

**GILFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**March 9, 2011**  
**Town Hall**

The Board of Selectmen convened in a regular session on Wednesday, March 9, 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 were Town Administrator Scott Dunn and Executive Secretary Sandra Bailey.

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

**1. Non-Public Session (6:00 p.m.)**

- 1.1.** Selectman O'Brien moved to enter non-public session at 6:00 p.m., pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a)(c)(e), to discuss matters which may adversely affect someone's reputation, compensation and promotion of employees 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 and Town Clerk/Tax Collector Denise Gonyer.

Selectman O'Brien moved to authorize the hiring of Bonnie Malin as part-time Assistant Town Clerk/Tax Collector at a rate of \$12.00 per hour, effective March 7, 2011. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor. A letter will be sent to Michelle Crumb, accepting her resignation with regret. Town Clerk/Tax Collector Gonyer exited Non-Public Session.

Police Chief John Markland and Deputy Police Chief Kevin Keenan then entered Non-Public Session. They discussed Police Department wage rates with the Board. Following the discussion, the Board moved to increase the salary of Sergeant O'Connor by \$1.00 per hour as of January 1, 2011 and \$1.00 per hour as of July 7, 2011. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor. Police Chief Markland and Deputy Police Chief Keenan exited Non-Public Session.

Other matters were discussed and these matters were sealed indefinitely by unanimous vote of the Board.

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

**3. Announcements/Presentations**

- 3.1.** Chairman Hayes announced that the 2011 Town Meeting results are posted on the Town's website. He congratulated those citizens who were elected into office.
- 3.2.** Chairman Hayes announced that the Board of Selectmen will tour the Belknap County Sheriff's Office on Tuesday, March 22, 2011, at 10:00 a.m.
- 3.3.** Chairman Hayes announced various upcoming dates for meetings of the Belknap County Delegation.

**4. Review/Approval of Minutes**

- 4.1.** Selectman O'Brien moved to approve the minutes of the regular and non-public sessions of February 23, 2011. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

**5. Consent Agenda**

- 5.1.** Selectman O'Brien moved to approve the previously signed items for the period February 22, 2011 through March 4, 2011. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion

carried with all in favor.

<u>DOCUMENT DATE</u>	<u>DOCUMENT</u>	<u>MAP/LOT #</u>
01/14/11	Change of Status - Cutter	
02/08/11	Change of Status - A. Hewitt	
02/14/11	Payroll Register	
02/15/11	Accounts Payable Manifest	
02/18/11	Notice of Lien - Leroux	213-015.000
02/22/11	Payroll Register	
02/22/11	Accounts Payable Manifest	
02/28/11	Veteran's Tax Credit - Robertson	216-093.100
02/28/11	Veteran's Tax Credit - Lawrence	215-021.000
02/28/11	Veteran's Tax Credit - Kelly	227-225.000
02/28/11	NOITC - Crook	213-013.000

## **6.0 Appointments**

**6.1 Bill Bertholdt – Lake Winnepesaukee Speed Limits** – Mr. Bertholdt was in attendance, on behalf of the Winnepesaukee Family Alliance for Boating Safety, to ask for the Board’s support of the current speed limits on the lake. He reported that SB-27 calls for the removal of the 45/25 speed limits and would change the law to read “reasonable and prudent” instead. A further amendment could designate “The Broads”, a three-mile by seven-mile stretch of open water in the middle of the lake, to have no speed limits, while continuing the current speed limits on the rest of the lake.

Mr. Bertholdt asked the Board to set precedent and notify the Senate and Senate Transportation Committee to maintain the existing speed limits without change. He added that the City of Laconia unanimously agreed to recommend this legislation as “inexpedient to legislate”. Selectman O’Brien stated that he personally supports the speed limits and can hear boats on the lake from his home in Gunstock Acres. Selectman Benavides stated that the Board represents the citizens of Gilford and they have not heard from them, one way or the other, regarding this matter. He does not think that the Board should take a position on this issue.

Mr. Bertholdt stated that fifty years of boating data is supported by forty-five years of excessive speed being a factor in boating accidents. Selectman Benavides reiterated that the Board does not know how the residents of Gilford feel about this issue, but encouraged everyone, as private citizens, to express their opinion on the proposed legislation.

Resident Dick Hickok advised the Board to be cautious with data that has been supplied regarding boating accidents and does not feel they should take a stand. He further stated that he thinks that loud exhausts are an issue and, in general, rules on the lake are not enforced, especially the 150 feet safe passage law.

Resident Terry Stewart stated that he has sailed, kayaked and driven motorized boats, on the lake, for many years. He also thinks that the Board should not get involved in this matter because it is not related to running the Town of Gilford.

The Board concurred that they would not take a position on this matter.

**6.2 Sheldon Morgan – Department of Public Works Update** – Director Morgan was not in attendance, so his update will be scheduled for a later date.

**6.3 TC/TC Denise Gonyer – Update of New On-line Services** – TC/TC Gonyer was in attendance to update the Board on recent additions to the on-line services that are offered to the public. She stated that her office is now able to accept payment on-line for parking fines and Glendale Guest Cards. She also stated that she is seeking direction from the Board to impose an additional fee of \$1.50 when mailing costs are involved.

A brief question and answer period ensued with the members of the Board. When questioned regarding the use of credit cards, TC/TC Morrissette indicated that she thinks the use of credit cards is still approximately one year away. Brief discussion also ensued on whether a public hearing would be required to include the \$1.50 mail-in fee. Selectman O'Brien moved to authorize the Town Clerk/Tax Collector to charge a \$1.50 fee when mailing is required. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

## **7.0 Old Business**

**7.1 SB-156 (NH Auto Dealer Registrations)** – Town Clerk/Tax Collector Denise Gonyer was in attendance to update the Board on the status of SB-156, which authorizes car dealers to act as agents of the DMV and be able to issue vehicle titles and registrations. She expressed several areas of concern, for the Town of Gilford, if this legislation is approved. One of the key issues would be the issuance of titles and registrations for people who are not actually citizens of Gilford, and there are many addresses in Gilford that do not qualify for residency. This led to extensive discussion.

Representative Alida Millham spoke against the bill and Finance Director Geoff Ruggles provided the Board with information on the transfer of funds from a dealership to the Town. TC/TC Gonyer advised the Board that this bill would allow purchasers to finance their registration fees and also utilize credit cards for the payment of the fees.

TC/TC Gonyer stated that she would be attending the public hearing on Friday, March 11, 2011, and would keep the Board posted on any developments.

## **8.0 New Business**

**8.1 Appointment of Boat Agent** – Selectman O'Brien moved to appoint Donna Gately and Mark Mello of Gator Signs, Inc. as Boat Agents for the year 2011. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

**8.2 Primex Insurance Proposal** – Chairman Hayes asked Finance Director Ruggles to provide an overview of the Primex Contribution Assurance Program (CAP) that is being proposed for the Town's workers' compensation insurance. This program would cap the yearly increase at 8%, in return for a multi-year commitment from the Town.

Finance Director Ruggles explained how workers' compensation rates are set at the beginning of the year based on estimated payroll and adjusted at the end of the year once the actual payroll amount is established. He also suggested that the Board prepare an RFP for this coverage and solicit sealed bids from at least two primary municipal insurance carriers.

Town Administrator Dunn stated that he is not opposed to the RFP process, but this is the Town's first year with Primex, after discontinuing coverage with LGC. As a result, he would like to build a relationship with Primex and not switch back and forth

between the two carriers.

Selectman Benavides moved to enter into a three-year agreement with Primex for Workers' Compensation Insurance, which will cap increases during that period at 8%. Selectman O'Brien seconded. Motion carries with all in favor.

**9.0 Public Input** – Alida Millham stated that she does support the boat speed limits on the lake. She also pointed out potentially serious budget ramifications that could be forthcoming from the State.

**10.0 Selectmen's Issues** – Selectman O'Brien thanked Police Officers Jim Leach and Kevin Baron for allowing him to ride with them during recent patrols.

**11.0 Administrator's Report** – Town Administrator Dunn stated that the actual rate increase has been received from LGC for health insurance. It is the same as the GMR estimate that was given of an 8.9% increase.

Town Administrator Dunn continues to work on a Memorandum of Understanding with the Winnepesaukee River Basin Project Advisory Board to contain costs associated with the project.

Town Administrator Dunn congratulated winners of yesterday's election. He also stated that the new phone system has been installed and there is a small punch list of items to be completed.

The Cable TV consortium will be meeting again in the near future in their effort to pool resources for legal counsel.

Following yesterday's Town Meeting vote to turn over the Pine Grove and McCoy Cemeteries to the Town, Town Administrator Dunn will be meeting with the Cemetery Trustees to implement a plan to assume responsibility.

Selectman Benavides moved to record the Warranty Deed from the Pine Grove-McCoy Cemetery Association to the Town of Gilford. Selectmen O'Brien seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

**12.0 Next Meeting** – Regular Meeting – March 23, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

**13.0 Adjournment** – With no further business before the Board, the Board of Selectmen's March 9, 2011 meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gus Benavides  
Clerk