

GILFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
August 27, 2014
Town Hall

The Board of Selectmen convened in a regular session on Wednesday, August 27, 2014, at 7:00 p.m., at the Gilford Town Hall, 47 Cherry Valley Road, Gilford, NH. Selectmen present were John O'Brien, Gus Benavides and Richard Grenier. Also present was Town Administrator Scott Dunn.

Staff members in attendance included Finance Director Geoff Ruggles, Fire Chief Steve Carrier, DPW Director Sheldon Morgan, Police Chief Anthony Bean Burpee, Town Clerk/Tax Collector Denise Gonyer, Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector Jenn Mooney, Assistant Town Clerk/Tax Collectors Danielle Lafond and Sandy Beland, Police Executive Secretary Tessa Stevens, Director of Planning and Land Use John Ayer, Police Officers Doug Wall, Chris Jacques, Alyssa Raxter and Kevin Baron and Executive Secretary Sandra Bailey.

- 1. Non-Public Session – 6:00 P.M.** – Selectman Benavides moved to enter non-public session at 6:00 p.m., pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II, (a)(b)(c)] to discuss personnel issues and matters that may adversely affect someone's reputation. Selectman Grenier seconded. Motion carried on a roll call vote with all in favor. Present were John O'Brien, Gus Benavides and Richard Grenier. Also present was Town Administrator Scott Dunn.

Selectman Benavides moved to authorize the hiring of Eric Benjamin (effective September 7, 2014), as Patrol Officer, at a starting rate of \$20.89. Selectman Grenier seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

During non-public session, other matters were discussed.

Selectman Benavides moved to exit non-public session at 6:35 p.m. to have a non-meeting and seal the rest of the minutes. Selectman Grenier seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

- 2. Non-Meeting [Per RSA 91-A:2,I, (a)]**
 - 2.1. Collective Bargaining Agreement**
- 3. Pledge of Allegiance** – Chairman O'Brien led the assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 4. Announcements/Presentations**
 - 4.1.** Town Clerk/Tax Collector Denise Gonyer proceeded to swear in new Police Officers Jordan Smith and Evan Carey. Chief Bean Burpee provided a brief statement on law enforcement officers, who must be committed to fairness, service and justice. He welcomed both officers to the Gilford Police Department.
 - 4.2.** Chairman O'Brien announced that the Town Hall and Library will be closed for Labor Day on Monday, September 1, 2014.
 - 4.3.** Chairman O'Brien announced that Board and Committee volunteers are still needed for the CIP Committee, Zoning Board of Adjustment, Recreation Commission and Planning Board.
 - 4.4.** Chairman O'Brien read aloud a Certificate of Appreciation for Firefighter Thomas Aselton, who is retiring after 32 years of service.
 - 4.5.** Chairman O'Brien read aloud a "Caught in the Act" Award for Firefighter Jason Godin, who assisted a new call company firefighter during his first day on the job.

5. Review/Approval of Minutes

5.1. Selectman Benavides moved to approve the minutes of August 13, 2014, as presented.

Selectman Grenier seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

6. Consent Agenda

6.1. Selectman Benavides moved to approve the previously signed documents for the period August 11, 2014 through August 22, 2014 as listed. Selectman Grenier seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

<u>DOCUMENT DATE</u>	<u>DOCUMENT</u>	<u>MAP/LOT #</u>
02/14/14	Change of Status - Andrade	
03/14/14	Change of Status - Hart	
04/23/14	Change of Status - Wolfe	
05/12/14	Accounts Payable Manifest	
06/20/14	Change of Status - Abbott	
07/14/14	Payroll Register	
07/17/14	Payroll Register	
07/21/14	Payroll Register(2)	
07/21/14	Change of Status - Ruggles	
07/28/14	Payroll Register(2)	
07/28/14	Abatement - Olney	242-280.036
08/04/14	Payroll Register	
08/06/14	Accounts Payable Manifest	
08/07/14	Accounts Payable Manifest	
08/07/14	Payroll Register	
08/08/14	MS-1 Extension Request Form	
08/08/14	Abatement - Diesel Realty	242-131.044
08/12/14	Tax Collector's Warrant - LU Change - GG R.E. Invest.	203-250.000
08/12/14	Tax Collector's Warrant - LU Change - Oeller-Fulmer Tr.	207-002.000
08/13/14	Veteran's Tax Credit - Souza	224-049.031
08/13/14	Veteran's Tax Credit - Mulgrew	252-156.000
08/13/14	Veteran's Tax Credit - Miller	241-039.000
08/13/14	Deed Waiver - Edge of Woods U15	224-075.015
08/13/14	Deed Waiver - Lien	223-408.200
08/15/14	Change of Status - Malin	
08/17/14	Change of Status - Carey	
08/24/14	Change of Status - Smith	
09/29/14	Change of Status - Cook	

7. Public Hearing

7.1. Traffic Regulation Designating Cat Path as One-Way Road – Cory Lofblad of 24 Cat Path thanked the Town for recognizing that the residents of Cat Path do have a traffic problem. Mr. Lofblad agrees with the proposed ordinance but expressed concern that having one-way traffic may increase motorist confidence, causing them to travel even faster. However, he does think that the speed bumps will assist with this, as well as some of the other measures that the Town is proposing.

Bruce Wright of 42 Cat Path stated that he has seen many changes during the 32 years that he has lived there. He supports the proposed ordinance and further, pointed out that the State needs to cut back brush at the intersection of Routes 11-A and 11-B to increase motorist visibility.

Tom Drouin of 72 Cat Path is in agreement that the proposed ordinance is long overdue.

Howard Epstein of 31 Sagamore Road is against doing anything with Cat Path. He thinks that the residents of Cath Path created the situation when they requested that the road be paved.

Susan Leach of 55 Cat Path pointed out that the dust problem made it necessary to pave Cat Path. She also stated that her family gave land to the Town so that the road would be wide enough for two cars to pass. She supports the proposed ordinance even though she would prefer to go downhill in the winter months.

Brian Payne of 16 Cat Path expressed concern that his car will not make it uphill on Cat Path. He has tried multiple times with no success. He does not think that having one-way traffic uphill will solve the problems that exist.

There being no further comments, the public hearing was closed at 7:23 p.m.

Selectman Benavides moved to approve the one-way traffic regulation for Cat Path, as presented. Selectman Grenier seconded, expressing concern with the aspect that Cat Path has been maintained with taxpayer dollars. Motion carried with all in favor.

8. Appointments

- 8.1. Katherine Dormody – Library Update** – Director Dormody began her presentation by providing Board members with a monthly circulation chart. She stated that July 2014 figures are down slightly, due mostly to the favorable weather conditions and construction on Route 11-A.

Director Dormody reported the success of the Summer Reading Program and “Destination” series of programs and events. The Library also celebrated its 120th anniversary over the summer with a concert and refreshments. The Library was represented at the Gilford Elementary School Open House, held last night, and will also have a flyer available for students in grades K-4 regarding the Library.

Enrollment for fall programs has begun and high attendance is anticipated.

The Library is currently at full staff, the result of some restructuring that took place during the summer. The Friends of the Library conducted a very successful pie and ice cream event during Old Home Day. The success was largely due to enormous volunteer assistance.

The Library has received positive feedback on the “Free Libraries”, particularly the one located at the Glendale Docks.

The Board thanked Director Dormody for her update.

- 8.2. Geoff Ruggles – Financial Update** – Finance Director Ruggles provided an abbreviated financial report for the Board. The Town received just over \$1.2 million in July in bond funds for the police station project. Property tax collections continue to be strong and cash flow levels are well above normal.

The Board thanked Director Ruggles for his update.

- 8.3. Terri Paige – Community Transportation & Midstate RCC** – Ms. Paige stated that she is an employee of Merrimack and Belknap County CAP and her position is funded by a grant by the Mid-State Regional Coordinating Council. She is in attendance at tonight's Board of Selectmen meeting to spread the word about existing transportation resources in the region.

She outlined the history of the organization and their goals of making transportation more accessible and affordable, particularly for senior residents. There are limited public transportation options available in this region and the public transportation that is available is very sparse. She cited the success of volunteer driver programs and senior buses, but emphasized the importance of coordination among the volunteer driver programs to maximize efficiency.

Selectman Grenier, who is a driver for the Laconia Senior Bus, expressed concern that if senior buses become too crowded by accepting other passengers, the seniors will not receive the services that they need. Ms. Paige responded that for other passengers, it is on a space available basis and seniors are given priority. She also expressed the need for additional volunteer drivers in Gilford and Laconia.

The Board thanked Ms. Paige for her presentation.

9. Old Business

- 9.1. Flagpole Dedication** – Chairman O'Brien offered Board members the opportunity to change the date of the flagpole dedication after learning that the original date that was set was not significant. Board members concurred to keep the flagpole dedication on Tuesday, October 14th at 4:00 p.m. Fire Chief Carrier stated that he anticipates both the Police and Fire Honor Guards will participate and a flag raising ceremony could be conducted. Town Administrator Dunn pointed out that since the flagpole is being dedicated to Public Safety employees, that the Department of Public Works should also be included.

- 9.2. Fireworks Ordinance** – Chairman O'Brien began by reading a prepared statement. He apologized to Selectman Benavides for interrupting him during the last meeting and clarified the comments he made concerning renters. Town Administrator Dunn clarified that when the Board is ready to go forward with adopting a new ordinance, it would be appropriate to schedule a public hearing.

Selectman Grenier stated that he recently discussed fireworks with an officer of the Belmont Police Department, who has a fireworks ordinance in place that is working well. It is tied to a noise ordinance that states there will be no fireworks or cannons during certain hours of the night. Selectman Grenier stated that he supports a simpler ordinance, similar to that of Belmont, and thinks it could be adopted in Gilford's draft ordinance.

Brief discussion ensued regarding the proposed content of the ordinance that will be presented at the public hearing. Chairman O'Brien is in favor of the existing draft ordinance but Selectman Grenier would like to see it simplified. Town Administrator Dunn suggested that the content of Belmont's ordinance could be incorporated into the framework of Gilford's ordinance, and would likely be three pages long. He further stated that he would remove the provision for a permitting process, if that is the consensus of a majority of the Board members.

Town Administrator Dunn pointed out that a noise ordinance requires Town Meeting vote, while authority for a fireworks ordinance is given to the governing body, or Board of Selectmen. The Board concurred to keep 12:00 p.m. as a starting time for fireworks. At this time, Chairman O'Brien stated that members of the public in attendance were welcome to make comments about fireworks.

Joel Edinburg of Dockham Shore Road stated that he is in favor of no fireworks, largely due to the fire danger. He further stated that he would prefer a permitting process, because he thinks it is important to identify the location of fireworks being discharged. Kevin Hayes of Given Drive does not think that the present ordinance should be repealed. The proposed ordinance, he continued, does not mitigate the hazards that can exist due to dry conditions.

Everett McLaughlin of Belknap Mountain Road also expressed concern with the fire danger that exists with fireworks.

A public hearing will be scheduled for Wednesday, September 10, 2014.

- 9.3. Gage Property Acquisition – LCHIP Project Agreement** – Conservation Commission Chair Carole Hall was in attendance to update the Board on the latest developments in the acquisition project. The first condition concerns proposed signage and second concerns the monitoring of the easement.

10. New Business

- 10.1. Funding for Study of Black Brook with City of Laconia** – The Conservation Commission met regarding this study and thought it was important to keep the Board of Selectmen updated. Carole Hall provided the Board with an overview of where the brook runs throughout Gilford and Laconia. The Laconia Conservation Commission contacted the Gilford Conservation Commission to study the degradation and other issues associated with Black Brook.

The study consists of two phases, the first being the creation of a sub-committee, consisting of members of both Commissions. The second involves funding, of which the Conservation Commission has voted to expend \$4,000 for the project. Carole Hall asked if the funds could be encumbered at the end of the year or obtained through a petition warrant article.

Town Administrator Dunn stated that the encumbrance of funds requires a contract, so a warrant article would be a better option. He further stated that there is no reason that the expenditure could not be placed in the Commission's 2015 budget as a one-time appropriation. It was the consensus of the Board that the expenditure be placed in the Conservation Commission's 2015 regular budget.

- 10.2. Appointment of ZBA Alternate** – Selectman Benavides moved to appoint Paul Ardizzoni as an Alternate to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for a term to expire on April 30, 2015. Selectman Grenier seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

- 10.3. Request for Office Closure – Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office** – Town Clerk/Tax Collector Gonyer advised the Board that the training she would like her staff to attend will cover motor training on vehicles and titles, vital records, elections and DES wetlands applications. She considers this training vital for staff members with so many

changes occurring within the State legislature. She also reminded the Board that there is an upcoming primary election on September 9, 2014.

Selectman Benavides stated that he is a proponent of continuing education and supports this training for the TC/TC office staff. The Board concurred that the Town Clerk/Tax Collector may close the office on Thursday, October 16, 2014 for staff training.

- 10.4. Driveway Waiver Request – 96 Scenic Drive** – Kevin Hayes was in attendance representing the property owners. He explained how the proposed driveway layout would be beneficial to mitigate any drainage or erosion issues. The abutters have written a letter of support for the proposed driveway plan as well.

Selectman Benavides moved to approve a waiver of the Minimum Road Standards to a distance of 8 feet at 96 Scenic Drive. Selectman Grenier seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

- 11. Other Business** – Town Administrator Dunn stated that a request has been received from Chief Bean Burpee to sell four surplus rifles to Martel's Sport Shop of Laconia, in the amount of \$2,200.00. Selectman Benavides moved to authorize the Police Department to sell the four surplus carbine rifles to Martel's Sport Shop in the amount of \$2,200 and accept the funds as unanticipated revenue, allowing these funds to be allocated towards the purchase of four new carbine rifles with removable carry handles and four new red dot optic scopes. Selectman Grenier seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

- 12. Public Input** – Kathy Rago, a candidate for District 7 State Senate, introduced herself to the Board. She outlined a few of her reasons for wanting to be elected and stated that she is a conservative Republican.

Kevin Hayes stated that he thinks the Black Brook Study is long overdue and he is hopeful that the Board will be able to find some unexpended funds to get the project moving forward.

- 13. Selectmen's Issues** – Selectman Grenier expressed concern that with the passing of a regulation to make Cat Path a one-way road that residents of other roads will be asking the Board for similar restrictions.

- 14. Administrator's Report** – Town Administrator Dunn has ordered a sign for the entrance of the Town Hall, at a cost of approximately \$85.00.

Today he attended a meeting of the Winnipesaukee River Basin Project and learned that they have some big projects pending. They have also hired a consultant to look into changing the governance of the WRBP that would be in the best interests of the communities that they serve.

The mobile home that is currently owned by the Town should be demolished next week.

The State of NH has successfully negotiated the sale of the Glendale Marine, which may result in future opportunities for the Town to expand Glendale parking.

Town Administrator Dunn stated that, as a result of the mailing that was sent out to Scenic Drive property owners, three responses have been received with two in favor of the tree cutting and one opposed. Following brief discussion, the Board concurred to not pursue this matter.

Selectman Grenier suggested that the public be advised that meetings can also be viewed on the Town's website.

15. Next Meeting – September 10, 2014.

16. Adjournment – With no further business before the Board, the Board of Selectmen's August 27, 2014 meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Grenier
Clerk