

GILFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
September 27, 2006
Town Hall

The Board of Selectmen convened in a regular session on Wednesday, September 27, 2006 at 3:00 p.m. at the Gilford Town Hall, 47 Cherry Valley Road, Gilford, NH. Selectmen present were Chairman Dennis Doten and Connie Grant. Also present was Town Administrator Evans E. Juris, Assistant Town Administrator Debra Shackett and Administrative Secretary Sandra J. Bailey.

1.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The Selectmen recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2.0 REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The Board of Selectmen approved the regular and non-public minutes of the September 6, 11 and 13, 2006 Selectmen's meetings.

3.0 APPOINTMENTS

3.1 Alan Hodge - Town Administrator Juris reported that Mr. Hodge could not make today's meeting and has been rescheduled to October 11, 2006.

3.3 Board of Fire Engineers – Fire Chief Jim Hayes and Fire Engineers Mark LaBonte and Bill Ackerley were in attendance to review the general operations of the Fire Department and the purchase of a new fire engine in 2007.

Chief Hayes stated that in response to the Board of Selectmen's recent request, he has provided them with some financing alternatives for the purchase of a new fire engine(s). From a priority point of view, Chief Hayes stated that a water supply engine, at a cost of approximately \$325,000 is most needed.

Chief Hayes then briefly reviewed the various financing scenarios he has requested. When asked about his functional priority choice, he reiterated his position that a water supply piece of equipment is most important because having your own personnel and equipment able to respond first, rather than relying on mutual aid, is preferable. He further stated that they can rely on mutual aid for a ladder truck.

Chairman Doten clarified the Board's earlier position when they asked for a financing option to include a ladder truck (Quint). He stated that the Board has a responsibility to look at this purchase from a financial point of view, making sure that the needs of the Fire Department are met, with the least impact to taxpayers.

More discussion ensued on how the various pieces of equipment are utilized. Selectman Grant asked Chief Hayes which piece of equipment is scheduled to be refurbished. Chief Hayes stated that the heavy rescue vehicle is scheduled to be refurbished, which will extend its life by

approximately 15 years.

Town Administrator Juris then asked Chief Hayes when the Town would take delivery of a new engine. Chief Hayes replied that it would be delivered in the late fall of 2007. Town Administrator Juris further inquired as to why the purchase of a Quint is important in 2011, but it is not important now. Fire Engineer Ackerley replied that a Quint is a needed piece of equipment, but it is not a priority over the purchase of a water supply truck.

Town Administrator Juris then asked Chief Hayes if the cost of purchasing (financing) both pieces of equipment (water supply and Quint) would be less expensive than buying the water supply vehicle only. Chief Hayes proceeded to explain the functions of both pieces, as well as the safety and efficiency factors.

Discussion then pursued on the ISO ratings for Gilford, which are currently at 5/9. Chief Hayes stated that without the new truck, it could drop to 6/9. Selectman Grant stated that she called both ISO and her insurance agent and was informed that there would be no rating change by not purchasing a truck. This rating primarily pertains to commercial buildings.

Town Administrator Juris expressed concern with the impact on taxpayers, since he feels payments should be spread out more. Chief Hayes stated that he is concerned with the reliability of Engine 4, that it won't necessarily last longer than the projected 2011 replacement. He further stated that trucks are purchased to fill specific roles. Town Administrator Juris asked for a printout of the Fire Department's future capital expenses.

Chairman Doten expressed concern that Chief Hayes re-verify his previous findings as to what is the most functional and cost effective purchase for the Department to make. He also stated that it is very important to present this information to the public once a recommendation is made.

Assistant Town Administrator Shackett stated that it would be less expensive to purchase both vehicles now, but it is important to balance the function with the financing.

3.2 Land Conservation Task Force – Sandy McGonagle, Bill Seed, Everett McLaughlin, John Goodhue and Ronny Bean were in attendance to update the Board of the two current projects (Persons and Bean). Chairman McGonagle provided a detailed overview of each project, highlighting some of the differences between them.

Bill Seed provided further information on the Persons Farm, which he indicated would always be a working farm. He also pointed out the property's trail system.

Discussion then ensued on the proposed financing of the projects. John Goodhue explained how the Conservation Commission has requested authorization to withdraw \$115,000 for each project. Chairman McGonagle asked to be placed on the October 11th agenda so that the Committee can provide a further update for the Board.

4.0 NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Landfill Supervisor Position – Town Administrator Juris explained that Bruce Hewitt of the Highway Department has applied for the position of Landfill Supervisor. He further stated that DPW Director Sheldon Morgan has recommended the promotion.

Connie Grant moved to recommend that Bruce W. Hewitt be appointed to the position of Landfill Supervisor at Grade 3, Step 7 - \$13.74 per hour with a six (6) month probationary period. Dennis Doten seconded. Motion carried.

5.0 OLD BUSINESS

5.1 Conservation Commission Update – It was the consensus of the Board to table this issue until the October 11th meeting.

6.0 PUBLIC INPUT – Gilford resident Jack McDevitt asked to be able to provide some information to the Board regarding fire equipment. He provided the attached handout, which outlines various points to be considered prior to purchasing any new vehicle. Mr. McDevitt shared his experiences as a member of the Hopkinton Fire Department and provided insight on the mutual aid system and operation of various pieces of equipment.

Extensive discussion ensued with Mr. McDevitt, who thinks that one multi-purpose engine should be purchased, replacing two obsolete engines.

Gilford resident Dick Hickok expressed concern with a recent conversation with Landfill Supervisor Richie Stuart.

7.0 SIGNATURES

<u>DATE SIGNED</u>	<u>DOCUMENT</u>	<u>MAP/LOT #</u>
07/13/06	Change of Status - Keenan	
08/30/06	COLA Policy	
09/04/06	Change of Status - Chitty	
09/27/06	Change of Status - Bonan	
09/27/06	Change of Status - Davis	
09/27/06	Change of Status - Pelletier	
09/27/06	Change of Status - Doucette	

09/27/06	Change of Status - Lemay	
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8.0 SELECTMEN'S ISSUES – Selectman Grant stated that she had a few questions regarding the 2005 Audit Report. Assistant Town Administrator Shackett suggested that she stop by her office to go over her questions.

9.0 ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

9.1 Young Road Update – Town Administrator Juris reported that the base coat for Young Road would be done tomorrow, September 28, 2006, by Pike Industries.

9.2 2006 Budget Review
Assistant Town Administrator Shackett distributed a 2006 budget update as of September 27, 2006. She reported that the budget appears to be on track.

9.3 Other Matters
Town Administrator Juris reported that he will be meeting with Lakes Region Public Access TV on Tuesday to discuss setting up Conference Room A to televise meetings.

9.4 Non-Public Session – RSA 91-A:3 II (c)
The Board of Selectmen on a roll call vote entered Non-Public Session at 4:33 p.m. Present were Selectmen Dennis Doten and Connie Grant, Town Administrator Evans Juris, Assistant Town Administrator Debra Shackett, and Administrative Secretary Sandra Bailey.

While in Non-Public Session, the Board of Selectmen discussed a personnel issue.

While in Non-Public Session, no action was taken.

The Board exited Non-Public Session at 4:55 p.m.

10.0 NEXT MEETING – October 11, 2006 at 3:00 p.m.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT – With no further business before Board, the Board of Selectmen's September 27, 2006 meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra J. Bailey
Administrative Secretary