

TOWN OF GILMANTON  
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2012

Members Present: Stan Bean (chair), , Frank Gianni, Brian Forst, Israel Willard, Richard Bakos, Steve Latici, Michael Hatch, Ralph Lavin (selectmen's rep.).

Members Not Present: Mark Sawyer, Frank Bosiak

Also Present:, Annette Andreozzi (clerk), John Fauci (superintendent), Emily Reese (Dir. Student services), Carol Locke ( principal), Donna Clairemont (school business admin.), school board members - Ella Jo Regan, Rene Kordas, Phil Eisenmann, Frank Weeks

Meeting opened at 8:30 AM

1. Proof of Posting- yes
2. Approval of February 1, 2012 Minutes

Motion by Mr. Forst to approve minutes, seconded by Mr. Lavin. Unanimous.

3. Old Business

Ms. Clairemont said she reviewed the \$27,000 food service district support question from last meeting. It is the revenue from the general tax fund that supports the school food service and should not be added to the requested budget expenses. She passed out a new summery budget revenue and expenses, and additional info the committee had requested. The expenses for the tractor were highlighted on the trail balance sheet.

Mr. Bakos said that grants needed to be listed on revenue and expense, so they net out. He asked how much of the gross do employees contribute to health insurance. Mr. Latici stated that the employee contribution would not show as a district expense since it would be deducted before payroll it made.

Mr. Bean stated that the reason for so many health plans was that the budget committee had requested that the Board look into less expensive health plans, and they did.

Mr. Willard wanted to know the cost per plate of the school lunch. There was a discussion on how to calculate the figure based on the fact that the number of students that eat each day changes from 32-55 percent. Ms. Locke said the students pay for the lunches by bring in their money weekly; the amount is entered into the computer. The school wants to be able to give all students a lunch even if they do not pay or do not qualify for free lunch. Mr. Bakos said that about one dollar per lunch eaten comes out of the tax payers pocket. Mr. Latici said the taxpayers should pay for a hot lunch for all students; the amount is chump change. Mr. Fauci explained that presently letters are

sent out to parents that are not paying their share, because the system was abused in the past. Ms. Locke said the government allows her to say a child will qualify for federal free lunch even if the family does not fill out the government forms. Mr. Forst said from his experience the system is working.

#### 4. New Business - school budget

##### Regular ed

Mr. Forst moved and Mr. Hatch seconded to expend total \$4,854,226 for regular education. Mr. Latici asked for the number including all the obligations under the agreement. Ms. Clairemont said that teacher salaries & benefits was a warrant article. Mr. Willard said he was confused by a different number of students listed for Gilford. Ms. Clairemont stated that currently there are 171, but the number for next year will be 180 based on the number of students presently in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Ms. Locke said the Board must budget for all the 8<sup>th</sup> graders even if some go to private school because it is their right to go to public school. Mr. Forst said the total number is based on an increase in numbers and tuition.

There was a discussion on sick days, the buy back policy, and if sick days are compensation or benefits. Ms. Locke said she has to get substitutes for maternity leave, professional development, and aides. Some aides are child specific.

Vote unanimous.

##### Sp ed

Mr. Hatch moved and Mr. Forst seconded to expend total \$1,042,751 for special education. Mr. Lavin asked if everything was mandated by the state. The answer was the mandated was by the federal government. Ms. Reese explained how a child might be reclassified and that they are evaluated every 3 years. Mr. Forst commented on the inability to control the costs at Gilford or the requirements for sp ed needs.

There was a discussion of what constitutes disability for special education. Next year there will be 9 students, including two kindergarteners that will have to be placed out of district.

Vote unanimous.

##### Co-curricular

Mr. Hatch moved and Mr. Forst seconded to expend total \$53,550 for co-curricular. Mr. Bakos asked if there were 107 students engaged in sports. Ms. Locke said co-curricular was not just sports; it included drama, Spanish club, geography bee, social studies, math olympiad, etc., but sports was the biggest portion because of the cost for transportation.

Mr. Bakos moved to reduce the total by \$10,000, which was about \$100 per student in sports. Seconded by Mr. Lavin.

Ms. Locke stated that \$100 dollars is a lot for some students to pay. Mr. Bakos said there should be fund raising so students don't have to pay. Ms. Locke said they do fund raising for field trips, and parents stated that they were tired of asking people for fund raising. Mr. Eisenmann said the GYO struggles with funding because scholarship request are going up, and lots of kids are motivated to learn by these secondary events.

Mr. Weeks stated that all the sports at Gilford are not funded so some students have to raise funds for the sports they play. Mr. Lavin said that parents support activities that are not provided by the school, so parents could support those that are provided.

Vote on the amendment 4 - for, 3 -opposed, amendment passed.

Vote on new total of \$43,550, 6 – for, 2 – opposed, vote passed.

#### Attendance

Mr. Hatch moved to expend one dollar for attendance.

Vote unanimous.

#### Guidance

Mr. Hatch moved and Mr. Gianni seconded to expend total \$98,158 for guidance.

Mr. Willard moved to reduce the total by \$1,520. Mr. Forst seconded for discussion.

Mr. Willard said tax payers spend money for hot lunches the students don't need snacks, and parents can chaperone dances. Mr. Latici said the snacks were for NECAP tests to create an energy level during tests, which affect performance, and performance affects grants. Mr. Willard withdrew his motion.

Mr. Willard moved to cut \$720 for a police officer at dances; seconded by Mr. Forst. Mr.

Lavin said the Selectmen had a meeting, and drug use is up 20 percent in the school, so they feel a police officer is needed. Because the last dance had a police officer an event didn't escalate. Mr. Fauci said sometimes the kids are from outside not from

Gilmanton. Mr. Forst said it would effect the police budget if the officer is not hired by school. Ms. Locke said there were 8 dances per year, which are the 8<sup>th</sup> grade

fundraiser. Mr. Forst said if 911 had to be called it would take time for police to arrive and cost the town. He didn't feel chaperones have the legal right to restrain or do much of anything with other kids in this day and age. Ninety bucks a night would be cheap compared to being sued. Vote on the amendment 1 - for, 8 – opposed.

Mr. Forst asked if the 2 full time councilors have contracts with benefits. Ms. Locke stated that they are certified teachers.

Vote to expend total \$98,158. Unanimous.

#### Health

Mr. Hatch moved and Mr. Forst seconded to expend total \$46,370 for health.

Mr. Willard said epiPens were prescriptions and shouldn't be purchased. Ms. Locke said the school had to have permission to give prescriptions, but the nurse has them on hand.

Vote unanimous.

#### Psychological

Mr. Forst moved and Mr. Hatch seconded to expend total \$47,000.

Vote unanimous.

#### Speech

Mr. Forst moved and Mr. Hatch seconded to expend total \$70,578 .

Mr. Forst asked if there was an increase in services. Ms. Reese said more people were giving more services. Mr. Fauci said the school used to contract out these services, but

found it cheaper to hire people. Ms. Reese said there was only one speech provider in the area to contract from. Ms. Reese stated that an out of district placement uses additional contracted services.

Vote unanimous.

#### PT OT

Mr. Hatch moved and Mr. Willard seconded to expend total \$132,574 for PT & OT. Mr. Latici asked why the sp ed OT & PT were not under sp ed. Ms. Clairemont said the functions are required to be broken out by the department of education; the total sp ed is 14 % of the budget. Mr. Weeks said some people regard education like it was 30 years ago, it isn't. Mr. Fauci indicated that out of district cost were so costly the school tries to keep sp ed in house.

There was a discussion of how to present the information at the town-wide meeting so all the costs for sp ed could be seen.

Vote unanimous.

#### Instructional development

Mr. Forst moved and Mr. Hatch seconded to expend total \$47,489 [the corrected number] for instructional development. Mr. Latici said this was a discretionary item and when teachers are paid to take courses they also get paid more salary. There is no reimbursement to the district if the person leaves after getting reimbursed.

Mr. Latici moved to cut \$8,000 from course reimbursement; seconded by Mr. Bakos. The private sector has scaled back on this perk, the school district should. Mr. Bakos felt there needed to be a middle ground. Ms. Clairemont said the contract reads "school will make every effort to provide sufficient funds"; \$8000 is only 8% of what could be requested. Ms. Kordos said the Board had all ready cut this item based on current teachers enrolled. Mr. Forst stated that since the committee voted to take \$10,000 out of co curricular, this needed to be considered. Mr. Gianni said that all this expense can't be passed on to tax payers. Ms. Kordos listed the cuts that were made before the budget came to the budget committee. Mr. Bakos said that was true, but the total budget is not less than last year. Ms. Regan said that it was important to remember when the School Board did the budget the room was filled with parents begging them not to cut programs to children. The town needs to provide a quality education. Mr. Gianni said at meetings they heard the same thing, but they also heard people don't want more taxes. Mr. Forst said this action is a recommendation.

Mr. Latic withdrew his motion.

Mr. Latic moved to cut \$7,000 from course reimbursement; seconded by Mr. Forst. Vote on amendment 7 – for, 1-opposed.

Mr. Latici moved to expend \$40,489 for instructional development; seconded by Mr. Forst. Vote 7 – for, 1-opposed.

#### Library

Mr. Forst moved and Mr. Hatch seconded to expend total \$ 59,307.

Mr. Willard moved to cut \$57,307 from the total; Mr. Forst seconded for discussion.

Mr. Willard recommended supporting the YRL their numbers included children; cut the librarian from the school budget. Ms. Reese stated that the children are not at the YRL

during school hours; it is not safe to cross Rte. 140. Ms. Locke said the state will not accept a certified librarian if that person is not in the school. Mr. Latici said if the school librarian is eliminate the town may be required to fully fund YRL. Mr. Eisenmann said if the YRL warrant does not pass the library would not be available.

Mr. Willard withdrew his motion.

Mr. Willard said the first librarian in the school in the 1950's didn't have a masters degree; he wanted to know if the state had recently changed requirements for librarians.

Ms. Locke said the present standards have been the same for at least 15 years.

Mr. Gianni said having a ½ time librarian may not effect accreditation.

Vote total library \$59,307. Unanimous.

#### Tech

Mr. Forst moved and Mr. Hatch seconded to expend total \$105,563. Mr. Forst asked why only ½ of the budgeted money for tech was spent last year, but this year's number is bigger. Ms. Locke said they were using all the software. Ms. Reese stated that when one software is updated others may have to be also.

Vote tech total \$105,563 7-for , 1-opposed

#### School board

Mr. Forst moved and Mr. Hatch seconded to expend total \$38,875 for the school board.

Vote unanimous.

#### Superintendent

Mr. Forst moved and Mr. Hatch seconded to expend total \$161,494.

Ms. Locke said a study had been done a few years ago, and it was found that an SAU office was cost effective.

Vote unanimous

#### Student service

Mr. Forst moved and Mr. Hatch seconded to expend total \$55,687.

Vote unanimous.

#### Principal office

Mr. Forst moved and Mr. Hatch seconded to expend total \$238,604 for principal office.

Mr. Lactic asked about the \$ 4000 for travel. Ms. Locke said that included all travel for conferences and workshops by teachers and staff. Ms. Reese stated that the Dept. of Education has some mandatory classes.

Vote unanimous

#### Fiscal

Mr. Forst moved and Mr. Hatch seconded to expend total \$95,091.

Vote unanimous.

#### Operation of plant

Mr. Forst moved and Mr. Hatch seconded to expend total \$402,468. There was a discussion about estimating fuel cost and usage.

Motion by Mr. Forst to level fund fuel oil at \$65,800 reducing it by \$6000, seconded by Mt. Laticci.

Vote on amendment 7 - for, 1-opposed.

Mr. Forst moved and Mr. Bakos seconded to expend total \$396,468 for operation of plant.

Vote 7 - for, 1-opposed.

#### Transportation

Mr. Forst moved and Mr. Hatch seconded to expend total \$ 474,884 for transportation.

Mr. Laticci asked if there was a requirement to provide a late bus. Mr. Fauci said the bus contractor said there would be no savings because it was part of the contract. Any saving cannot be determined because it would be negotiated in the new contract. There was a discussion of what might be in the bus contract. Ms. Clairemont said that the company they contract with, 1<sup>st</sup> Student, is really the only vendor in the state. Mr. Fauci said he hoped to conclude the contract before the school district meeting; it will be a Board decision

Mr. Forst moved to amend the school bus contract line to \$314,968; seconded by Mr. Laticci. Mr. Forst said to eliminate the late bus or get a smaller one that could be run for \$4,500 .

Vote on amendment 7 - for, 1-opposed.

Mr. Forst moved to expend a Total \$470,384 for transportation; seconded by Mr. Lavin.

Vote 7 - for, 1-opposed.

#### Total support services/Benefits

Mr. Forst moved and Mr. Hatch seconded to expend total \$1,256,204 for benefits.

Mr. Bakos moved to reduce the insurance by \$2500; seconded by Mr. Willard. Mr. Forst said the goal is to bring the employees to paying 25 percent of benefit costs. Mr. Laticci stated coverage for the positions of superintendent and principle is funded at 100% [ they do not take it]. Ms. Clairemont said that teachers get 100 percent of single benefits paid; a 2 person plan is paid 75%; a family plan is paid 68%.

Ms. Locke said the teachers contract can't be changed. The non contract employees will have to make up the amount, and they were given a zero percent raise.

Mr. Laticci lead a discussion on the voting of the collective bargaining agreement, and its timing. Mr. Bakos said it should be made uniform between town and school. Mr.

Willard said the state is making cuts to benefits; so everybody else should suck it up.

Vote on amendment to reduce insurance by \$2500, 3 – for, 4 – opposed. Mr. Bean said that this area needs a lot of work. Mr. Forst said that if next year there isn't a change then the budget committee might act; he did not want to see some people loosing and others benefiting.

Mr. Lavin had to leave the meeting.

Vote on total support services/benefits 5- for, 2 – opposed.

#### New position

Mr. Forst moved and Mr. Hatch seconded to expend total \$ 51,871.

Vote unanimous.

Debt service

Mr. Forst moved and Mr. Hatch seconded to expend total \$ 207,150.

Vote unanimous.

Food service district line gone

Food service fund

Mr. Forst moved and Mr. Hatch seconded to expend total \$148,863.

Mr. Willard moved to cut \$15,000 from alacarte; Mr. Bakos seconded for discussion.

Ms. Kordas stated there are health benefits of alacarte over hot lunch. Mr. Latici said it was a small choice to pay for health choices. Ms. Clairemont stated there was a potential for loosing reimbursement for lunches if there was no alacarte. Mr. Fauci said the refund is reduced if the state feels the menu isn't where should be.

Vote on amendment 1 – for, 5- opposed.

Vote on total food service fund 6 – for, 1- opposed.

Special rev funds

Mr. Forst moved and Mr. Hatch seconded to expend total \$265,000.

Vote on total unanimous.

Warrant Articles

Mr. Forst moved to recommend Article 3 as written, Mr. Hatch seconded.

Vote unanimous.

Mr. Forst moved to recommend Article 5 as written, Mr. Hatch seconded.

Mr. Forst said he would not recommend this article because it contains the benefit part, and a step increase of 1.9 the first year and .57 the second year.

Vote 1 - for, 6 - opposed. Not recommended.

Mr. Latici moved to recommend Article 7 as written, Mr. Hatch seconded.

Mr. Gianni read from the contract about the extra funds. Ms. Clairemont said the intent of the clause is if Gilford closes their books and they have expended more than their appropriation, they can bill Gilmanton for additional funds. And if more children move in the trust fund can support the additional costs. Mr. Hatch said that if an assessment is determined in June there would be no where in the school budget to go for the funds.

Mr. Forst did not feel that a new trust fund should be started with the amount of 2 tuitions, but maybe just \$5000 or so. He could not support putting \$32,000 dollars in at the beginning. Mr. Fauci said the funds would only be spent if there was no money in the general fund.

Mr. Willard started a discussion about the number of students moving in and out and why, and the fund balance possible for this year.

Mr. Forst moved to recommend to fund the high school trust fund at \$15,000 even

though that was not one whole tuition; Mr. Latici seconded. Vote 4 – for, 3 - opposed.

Mr. Forst moved to recommend Article 8 as written, Mr. Hatch seconded.  
Vote unanimous.

Mr. Forst moved to recommend Article 9 as written, Mr. Latici seconded.  
Vote unanimous.

Mr. Forst moved to recommend Article 10 as written, Mr. Hatch seconded.  
Mr. Latici asked the due date to replace a roof. Ms. Kordas said the first roof is due to be replaced in 2018. Mr. Forst said the roof trust it is being under funded.  
Vote unanimous.

Mr. Forst moved to recommend Article 11 as written, Mr. Latici seconded.  
Vote unanimous.

Mr. Forst moved to recommend Article 12 as written, Mr. Hatch seconded.  
Vote unanimous.

Mr. Forst moved to recommend Article 13 as written, Mr. Hatch seconded.  
Vote unanimous.

Mr. Forst moved to recommend Article 14 as written, Mr. Hatch seconded.  
Vote unanimous.

Mr. Forst moved to recommend Article 15 as written, Mr. Hatch seconded.  
Mr. Willard said the trust is underfunded; the present tractor was not filling the need.  
Mr. Fauci said maybe they could trade it while it has value.  
Vote unanimous.

Mr. Forst moved to recommend Article 16 as written, Mr. Hatch seconded.  
Vote unanimous.

Mr. Forst moved to recommend Article 17 for the sum of \$9,926,258, seconded by Mr. Gianni.  
Vote 6-for, 1-opposed.

Adjourn at 1:44PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
A. Andreozzi