



**TOWN OF GILMANTON  
BUDGET COMMITTEE**

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April 12, 2023

**6:00pm – Academy Building – Wrap-up Meeting**

**10:23 AM - CALL TO ORDER by Chairman Forst**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**Committee Members Present:** Chairman Brian Forst, Vice Chairman Anne Kirby, Members Alec Bass, Joshua Mann, Ron Leclerc, Betty Ann Abbott, Sawyer Lake Village District Rep. Rich Adams, and School Board Rep. Grace Sisti. Absent was Selectmen's Rep. Vinnie Baiocchetti (with notice).

**Public Present:** Town Administrator Heather Carpenter.

**First Order of Business**

**Nomination for Chairman** – Member Bass made a motion to nominate Brian Forst as Chairman, seconded by Member Abbott. Motion passes (7-0).

**Nomination for Vice Chairman** – School Board Rep. Sisti made a motion to nominate Josh Mann as Vice Chair, seconded by Member Kirby. Motion passes (7-0).

**Minutes of December 14, 2022**

**MOTION:** Member Kirby made a motion to accept the minutes. Seconded by Member Bass. Motion passes (7-0).

**Minutes of January 4, 2023**

**MOTION:** Vice Chair Mann made a motion to accept the minutes. Seconded by School Board Rep. Sisti. Motion passes (7-0).

Minutes of January 7, 2023 to be checked for clarification and brought back for approval. TA Carpenter will check on minutes from January 14, 2023.

**Minutes of February 4, 2023**

**MOTION:** Member Kirby made a motion to accept the minutes. Seconded by Member Bass. Motion passes (7-0).

Member Abbott was a no vote on the minutes as she was not a member at the time of those meetings.

TA Carpenter stated that the Board of Selectmen meetings will no longer be live streamed. A recording of the meeting will be put on the website.

Chairman Forst asked if there were any thoughts, views or suggestions on how the process went this year and there was none. School Board Rep. Sisti asked if there was anything that the board would like to see from the school. Member Kirby stated to not have any big surprises at the last minute. She also stated that someone from the school needs to pay better attention to how many Gilmanton children are actually attending Gilford High School. Member Leclerc stated there is an attendance record that should be being looked at. Member Kirby just

34 wants to make sure that there is accountability to how many kids are actually attending vs how much Gilmanton  
35 School is actually being charged for students to make sure they are the same. She also mentioned that the  
36 minutes don't always reflect the dollar amounts that are presented in the school board meeting and if that  
37 information can be added.

38 Vice Chairman Mann stated that from his experience, as this being the first year going through the process in  
39 Gilmanton, in his old town they set expectations for the town and school to deliver the budgets to the board  
40 with a due by date and it was helpful.

41 There was discussion about having a deadline for the school budget to be submitted to the budget committee  
42 before the night of the meeting. It was stated the Town's budget was presented in full, with the exception of the  
43 warrant articles, well in advance and was much appreciated. November 1 was suggested for the Town and School  
44 budgets to be due to the Budget Committee. It was asked if that is problematic for the Town. TA Carpenter stated  
45 if she has a date to send to the Dept. Heads that will work as the date to have their budgets in is mid October. Vice  
46 Chairman Mann stated in his old town a letter would be sent out by the budget committee with a date of when the  
47 budget was due to them.

48 Vice Chairman Mann also mentioned they should look at holding the public hearing after the date the petition  
49 warrant articles are due. TA Carpenter stated that the SB2 schedule is very tight and the chairman has to  
50 formulate the schedule is based on that. The SB2 schedule doesn't come out until late September for when the  
51 calendar dates are set.

52 Chairman Forst stated if someone has an intention for a warrant article, they should get it in and don't wait until  
53 the last minute. TA Carpenter stated that the petition warrant article for the milfoil will be covered 100% by DES  
54 for this year but will be coming back next year with a five year plan. They are scheduled to come to the next BOS  
55 meeting to go over that plan.

56 Chairman Forst mentioned he attended one Energy Committee meeting for the school and it had a very diverse  
57 crowd and thought processes. Plant Manager at school feels they have boilers on borrowed time. All the  
58 options don't really fit with the option of replacing the boiler before it fails. School Board Rep. Sisti stated they  
59 are past their life expectancy of 25 years as the school's boiler is 27 years old. Chairman Forst stated they are  
60 operating fine but the company who produced one of the boiler's is no longer in business so they can't get sections  
61 for that boiler anymore. Chairman Forst mentioned a biomass facility and it got shut down. There was some  
62 discussion about a solar field on the school's property in the iron works. There was also some discussion about  
63 redoing the school roof and putting panels on it by the end of the meeting.

64 Chairman Forst thought this year went really well without a lot of tension as in years past. Sawyer Lake Village  
65 District Rep. Adams mentioned how there is still a small number of people who attend the public meetings.  
66 Member Kirby stated that if you have a budget that is less than the default you aren't giving the voter a choice as  
67 that budget will never fail. She would really like the school to help her understand it better. The committee then  
68 discussed the school default budget, CBA, and operating budget. TA Carpenter stated the voters do have a say  
69 with SB2 and it is at the Deliberative Session where they can make changes to the budget but people don't use it.

70 TA Carpenter asked the committee what is their expectation of what documentation they would like to see. This  
71 year the information was very detailed and time consuming to produce. For next year she is looking to do a more  
72 formatted view. Highlights, narrative, budget, and history. Vice Chair Mann asked if it could be a 5 year historical  
73 view. Member Kirby stated the information was useful but so was just listening to each department. TA Carpenter  
74 stated that the questions that are asked on social media is suggesting people are not seeing the information.  
75 Chairman Forst stated if it is new and different with narrative of what, why and justification it should be good.

76 Member Bass mentioned going forward if the committee can do a better job in stating a unanimous vote vs a  
77 split vote. TA Carpenter gave an explanation as to how the person doing the minutes has changed. Member Bass

78 stated it bothers him that the recommendation style is different from school to town and believed the school  
79 was asked to be the same. There was discussion about potentially changing the night during next budget cycle.

80 School Board Rep. Sisti stated the school had an unexpected cost and had to replace an arsenic filter which cost  
81 about \$10K. They are going to also raise school lunch prices by about \$1 as they are far behind the USDA  
82 recommended amount and needed to jump up to that.

83 Member Abbott asked when is the next meeting and it will be mid November. Member Kirby stated that the  
84 meeting in the summer with the BOS, School and Budget Committee was ok but maybe it could happen in  
85 September and be when the Budget Committee lays out its expectations. TA Carpenter stated the Budget  
86 Committee's public hearing but everyone needs to understand that is their time to talk about their budget. The  
87 annual report is being looked into to be a combined document with the Town and School to help with cost.

88 School Board Rep. Sisti asked if someone from each school department needs to come and present their budget.  
89 Chairman Forst stated there have been times that having a department head in attendance to help answer  
90 questions and clarify the questions. Member Abbott stated she would really like to see the department heads as  
91 that shows respect to the town and to justify their numbers. School Board Rep. Sisti asked if this is for all  
92 department heads. Vice Chair Mann stated the school is different as the Superintendent is the department head  
93 of the school. Chairman Forst added that the school will come in with their Superintendent, School Board, Finance  
94 person and some other people.

95 Motion to Adjourn by Member Bass. Seconded by Member Kirby.

96 **ADJOURNMENT:** Time approximately 7:15 p.m.