

GILFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
January 12, 2011
Town Hall

The Board of Selectmen convened in a regular session on Wednesday, January 12, 2011, at 7:00 p.m., at the Gilford Town Hall, 47 Cherry Valley Road, Gilford, NH. Selectmen present were Kevin Hayes, John O'Brien and Gus Benavides. Also present was Town Administrator Scott Dunn.

Staff members in attendance included Town Clerk/Tax Collector Denise Morrissette Gonyer, Finance Director Geoff Ruggles, Police Chief John Markland and Deputy Police Chief Kevin Keenan.

1. Non-Public Session (6:30 p.m.)

1.1. Selectman O'Brien moved to enter non-public session at 6:30 p.m., pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (d)(e), to discuss the acquisition, sale or lease of personal property and legal matters. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried on roll call vote with all in favor. Present were Selectmen Kevin Hayes, John O'Brien and Gus Benavides. Also present was Town Administrator Scott Dunn.

Selectman O'Brien moved to exit non-public session at 7:00 p.m. and seal the minutes. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – The Selectmen recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Announcements/Presentations

- 3.1.** Chairman Hayes announced that Budget Committee's Public Hearing on the Town Budget will be held on Thursday, January 13, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at Gilford High School.
- 3.2.** Chairman Hayes announced that the Town Offices and Library will be closed on Monday, January 17, 2011 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- 3.3.** Chairman Hayes announced that the Second Public Hearing for the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments will be held on Tuesday, January 18, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.
- 3.4.** Chairman Hayes announced that the 2011 Town Stickers and Boat Registrations are now available at the TC/TX Office; Dump Coupons are also available for \$5.00 each.

4. Review/Approval of Minutes

4.1. Selectman O'Brien moved to approve the minutes of the regular and non-public sessions of December 29, 2010. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

5. Consent Agenda

5.1. Selectman O'Brien moved to approve the Consent Agenda for the period December 27, 2010 through January 7, 2011. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

<u>DOCUMENT DATE</u>	<u>DOCUMENT</u>	<u>MAP/LOT #</u>
11/12/10	Change of Status - DuVerger	
11/19/10	Change of Status - Denver	
12/01/10	Change of Status - Jensen	
12/05/10	Change of Status - Stuart	
12/07/10	Abatement - Gillett	242-045.000

12/09/10	Change of Status - Tidd	
12/17/10	Abatement - Tilton Manor LLC	214-032.000
12/20/10	Payroll Register (2)	
12/21/10	Abatement - Lian	242-231.000
12/24/10	Change of Status - Clarke	
12/27/10	Change of Status - Maxwell	
12/28/10	Accounts Payable Manifest	
12/29/10	Abatement - Beauchemin(2)	253-109.000
12/29/10	Appointment Form - Ruggles	
12/29/10	Appointment Form - Morgan	
12/29/10	Appointment Form - Carrier	
12/29/10	Appointment Form - Beland	
12/29/10	Appointment Form - Ayer	
01/07/11	Notice of Intent to Cut - Grant	263-036.007

6.0 Appointments

6.1 Denise Gonyer – Town Clerk/Tax Collector Department Update – TC/TX Gonyer provided that Board with some statistical data on the operation of her Department over the past few months. She stated that 2010 tax revenue is currently at \$1.51 million, which is down from the \$1.56 million in 2009. She pointed out that in addition to completing transactions for the Town, they are also an agent for the State of NH, which represents significantly more transactions. She further stated that the high number of transactions, which are completed each year, are a reflection of the excellent service that is provided by her Department.

TC/TX Gonyer stated that she is now preparing for the 2011 Town Meeting Election. She further stated that there is a new law that she wanted the Board to be aware of relating to placing names on the ballot. Currently, she has had the authority to draw names at random and place them on the ballot. The new law requires that this be done in a different manner and she provided a brief explanation. Brief discussion ensued regarding the importance of the order in which names are placed on the ballot.

Selectman O'Brien questioned the earlier announcement that the Town Clerk's office would be selling dump coupons again. TC/TX Gonyer replied that she has a volunteer position that is commencing this week and she has been able to reinstate that service as a result. Selectman Benavides questioned if any further action had been taken in regards to looking at the use of debit cards for payments.

TC/TX Gonyer stated that she is working towards the use of credit cards but currently has a concern regarding the inconsistency of being able to use certain credit cards for certain functions. She addressed some of her specific concerns to the Board and explained how bad checks are handled through the Town Clerk's function of her department.

Selectman Benavides asked TC/TX Gonyer about her willingness to work with taxpayers, in order to keep their taxes current. She replied that she can do this for taxpayers who are current with their taxes, but would like to pay ahead, as well as taxpayers who are behind in the payment of their taxes and want to get caught up. One of the factors she pointed out was the involvement of a mortgage company when someone is behind in the payment of their property taxes. She also stated that the law enables her to take payments for two years in advance.

The Board thanked TC/TX Gonyer for her presentation.

7.0 Old Business

7.1 2011 Budget (plus Warrant Articles – Draft #2) – Chairman Hayes stated that the Board still has some articles that need to be voted on prior to the finalization of the 2011 Warrant. Town Administrator Dunn reported that under Article #6, there are some additional items for the Board's consideration. Two numbers will result in a decrease in appropriation, while the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office is requesting additional part-time wages funding, which totals \$1,584.

One of the items being considered for reduction was for Worker's Compensation Insurance. At the time that the Board voted on this, the figure available was \$93,275 and when it was reviewed by the Budget Committee, the estimate changed to \$85,000. Finance Director Ruggles reported that since that time, an actual figure has been received, which is 4.5% more than last year.

Selectman Benavides asked Town Administrator Dunn for an explanation of the reduction of \$2,200 for the Fire Department's budget. Town Administrator Dunn stated that the reduction is due to the Fire Department only needing to purchase three sets of gear at a cost of \$600 each. The Board previously recommended \$4,000 for this item.

Moving onto Article #7, the AFSCME contract, Selectman O'Brien moved to approve the two year collective bargaining agreement which will cost \$0 in year one and \$33,060 in year two. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Moving back to Article #6, Finance Director Ruggles reported that the \$85,000 amount for Worker's Compensation Insurance is correct because the figure from Primex was for \$83,000+. In light of this information, Chairman Hayes stated that the new figure for Article #6 is \$11,209,988. Selectman O'Brien moved to recommend Article #6 in the amount of \$11,209,988. Selectman Benavides seconded. Brief discussion ensued regarding how this figure was calculated. Motion carried with all in favor.

Article #14 Child and Family Services in the amount of \$3,500 – Selectman O'Brien moved to not recommend this article. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Article #15 Community Health and Hospice in the amount of \$25,000 – Selectman O'Brien moved to not recommend this article. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Article #16 Community Action Program in the amount of \$8,762 – Selectman O'Brien moved to not recommend this article. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Article #17 Genesis Behavioral Health in the amount of \$11,739 – Selectman O'Brien moved to not recommend this article. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Article #18 New Beginnings in the amount of \$2,000 – Selectman O'Brien moved to not recommend this article. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Article #19 2012 Bicentennial celebration in the amount of \$3,000 – Selectman

O'Brien moved to not recommend this article. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried by a vote of 2-1. Chairman Hayes was opposed.

Selectman O'Brien moved to approve the default budget in the amount of \$11,207,660. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

8.0 New Business

8.1 Entertainment Permit – Cackling Crow – Selectman O'Brien moved to approve an Entertainment Permit for the Cackling Crow. Selectman Benavides seconded.

Selectman Benavides expressed concern that no one from the Cackling Crow was in attendance at the meeting tonight, because he does have some questions regarding this application. As a result, Selectman O'Brien withdrew his motion and Selectman Benavides withdrew his second. Selectman O'Brien then moved to table the application until 1/26/11. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

8.2 Landlord's Agent for Service of Process & Liens– Following brief discussion on this matter, it was the consensus of the Board to approve the Town Administrator's recommended approach.

8.3 Irwin Marine – 2011 Boat Agent– Selectman O'Brien moved to appoint Carol Downing of Irwin Marine as a Boat Agent for 2011. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

8.4 Cable Television Franchise Renewal – Chairman Hayes stated that he appreciates receiving this notice of franchise renewal proceedings well in advance of the 2013 expiration date. He recommended that the Board authorize the Town Administrator to work with the other affected communities, on behalf of the Board. It was the consensus of the Board to support this recommendation.

8.5 Timberman Triathlon Application for Activity on State Highway System – Selectman O'Brien moved to approve the application for the 2011 Timberman to use State Highways. Selectman Benavides seconded, with comment. He stated that the point was raised during the 2011 budget meetings that the Town does have to go out and do quite a bit of clean-up. Town Administrator confirmed that the Town does do some clean-up of roads prior to the race and is not compensated. Motion carried with all in favor. In the future, the Town will bill the Timberman for the pre-event work conducted by the Department of Public Works.

9.0 Public Input – None.

10.0 Selectmen's Issues – Selectman Benavides stated that today he was able to have the opportunity to ride in a Department of Public Works truck while snowplowing. He stated that it was very eye-opening to see what the crews have to go through during storm clean-up. He praised the hard work and dedication of the crews. He questioned people parking their cars on the road while having their driveways cleared. Town Administrator Dunn stated that this practice is not allowed and the vehicles could be ticketed and towed.

Brief discussion ensued with Police Chief Markland providing input on their role during snowstorms.

11.0 Administrator's Report – Town Administrator Dunn reported that he received a memo from Deputy Chief Keenan today regarding the Potter Hill Road traffic study. The

process has continued since the last meeting, with no vehicles being ticketed for exceeding the speed limits. As a result, the Police Department is requesting that this study be terminated. It was the consensus of the Board to agree with this request.

He then noted he has been busy preparing for Town Meeting and working on union negotiations.

12.0 **Next Meeting** – Regular Meeting – January 26, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

13.0 **Adjournment** – With no further business before the Board, the Board of Selectmen's January 12, 2011 meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gus Benavides
Clerk