**TOWN OF GILFORD**

**BUDGET COMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**January 13, 2022**

**7:00 PM**

Members present: Sean Murphy, David Tyler, Kristin Snow, Kevin Hayes, Gretchen Gandini, Amber LaTorre, Steven Hepburn, Gaye Fedorchak and Dorothy Piquado

Members absent: Angelo Farruggia and Johan Andersen

At 7:00pm, Mr. Murphy convened a duly posted, Public Hearing of the Budget Committee in the Gilford High School Auditorium.

Mr. Murphy led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Each Budget Committee member introduced themselves.

Public Hearing for Gunstock Acres Village Water District (GAVWD) Budget:

Mr. Murphy read aloud the Public Hearing notice, noting that the 2022 GAVWD proposed budget is $669,292, and declared the public hearing open.

Mr. Howard Epstein, Commissioner of GAVWD, spoke of the updates being made to the pump stations and tanks. He thanked the Town of Gilford for use of ARPA Funds for the GAVWD. Resident, Debbie Clough, asked if GAVWD is the only water district in the Town. Town Administrator, Scott Dunn, explained that GAVWD has its own government entity for water and that part of the ARPA funds went to GAVWD to help lower taxes.

There was no further public input.

Mr. Murphy declared the public hearing closed.

Public Hearing for Gilford Town Budget:

Mr. Murphy read aloud the public hearing notice, noting that the 2022 Town proposed budget is $15,555,148 with a default budget of $15,032,234 and declared the public hearing open. It was also noted that the proposed budget includes the hiring of a new Police Officer, minor Recycling Center renovations, Fire Station renovations, a new DPW truck and Capital Reserve Funds for bridges and fire equipment.

There was no public input.

Mr. Murphy declared the public hearing closed.

Public Hearing for Gilford School District Budget:

Mr. Murphy read aloud the public hearing notice, noting the 2022 School District proposed budget is $26,017,715 with a default budget of $25,360,660 and declared the public hearing open. It was also noted that 91% of the operating expenses are going to facilities at the Elementary, Middle and High Schools as well as at the SAU.

Resident, Debbie Clough, asked for an explanation of the Public Hearing process. Mr. Murphy, Dr. Snow and Ms. Gandini explained the process of a public hearing before the budgets are voted on by the Town.

There was no further public input.

Mr. Murphy declared the public hearing closed.

Mr. Murphy then called a Budget Committee Meeting.

Approval of Minutes: Ms. Gandini noted that Mr. Chan needed to be corrected to Mr. Eddy. Ms. LaTorre noted that the signature date for the approval should be corrected to 2022. Dr. Snow made a motion to approve the minutes of January 6, 2022 as amended; seconded by Mr. Hayes and passed with all in favor; (9-0)

Article 22: Dr. Snow made a motion to recommend that the Town vote to raise and appropriate $21,000 in support of the Lakes Region Mental Health Center (LRMHC) for the delivery of emergency mental health services; seconded by Ms. LaTorre and passed by a vote (8-1). Dr. Snow commented that she is no longer on the LRMHC Board.

Article 23: Ms. LaTorre made a motion to recommend that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $10,000 to support the Laconia Area Center Community Action Program; seconded by Ms. Gandini and passed by a vote (8-1).

Mr. Murphy noted that the timeframe to file for Town Offices is January 19, 2022 through January 28, 2022 at 5:00pm.

Mr. Murphy thanked the Town, Schools and Department Managers for their work and support during his time with the Budget Committee as he has chosen to not run for another term. Dr. Snow thanked Mr. Murphy for all his hard work over the years.

Adjourn: With no further business to come before the Committee, Mr. Hayes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:19pm, seconded by Ms. Gandini and passed with all in favor; (9-0).

Respectfully submitted,

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Chrissy Blood, Executive Assistant

Approved by the Budget Committee on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2021; ATTEST:

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Sean Murphy, Chair