

GILFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
July 8, 2009
Town Hall

The Board of Selectmen convened in a regular session on Wednesday, July 8, 2009, at 6:00 p.m., at the Gilford Town Hall, 47 Cherry Valley Road, Gilford, NH. Selectmen present were Gus Benavides and John O'Brien. Also present were Town Administrator Scott Dunn and Executive Secretary Sandra Bailey. Absent was Selectman Kevin Hayes.

1. **Non-Public Session**– Selectman O'Brien moved to enter Non-Public Session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a)(d) to discuss personnel issues and the disposition of real property. Chairman Benavides seconded. Motion carried on a roll call vote with all in favor. Present were Selectmen Gus Benavides and John O'Brien. Also present were Town Administrator Scott Dunn, Police Chief John Markland and Executive Secretary Sandra Bailey.

- 1.1. **Personnel Issues – RSA 91-A:3 II (a)** - Chief Markland advised the Board that Lt. Edison Cowing has submitted a letter indicating that he will be retiring from the Gilford Police Department, effective July 18, 2009. Lt. Cowing has been with the Department since July 1983, starting his career as a patrol officer. He has subsequently been promoted to the rank of Corporal, Sergeant and Lieutenant.

Selectman O'Brien moved to accept the resignation of Lt. Edison Cowing with deep regret and appreciation for his many years of service. Chairman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Next, Chief Markland addressed the matter of his command structure for the department with Lt. Cowing's retirement, as well as the resignation of Cpl. Rector in 2007. Chief Markland would like to have 24 hour supervisory coverage for the Town. It is not his intention to fill the Lieutenant's position, but rather to initiate a promotional exam for the rank of Sergeant in its place. Several members of the Department are qualified to participate in the exam process. Chief Markland also advised the Board of problems he has seen in the past in the command structure with the rank of Corporal.

Selectman O'Brien moved to approve Chief Markland's request to initiate a promotional exam for the rank of Sergeant. Chairman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Since a patrol officer would possibly be promoted to Sergeant, Chief Markland would like approval from the Board to advertise for a patrol officer. Selectman O'Brien moved to authorize the Town Administrator to advertise for the position of patrol officer. Chairman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Chief Markland exited Non-Public Session at 6:36 p.m.

Town Administrator Dunn advised the Board that Recycling Supervisor Bruce Hewitt has found a company to grind their pile of chunk wood, at no cost to the Town. Since \$7,400 was budgeted for this work, it has resulted in substantial savings to the Town.

Selectman O'Brien moved to extend the Board's appreciation to Bruce Hewitt and award him an extra day's pay, in accordance with the AFSCME contract, Article 7.6, as it relates to Meritorious Effort Pay. Chairman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with

all in favor.

- 1.2. **Disposition/Acquisition of Real Property – RSA 91-A:3 II (d)** – Selectman O’Brien moved to sign a deed back to Allen Kimball of 23 Liscomb Circle, Unit 49, for fulfillment of his outstanding taxes, in the amount of \$5,014.91. Chairman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Town Administrator Dunn advised the Board that the Conservation Commission would like to secure the property at 10 Guild Circle to maintain as open space. Selectman O’Brien moved to accept the Tax Collector’s Deed for 10 Guild Circle. Chairman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Regular Session

Chairman Benavides reconvened the regular session of the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Finance Director Geoff Ruggles, Director of Planning and Land Use John Ayer, Fire Chief James Hayes, Deputy Fire Chief John Beland and Firefighter Nick Proulx were also in attendance.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance** – The Selectmen recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Announcements**
 - 3.1. Chairman Benavides announced that the Summer Town Forum will be held on Wednesday, August 12, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.
4. **Review/Approval of Minutes**
 - 4.1. Selectman O’Brien moved to approve the minutes of the regular and non-public sessions of the June 24, 2009 meeting; and the non-public session of June 30, 2009. Selectman O’Brien seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.
5. **Appointments**
 - 5.1. **Russ Dumais – Drainage Issues on Gilford East Drive** – Mr. Dumais was in attendance to describe the drainage problems that have occurred on Gilford East Drive over the past five years. He provided a drawing of the area in question, including the location of various water sources. Mr. Dumas explained the various drainage issues in detail and the history of his interaction with the State of NH on the problem.

Mr. Dumais feels that this is a serious problem and he is seeking the assistance of the Board in finding a long term solution. He specifically asked if Selectman Hayes, with his engineering expertise, could be involved in finding a solution.

Town Administrator Dunn stated that a tentative meeting has been scheduled for July 24, 2009 between himself, Sheldon Morgan, Mark Morrill of NH DOT, Selectman Hayes, Russ Dumais. He also stated that the Highway Maintenance budget has funds earmarked for Old Lakeshore Road.

In closing, Mr. Dumais made a plea that the Planning Board be more aware of potential drainage issues when considering applications before them.
 - 5.2. **Chief Jim Hayes – Proposal to Construct Fire/Rescue Training Center** – Chief Hayes was in attendance to request authorization from the Board to construct a training facility at the rear of the fire station. Chief Hayes detailed the importance of having training for different types of incidents in realistic training scenarios. The on-site training facility that is

being proposed would provide this environment for practical skill development with realism.

Chief Hayes explained how seven “Connex” storage containers would be utilized to simulate an average single family home. He also addressed some of the anticipated questions/issues concerning the project, including the need for the facility, visual impact, anticipated cost and ongoing maintenance costs. The structure would be painted the same color as the existing fire station to help it blend into the rear of the fire station. The projected cost of the project is between \$25,000- \$27,000 and the Department is committed to raising the funds and completing the work. Operational costs would be offset by costs that are already in the training budget for the use of the facilities at the NH Fire Academy in Concord.

Chief Hayes emphasized the convenience of having the facility on Fire Department property, for the ease and frequency of training, which is an ultimate benefit to the residents of Gilford. He also pointed out that 2008 ISO fire protection evaluation of the Town of Gilford identified a lack of training facilities. Construction of the training facility would gain credit in lowering the overall fire protection rating. The Board of Fire Engineers has approved of this facility and authorized Chief Hayes to present the proposal to the Board of Selectmen.

Chairman Benavides moved to authorize the construction of the training facility at the rear of the fire station, with entirely private donations and no use of property taxes. Selectman O’Brien seconded.

Selectman O’Brien said he supports the construction of a training facility, but expressed concern with the excavation of the existing hill behind the fire station. Chief Hayes acknowledged this concern and stated that it will need to be addressed from an engineering standpoint prior to construction. The Department did not want to expend funds on this until the project is approved by the Board of Selectmen. Selectman O’Brien is also concerned with the appearance of the structure to Town Hall visitors. He asked Chief Hayes if there is an alternate location for the structure.

Chief Hayes stated that the facility could potentially be constructed at the Solid Waste Facility, but DES regulations do not permit construction on landfill, and he is not sure which part of the property is actual landfill. Chairman Benavides countered Selectman O’Brien’s concerns with the appearance of the structure, in that it would show the residents of Gilford the level of training that the Fire Department is undertaking to provide the best possible service to those residents.

A vote on the motion showed a tie vote 1/1. Motion failed.

Selectman O’Brien moved to have the Fire Department move ahead with their plans to construct a training facility and seek an alternate location. Chairman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

5.3. John Ayer – Department of Planning and Land Use Update – Director of Planning and Land Use John Ayer was in attendance to provide his quarterly update to the Board. He stated that the Planning Board is currently looking at amendments to the Zoning Ordinance and Master Plan and the Historic District Commission has recently adopted new guidelines. He thanked the Board for assisting in providing full membership on all land use boards, including alternates.

Director Ayer then provided some general information on the status of vendor permits, building permits and applications before the Planning Board. The construction at the Gilford Community Church is almost completed and they have taken great steps to

preserve the historical features of the property.

6. Consent Agenda

6.1. Selectman O'Brien moved to approve the Consent Agenda for the period June 22, 2009 through July 2, 2009. Chairman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

<u>DOCUMENT DATE</u>	<u>DOCUMENT</u>	<u>MAP/LOT #</u>
02/28/09	Change of Status - Cammorata	
04/17/09	Change of Status - Pendergast	
04/18/09	Change of Status - Ferreira	
05/30/09	Change of Status - DeCarli	
06/02/09	Change of Status - Nazer	
06/08/09	Change of Status - Greene	
06/15/09	Payroll Register	
06/15/09	Abatement Denial - Meadowbrook	224-009.000
06/15/09	Change of Status - Mercuri	
06/17/09	Accounts Payable Manifest	
06/19/09	Sewer Abatement - Leslie	252-016.016
06/19/09	Abatement - Glendale Water	242-186.100
06/19/09	Change of Status - Darling	
06/22/09	Payroll Manifest	
06/22/09	Notice of Decision - Craver	
06/24/09	Accounts Payable Manifest	
06/24/09	Elderly Exemption - Moody	214-035.000
06/24/09	Elderly Exemption - Griffin	203-100.000
06/24/09	Elderly Exemption - Decato	256-002.000
06/24/09	Elderly Exemption - Mercadante	256-016.257
06/24/09	Elderly Denial - Dionne	201-009.056
06/24/09	Elderly Denial - Hewitt Trust	203-036.000
06/24/09	Elderly Exemption - Royce	226-118.100
06/24/09	Elderly Denial - Laura	253-367.000
06/24/09	Land Use Change Tax - GCV Realty	254-074.000
06/26/09	Work Agreement - Forest Land Improvement	
06/29/09	Veteran's Denial - Fountain	254-063.000
06/29/09	Elderly Exemption - Goddard	203-237.000
06/29/09	Elderly Exemption - Romprey	213-017.000
06/29/09	Elderly Exemption - Grant	203-158.000
06/29/09	Abatement - Roux	208-003.003
07/01/09	Change of Status - Stevens	
07/01/09	Change of Status - Morgan	

7. New Business

7.1. Unlicensed Dog Warrant – Town Administrator Dunn briefly explained the requirement of the Board to issue a warrant for civil forfeitures for unlicensed dogs. He is recommending against the seizure of any unlicensed dogs.

Chairman Benavides moved to approve the Unlicensed Dog Warrant dated July 8, 2009, as submitted. Selectman O'Brien seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

7.2. Donation Acceptance – D.A.R.E. Program – Selectman O'Brien moved to accept a \$500 donation from the Gilford Police Relief Children's Fund for the D.A.R.E. program. Chairman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

7.3. Road Striping Bids – Award Contract – Selectman O'Brien moved to accept the low bid of Markings, Inc. of Pembroke, MA for the 2009 highway striping. Chairman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

8. Old Business – none.

9. Public Input – John Beland, on behalf of the St. Baldrick's organization, thanked the Board for supporting their recent fundraising event. The proclamation read by Selectman Hayes was an excellent way to "kick off" the event.

10. Selectmen's Issues – Selectman O'Brien recognized Officer Stiegler, Detective Farley and Detective Bredbury for the professional manner in which they recently handled a difficult situation.

Chairman Benavides congratulated Town Administrator Dunn on his recent marriage.

11. Administrator's Report – Town Administrator Dunn reported that the Police Department has recently had two significant retirements which have assumed a great deal of his time. He also recently met with John Ayer and Peggy and Peter Ames regarding planning and zoning issues at Ames Farm.

Town Administrator Dunn commented that he was recently at the Village Field during the evening and the various activities that were taking place, including sports events and a band concert, are a testament to the use of the fields and quality of life in Gilford.

12. Next Meeting – Wednesday, July 22, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

13. Adjournment – With no further business before the Board, the Board of Selectmen's July 8, 2009 meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John T. O'Brien
Clerk