ann Abbott stated that the building inspector's position had been reinstated to three days per week for the 2010 budget year. She indicated that this position had been reduced to two days per week last year (2009) after residents voted to decrease this portion of the budget. Residents had asked if the Board of Selectmen would honor the decrease in this particular line item and the chairman of the Board of Selectmen at the time indicated that they would. The 2009 year proved to become a hardship for contractors with the building inspector only working two days per week. Other hardships were exhibited in not having the time to deal with code enforcement issues and health issues in a timely manner as well as the Historic District Commission not being able to utilize the building inspector with code enforcement issues because he was only working two days per week. After hearing complaints and concerns from residents during the 2009 year, the Board of Selectmen decided to reinstate the building inspectors hours to three days per week. The budget allows for the reinstatement of the third day.

Concerning the emergency management portion of the budget, Chief Lockwood stated that he had purchased cones and barricades this past year to better secure accident, emergency medical and fire scenes. This is a safety issue for not only the victims but also for all passerbys during the scene of an accident or an emergency medical call or fire.

Road Agent Paul Perkins stated that the Highway Department's operating budget is up 2% overall. Areas of small increases are in the cost of electricity, computer repair, diesel fuel purchase, plowing and gravel, stone and salt purchases.

Transfer Station Manager Justin Leavitt stated that the largest increases in the solid waste/recycling budget are in hauling and tipping fees. Construction and demolition hauling costs have increased by \$3,000.00. He stated that the training line item has increased to provide better training to the transfer station employees. Brenda McBride inquired if the training helps with reducing the workers compensation claim rates? Mr. Leavitt stated that certified employees help in reducing the claim rates.

Steven Latici inquired of the public fine rates? Mr. Leavitt stated that the fine rates were set back in the 1960's and that work is currently being done to update the fine rates. Discussion followed with regard as to how many times per week does the hauler come in? It was noted that hauling takes place three times per week at the present time. Mr. Leavitt stated that the station sees forty hauls per year just in the construction and demolition debris.

Kristen Welch from Genesis Behavioral Health thanked the town for their continued financial support of the program. She stated that ninety Gilmanton residents were assisted by Genesis Behavioral Health last year.

Mary McKenna spoke of her support of the Budget Committee approving funds to treat milfoil in Rocky Pond. She stated that the milfoil problem at Rocky Pond is only going to get worse if the milfoil is not treated.

Regarding the welfare budget, Tim Warren stated that there were left over funds in last year's budget in the welfare portion of the budget. He is seeing an increase in welfare application at this time of the year.

The Gilmanton Iron Works Library funding line item has been deleted in the Library portion of the budget and listed in "outside agencies" due to the fact that the G.I.W. Library has a board of directors. The Corners Library budget has increased by \$500.00 to cover the cost of a newly installed telephone. The Lower Gilmanton Library has been closed and the remaining funds have gone back to the general fund.

Tim Warren indicated that the debt service shows the last payment of the fire truck. The fire truck has a lease-to-own five-year bond. This is the last year of the five-year bond.

In the capital outlay portion of the budget, it shows \$5,600 for the purchase of a solid waste disposal container. Mr. Leavitt stated that by purchasing a container, it will lower the hauling fees. He is also proposing to purchase a waste oil furnace to help keep the machinery at a reasonable storage temperature. The fluids in the machinery need to be kept warm to allow for adequate use of the machines.

Mary McKenna brought up funding milfoil treatment again. She stated that the Rocky Pond Association had previously received \$1,200.00, then \$1,800.00 and now there is only \$500.00 budgeted. Brenda McBride inquired if state funds are available to treat the milfoil problem? Ms. McKenna stated that state funds were available in the past but is not available at the present time.

#### Review of the Proposed Warrant Articles

##### Article 5 – Public Safety Building

Betty Ann Abbott shared an overview of the work that has been accomplished to bring the public safety proposal before the residents. She stated that the committee is down to two final bids and the Board of Selectmen will be making a decision on which contractor to go with the project soon. She stated that the current bond rates are at 2.62%. Ms. Abbott stated that the cost of the proposed safety building will most likely be under \$800,000.00. She stated that the warrant article is for \$870,000.00 but that this amount could be amended during town meeting. She stated that, if this article is defeated, then there is an article that will propose to place \$100,000.00 in the public safety building capital reserve fund in an effort to continue to put monies in this account for a public safety building. Currently, there is \$370,000.00 in this capital reserve account. Zannah Richards asked if there were wetland issue on the property. Chief Lockwood stated that there were not enough wetlands to cause a problem with the construction of the building. Brenda McBride inquired if purchasing the furnishings would be part of the bond? Betty Ann Abbott stated that the bond would be to construct the building and that no furniture would be purchased from the bond funds. This building was an as need, no fluff building.

##### Article 6 – Recycling Special Revenue Fund

Betty Ann Abbott stated that there has been a tremendous increase in hauling fees and that only 18% of the residents recycle. This warrant article is an attempt to allow all of the revenues generated from the sale of recyclables to go back to the facility to offset the costs of operating the transfer station rather than having the revenues from the sale of the recyclables go to the general fund.

##### Article 7 – Pay-As-You-Throw

Betty Ann Abbott stated that the Board of Selectmen had looked into pay-as-you-throw, mandatory recycling and single stream recycling in an effort to contain the escalating hauling and tipping fees and general operation costs at the transfer station. After careful consideration, the Selectmen had decided to bring forward the pay-as-you-throw proposal before the residents. The revenues generated from the sale of bags would be deposited in the user fee system to allow for the revenues to go back into the recycling facility to offset the cost of operating the transfer station.

Article 10 – Solid Waste Storage Building Capital Reserve Fund

Station Manager Justin Leavitt stated that this capital reserve fund would be established for the future building of a storage facility.

Article 12 – Town Buildings Repair and Maintenance Non-Capital Reserve Fund

Betty Ann Abbott stated that this non-capital reserve fund is for the repair and maintenance of all of the town buildings.

Article 13 – Concrete Pad – Recycling Facility

Betty Ann Abbott stated that it is State mandated that a concrete pad be placed under the metal pile and a four foot high back and side wall at the recycling facility. This warrant article is asking permission to withdraw the funds from the Recycling/Transfer Facility Capital Reserve Fund and that there would be no taxation associated in the cost of the concrete pad as the funds exist in the capital reserve fund.

Article 14 - Cupola

Betty Ann Abbott stated that \$40,000.00 is proposed to repair and erect the cupola. This proposal comes after public support for completing this project.

Article 15 – Document Restoration

Tim Warren stated that funding this project would not impact the tax rate as funds currently exist in the Document Restoration Capital Reserve Fund.

Article 16 – Salary Increases

Betty Ann Abbott stated that the Board of Selectmen is proposing a one percent salary raise for all of the employees. In the past, the salary increases have been part of the budget but the Selectmen have decided to have the raises come under a separate warrant article to let the residents decide on whether or not to approve the salary increases.

Article 17 – Purchase of a Container for the Recycling Facility

Justin Leavitt stated that this article is for the purchase of a second container to lessen the hauling fees. These funds would be taken out of the Recycling Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

Article 18 – Pavilion at Crystal Lake

Tim Warren stated that the \$4,000.00 is to rewire the pavilion at Crystal Lake Park to correct the safety issues in the building.

Article 19 – Highway Safety Grants

Tim Warren stated that this funding is contingent on getting state funding for this project.

Article 21 – Gas Pump Meter

Tim Warren stated that the new tracking system for fuel usage would allow for each department head to keep better track of fuel usage in each vehicle. This would eliminate the employees from having to keep a gas log. Brian Forst asked how the purchase of a

gas pump meter would help save and benefit the town? Chief Phil O'Brien stated that it would allow each department head to keep better track of how much fuel is used in each department vehicle and would allow for better budgeting for next year.

Article 26 – Gilmanton Year Round Library

Chairman Stan Bean excused himself as chairman of the Budget Committee and turned chairing the meeting over to Frank Bosiak. Mr. Bosiak stated that this warrant article is asking for the funding of \$41,300.00 to go toward a portion of funding the operating budget for the Gilmanton Year Round Library.

Bill Foster distributed a spreadsheet outlining the operating budgets of area community libraries and a monthly statistical report for the Gilmanton Year Round Library outlining the total number of visitors, total number of circulations, the total number of borrowers and programs offered.

Carolyn Baldwin stated that the other three libraries were public libraries even if only one of the libraries is town owned. Elizabeth Bedard stated that it costs approximately \$70,500.00 per year to operate the Year Round Library. The Directors have raised most of the operating costs through fundraisers. They have a shortfall of \$41,300 in order to operate the library for the remainder of the year. They have raised sufficient funds to operate the library from January until September of 2010. Steven Bedard stated that the tax impact would be nine cents per thousand to fund the operation of the Gilmanton Year Round Library.

Village Precinct

Steven Latici stated that the Precinct spent \$7,800.00 this past year for lighting of the Village District area at the Gilmanton Corners. Brief discussion followed with regard to the lighting cost impact of the public safety building in the future. Chief Lockwood stated that his budget pays for both lights at the Corners Fire Station and asked if the Village Precinct should be paying for the cost of the lighting rather than having the cost come out of the Fire Department budget.

Adjournment

**On a motion made by Frank Bosiak, seconded by Robert Potter, Sr., members of the Budget Committee adjourned at 9:15 p.m.**

Respectfully,

Rachel Hatch,  
Recording Clerk