

**TOWN OF GILFORD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
January 27, 2016
GILFORD TOWN HALL**

1.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

At 7:00 PM, Chairman Gus Benavides convened the public meeting in the 1st floor conference room and led the assembly with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

In attendance were: Selectman Chair Gus Benavides, Selectman Vice-Chair Richard Grenier and Selectman Clerk Dale Channing Eddy.

Staff members in attendance were: Fire Chief Stephen Carrier, Police Lt. James Leach, Finance Director Geoffrey Ruggles, Public Works Director Peter Nourse, Public Works Operations Manger Mia Gagliardi, Deputy Fire Chief Bradley Ober, Town Administrator Scott Dunn and Executive Assistant Angela Bovill.

2.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

The Chairman read the rules of the meeting and then noted:

- 2.1 The Town Meeting Deliberative Session will be Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 7pm at the Gilford High School.
- 2.2 The NH Presidential Primary elections will be Tuesday, February 9, 2016 from 7 am to 7 pm at the Gilford Youth Center.

3.0 REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 3.1 January 13, 2016 Public and Non-Public Sessions

The Chairman asked if there were any proposed changes to the minutes. Richard Grenier made a motion to approve the 01/13/16 minutes as presented; seconded by Dale Chan Eddy and passed with all in favor; (3-0).

4.0 CONSENT AGENDA

- 4.1 Approval of Previously Signed Documents, 01/11/2016 through 01/22/16

Richard Grenier made a motion to approve the items previously signed during the period of January 11, 2016 through January 22, 2016 as presented; seconded by Dale Chan Eddy and passed with all in favor; (3-0).

5.0 APPOINTMENTS

- 5.1 Gunstock Area General Manager, Greg Goddard – Department Update

Greg Goddard, Gunstock Area General Manger came to give a semi-annual department updated and thanked the Selectmen for the opportunity. The month of December was a disaster for Gunstock with the lack of snow and warm temperatures. January has rebounded nicely and they have been making lots of snow. Currently there are 40 trails open and all lifts are operating. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend was very successful. Mr. Goddard wanted to express this thanks publically to the Town and Town Department Heads for their cooperation. The Town has been very helpful to Gunstock and they very much appreciate this relationship. Construction on the new mountain coaster is underway and on time, on budget and it will be ready early next summer. The Tough Mudders competition will be coming back to NH

to the NH Motor Speedway; there is the possibility of a Craft Beer Relay Race at Gunstock in 2016. The Board thanked Mr. Goddard for his update and Town Administrator Scott Dunn stated that he appreciates Mr. Goddard for the cooperation that has been established between the Town and Gunstock, this is a two way street and thanked Mr. Goddard.

5.2 Finance Director, Geoffrey Ruggles – Monthly Financial Report Update

Geoffrey Ruggles, Finance Director gave the Board the monthly financial reports ending 12/31/15. Mr. Ruggles reported 2015 was a very good year for the Town. Preliminary revenues are just under \$3,375,000 which is roughly \$182,000 over estimates. Some areas came in above estimates and some areas came in below estimates, but overall it was a good year. Expenditures at the end of 2015 are nearly \$12,402,000 which is roughly \$364,000 below budget. The majority of costs savings in 2015 in were in wages and benefits. Property tax payments were very strong at just over 95% for the first time in at least five years; with the strong tax collections, the cash balance at the end of 2015 is just over \$70,000 above the ending balance for 2014. Discussions ensued. The Selectmen thanked Mr. Ruggles for his update.

5.3 Mr. Mark Watson – Wood Road Discontinuance

Attorney Justin Richardson of Upton and Hatfield is representing his clients Mr. and Mrs. Watson regarding warrant article #29 for the discontinuance of Wood Road. Attorney Richardson explained his clients feel very strongly about changing to warrant article to allow for a study and more research. They were displeased that they did not receive more notice on the matter; it came as a shock to them. They are property owners but not residents. There is a history with the property. The Watsons have allowed the Department of Public Works to use their land to turn around for many years. Attorney Richardson said that to receive this notice on such short notice would cause a legal issue, if it passes warrant, it will go to a Judge and Jury and that would be very expensive. Chairman Benavides allowed Mark Watson to speak. The Watsons asked if the Board could change the language on the floor of the deliberative session to “study” whether or not to discontinue allowing both parties to step back and do research etc. Mr. Mark Watson spoke in length to the Selectmen to list reasoning for the request to amend the warrant article along with the financial impacts.

6.0 OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

7.0 NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Unanticipated Revenues

Richard Grenier made a motion to accept a \$2,295 Eversource Lighting Rebate Grant and to authorize the expenditure for that amount for lighting expenses as part of the Police Station project; seconded by Dale Chan Eddy and passed with all in favor.

Richard Grenier made a motion to accept \$217 payment from Douglas Plummer and to authorize the expenditure for that amount for security expenses on Town owned property at 26 Chipmunk Circle.

7.2 Appointment to Recreation Commission

Richard Grenier made a motion to appoint Tracey Blandford as an alternate member of the Recreation Commission for a term to expire on April 30, 2017; seconded by Dale Chan Eddy and passed with all in favor; (3-0). The Selectmen thanked Ms. Blandford for volunteering.

7.3 Revised Fee Schedules

(a) Fire Chief Stephen Carrier submitted a proposed fee increase for various Fire-Rescue Department permits that have been approved by the Fire Engineers. Deputy Fire Chief Bradley Ober was present to answer questions. It was the consensus of the Board to have a public hearing on the Proposed Fee Schedule on Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at 7:00 PM.

(b) Police and Fire Special Details

The Board was given a proposal for fee increases for various Police and Fire special details. It was the consensus of the Board to have a public hearing on the Proposed Fee increase for Police and Fire special details on Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at 7:00 PM.

7.4 Online Maps Website Hosting Contract – CAI Technologies

Finance Director, Geoffrey Ruggles presented contract from CAI Technologies to continue hosting and maintaining the town's online maps website. The annual cost is \$1,800 (same as 2015) and has been allocated in the 2016 budget and Mr. Ruggles is recommending acceptance of the contract services for another year. Richard Grenier made a motion to approve and sign the contract for \$1,800 as presented; seconded by Dale Chan Eddy and passed with all in favor; (3-0).

7.5 NHDOT Work Zone Agreement (Route 3-11 by-pass)

Town Administrator Scott Dunn presented the NHDOT Municipal Work Zone Agreement and is recommending the Board sign. This is for the construction activity along Route 3-11 by-pass scheduled to take place from May to September 2016. Richard Grenier made a motion to approve and sign the agreement as presented; seconded by Dale Chan Eddy and passed with all in favor; (3-0).

8.0 OTHER BUSINESS

Town Clerk Tax Collector Denise Gonyer is seeking approval from the board to enter into contract with Sanders Searches, LLC for Deed and Lien research with a contract price of \$2,848.89. There is money in the budget for this. Richard Grenier made a motion to approve the contract as presented; seconded by Dale Chan Eddy and passed with all in favor; (3-0).

9.0 PUBLIC INPUT

Chairman Benavides asked if there was any public comment. Bill Carpenter, Dan Tinkham Alison Wilson and Nancy Watson all spoke in length in support of amending the warrant article for the discontinuance of Wood Road and pleading with the Board to amend the warrant to "study the reclassification of Wood Road from Class V to Class VI" versus "Discontinue" the reclassification... Lengthy discussion ensued. It was the consensus of the Board to amend Warrant Article #29 as requested. Town Administrator Dunn will change the language so that the Selectmen can do this at the Deliberative Session. The Board was very glad that the Watsons brought the matter of plowing the roadway and past practices to their attention. Starting tomorrow the Town will plow into the trailhead and not the Watson's driveway, and the plow trucks will turn around in the easement. Everyone learned some valuable lessons in communication tonight and the Selectmen thanked members.

10.0 SELECTMEN'S ISSUES

Richard Grenier is concerned about a pending bill that would require non profit (like BRAT's) to obtain liability insurance. Bill Carpenter expressed that they need to do something, they would

not want to lose the volunteers who maintain the trails etc. They are aware they need to solve this and soon. He will look into this in Concord and report back to the Board. Selectmen Grenier also asked about the school speed limit on Belknap Mountain Road and requested that this be on the agenda for the next Selectmen's meeting.

11.0 ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Town Administrator Dunn had nothing new to report.

12.0 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at 7:00 PM.

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

Richard Grenier made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM; seconded by Dale Chan Eddy and passed with all in favor; (3-0).

Respectfully Submitted,


Angela a. Bovill, Executive Assistant

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on the 10th day of February, 2016.

Attest:


Selectmen Dale Channing Eddy, Clerk