

1 TOWN OF GILMANTON

2 BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

3 "WRAP-UP SESSION"

4 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2017

5 Members Present: Brian Forst, Stan Bean, Anne Kirby, Joanne Melle, Michael Jean, Selectmen
6 Representative, Grace Sisti, Mark Sawyer and Robert Carpenter.

7 Chairman Forst called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

8 2016 Budget Committee Recap

9 Brian Forst welcomed Grace Sisti, the newly elected budget Committee member. He stated that
10 this meeting was intended for discussion and summarizing this budget session and brainstorm
11 ideas on how to do things better and more effectively during the 2017/18 Budget Committee
12 season.

13 Election of Officers

14 Budget Committee Chairperson

15 Michael Jean made the motion to nominate Brian Forst as the Board Chairperson. The
16 motion was seconded by Joanne Melle and unanimously approved in the affirmative.

17 Budget Committee Vice Chairperson

18 Joanne Melle made the motion to nominate Anne Kirby as the Budget Committee Vice
19 Chairperson. The motion was seconded by Mark Sawyer and unanimously approved in the
20 affirmative.

21 Stan Bean distributed a sheet entitled, "2016 Budget Process" that listed his recommendations on
22 how to improve the budget committee season for this coming year

23 It was agreed by all that the SB2 mandated process does not allow for much of a timeline and the
24 timeline is stringent each year.

25 Joanne Melle asked if there was any way, for next year, to have more accurate anticipated
26 revenues than what was give the Budget Committee this past year. She stated that the estimated
27 revenues at the public hearing were not accurate in any way. She recommended that the
28 Selectmen need to keep watch over what is distributed to the Budget Committee at their
29 meetings.

30 Brian Forst stated that he will be attending selectmen's meetings to discuss with them, prior to
31 the start of the Budget Committee process, what is expected of the town in the areas of more
32 accurate estimate of revenues.

33 Joanne Melle asked if the Budget Committee could receive progress reports throughout the year
34 of areas that may be problems in the town budget that would be addressed during the upcoming

budget season. For example, unanticipated repair expenses that would justify an increase in the proposed budget.

Discussion followed with regard to the warrant article on the school ballot regarding funding the special education expendable trust fund and that the ballot noted that the Budget Committee did not recommend the funding of this warrant article, yet the warrant article was voted to get funded.

Joanne Melle asked if the capital improvement plan could have a timeline on the spreadsheet. Robert Carpenter stated that the spreadsheet was included in the town's annual report.

Grace Sisti asked she can be kept informed of future budget committee meeting? Brian Forst stated that her contact information will be added to the budget committee list.

Stan Bean stated that the budget committee could come up with a fact sheet, in the future, that stated by the budget committee recommended or did not recommend various warrant articles. The fact sheet could be put on the town's website and distributed to any other social media.

Brian Forst stated that, unfortunately, the budget committee's explanations on why they recommend or do not recommend warrant articles cannot be put on the ballot.

Joanne Melle asked how the committee could get the information out to the public? Brian Forst stated that the budget committee could post their decisions on the website.

Rachel Hatch offered the suggestion of asking the *Laconia Daily Sun* reported to craft newspaper articles of the reasoning for the budget committee to recommend or to not recommend the warrant articles. She also suggested using the Gilmanton Community Information page on *Facebook*.

Mark Sayer stated that it was helpful that the town's ballot had the tax impact listed on each warrant articles.

Anne Kirby asked if the re-negotiated teachers' contract will have to go through the entire process again. Brian Forst stated that the committee would have to meet with the school administration for a formal budget presentation on the contract and the committee would then have to hold a public hearing on the contract. A deliberative session would also be needed and a voting day would have to be scheduled and the polls open for the entire day to vote on the re-negotiated contract. He added that the expense of the formal process would be on the school district.

Stan Bean stated that, in his opinion, the biggest mistake with the proposed contract was to ask that the district pay 97% of the teachers' health insurance. He and Anne Kirby stated that the re-negotiated contract would need to be explained in terms of the actual costs, broken down, so that the public would understand what the cost factors would be.

Brian Forst stated that Rachel Hatch is resigning as recording clerk and that the committee will have to hire another clerk. Michael Jean stated that the selectmen's office would be advertising for this position. Anne Kirby asked where in the budget the recording clerk's position is paid out

of? Brian Forst stated that the Budget Committee has a section in the town budget for expenses that they incur.

Michael Jean stated that there is a problem with the town grader and that the cost to fix the motor is approximately \$26,000.00. The town does have a non-capital fund that will help offset this expense.

Mark Sawyer stated that there are two fire trucks that will need to be replaced. The replacement of Engine 3 and the pumper trucks will cost close to one million dollars. He stated that there may not be enough money in the capital reserve fund.

Michael Jean stated that Grace Sisti could take advantage of NH Municipal Resources who offer budget committee workshops.

Brian Forst recommended that Stan Bean's recommendations sheet be attached to these set of meeting minutes.

Chairman Forst thanked Stan Bean for his years of service on the budget committee and thanked Rachel Hatch for stepping in to take over as recording clerk during the middle of budget season.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Michael Jean, seconded by Mark Sawyer, the budget committee unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully,

Rachel Hatch, Recording Clerk

