

GILFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
November 4, 2009
Town Hall

The Board of Selectmen convened in a regular session on Wednesday, November 4, 2009, at 7:00 p.m., at the Gilford Town Hall, 47 Cherry Valley Road, Gilford, NH. Selectmen present were Gus Benavides, Kevin Hayes and John O'Brien. Also present were Town Administrator Scott Dunn and Executive Secretary Sandra Bailey.

Staff members in attendance included Finance Director Geoff Ruggles, Recreation Director Herb Greene, Police Chief John Markland and Deputy Police Chief Kevin Keenan. In the audience were residents Mark Corry and Thom Francoeur.

1. **Non-Meeting** – [Consultation with legal counsel per RSA 91-A:2, I (b)]
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** – The Selectmen recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Announcements**
 - 3.1. **2009 Tax Rate** – Chairman Benavides announced the 2009 tax rate of \$17.37 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation and stated that the rate was comprised of four factors. It is anticipated that the tax bills will be in the mail on or about November 10th with a due date of 30 days thereafter.
 - 3.2. **Town Engineer Candidate Interviews** – Town Administrator Dunn stated that the Town Engineer Candidate Interviews will be held on Friday, November 6, 2009 from 1:00 p.m. through 5:00 p.m.
4. **Review/Approval of Minutes**
 - 4.1. Selectman Hayes moved to approve the minutes of the Glendale Work Session of October 27, 2009 and the minutes of the regular and non-public sessions of the October 28, 2009 meeting. Selectman O'Brien seconded and noted two corrections to the October 28, 2009 regular session minutes. Motion carried with all in favor to approve the minutes as corrected.
5. **Consent Agenda**
 - 5.1. Selectman Hayes moved to approve the Consent Agenda for the period October 26, 2009 through October 30, 2009. Selectman O'Brien seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

<u>DOCUMENT DATE</u>	<u>DOCUMENT</u>	<u>MAP/LOT #</u>
03/28/09	Change of Status - Mooney	
07/08/09	Change of Status - Crumb	
07/28/09	Change of Status - Cammarota	
09/28/09	Change of Status - Dinan	
10/19/09	Payroll Register	
10/20/09	Tax Collector's Warrant - Jeopardy Tax	
10/21/09	Accounts Payable Manifest	
10/22/09	Accounts Payable Manifest	
10/23/09	Accounts Payable Manifest	
10/24/09	Abatement - Karatsanos	202-036.000
10/26/09	Change of Status - Hayes (2)	
10/26/09	Payroll Register (2)	
10/28/09	Release of Lien	201-013.008

10/28/09	Release of Lien	201-009.105
10/28/09	Notice of Lien	213-084.000
10/28/09	Accounts Payable Manifest	

6. Public Hearing

6.1. Appropriation of Unanticipated Funds – NH Housing Finance Authority – Chairman Benavides read aloud the notice for this public hearing, which is required because the amount of money received for the grant exceeds \$5,000. The grant money is to be used for the services of a technical consultant to assist the Town in their efforts to comply with the NH Workforce Housing Law.

He opened the hearing for public comments and there being none, closed the public hearing at 7:08 p.m.

Selectman Hayes moved to authorize the Planning Board to spend the grant money, in the amount of \$8,775.23, for a consultant in accordance with the terms of the grant. Selectman O'Brien seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

7. Appointments

7.1. Deputy Chief Kevin Keenan – Police Department Quarterly Update – Deputy Chief Keenan stated that 2009 has been a very busy, yet productive, year. Their calls have increased, due largely to the state of the economy with burglaries, shoplifting and bad check charges. The Police Department's 2009 budget continues to track on target.

Deputy Chief Keenan also provided the Board with various statistics regarding the 2009 season at the Glendale Docks. The number of violations has increased since 2008 and the fine money continues to come in. He also stated that the new regulations and signage helped the Department in their enforcement efforts.

Brief discussion ensued regarding the Police Department's phone number.

The Board thanked Deputy Chief Keenan for his presentation.

8. Old Business

8.1. Selectmen December Meeting Schedule – The Board concurred to change their December meeting schedule to December 2, 16 and 30, 2009. Since the Conference Room is not available on December 16th, that meeting was proposed to be held at the Gilford Public Library.

8.2. Review Draft Policy Regulating Commercial Signs/Schedule Public Hearing – Discussion began with a suggestion being made by Selectman O'Brien to have the Town Administrator, rather than the Board of Selectmen, review and approve applications for commercial signs. This would assist the applicant with a more timely approval, but it was agreed that the Board of Selectmen should be the ones who review and approve applications for the time being.

Selectman O'Brien then suggested that under 3.1(i) that the off-premise signs be limited to one, rather than two. He also recommended that the Board of Selectmen be added to 4.3 as enforcers of the policy. Following brief discussion, the Board agreed to these changes. A public hearing on the new policy was scheduled for Wednesday, November 18, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

9. New Business

- 9.1. 2009-2010 Ice Rink Schedule** – Town Administrator Dunn provided some background information on the situation with the Town’s ice rink. This matter came about when the Selectmen were reviewing documents to hire staff for the ice rink for the winter season and the Board decided to look further into whether or not to open the ice rink for the season.

Recreation Director Greene further advised the Board that Town Administrator Dunn, Recreation Chairman Thom Francoeur, a representative from NH DRED and himself met on Tuesday at the ice rink. He further stated that the ice rink was constructed in 1982 as a result of grant money received. Due to the condition of the rink and lack of use, they discussed some of the options available for the Town. Paying back the grant is not an option and if the Town chose to disregard the conditions attached to the grant, they would be at risk for fines for non-compliance.

Another option for the Town would be to utilize the same amount of square footage at another location in Gilford. The structure could also be declared obsolete, based on the fact that it is too expensive to operate and reduced usage. The rink could be opened for the 2009-2010 season on a reduced schedule and a request could be made of the Recreation Commission to study and options and make a recommendation to the Board on either conversion or obsolescence.

Director Greene stated that he would like to move ahead for this year and re-hire his personnel, since prep work needs to be started prior to the cold weather. Recreation Chairman Francoeur stated that this matter has been brought up over the years and emphasized its historic value. He would not like to see the Town relinquish the facility and pointed out that, with the help of Merrill Fay and possible fundraising, the structure might be revitalized at no cost. Chairman Francoeur also indicated that when an assessment of the structure was completed 8-10 years ago, there were no safety concerns.

Brief discussion ensued on the fact that the condition of the ice is entirely dependent on the weather. Selectman Hayes moved to continue operating the ice rink for one more year but to explore other options during 2010. Selectman O’Brien seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

- 9.2. Acceptance of Donations** – Selectman Hayes moved to accept donations totaling \$282.00 for the Fire Training Center and \$443.38 for Cemetery Restoration. Selectman O’Brien seconded. Chairman Benavides read aloud the list of donors.

10. Public Input – none.

11. Selectmen’s Issues – none.

12. Administrator’s Report – Town Administrator Dunn reported that he has learned since last week’s vote to expand the boundaries of the Gunstock Acres Village Water District, that this change will require Town Meeting approval. He is also working on a purchasing policy and revising the parking regulations. At the next Board meeting on November 18th, it is his intention to provide a personnel policy amendment to address the budget shortfall caused by the 2010 health insurance rates.

13. Next Meeting – Wednesday, November 18, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. – Regular Meeting

14. Non-Public Session – Selectman Hayes moved to enter Non-Public Session on a roll call vote at 7:35 p.m. pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (d)(a) to discuss disposition of real property and hiring of personnel. Selectman O’Brien seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Also in attendance during the first portion of the Non-Public Session regarding the hiring of personnel, were Police Chief John Markland and Deputy Police Chief Kevin Keenan.

While in Non-Public Session, Selectman Hayes moved to hire Janero Jawan Sankey and Adam Paul Vansteensburg to fill the two vacant police officer positions, at a pay rate of \$18.34 per hour, Grade 3, Step 1. Selectman O'Brien seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Other matters were discussed and these minutes were sealed from a motion by Selectman Hayes at 8:30 p.m. Selectman O'Brien seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Selectmen Hayes moved to exit Non-Public Session 8:30 p.m. Selectman O'Brien seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

15. **Adjournment** – With no further business before the Board, the Board of Selectmen's November 4, 2009 meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John T. O'Brien
Clerk