

GILFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
January 22, 2014
Town Hall

The Board of Selectmen convened in a regular session on Wednesday, January 22, 2014, 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 Finance Director Geoff Ruggles, DPW Director Sheldon Morgan, Acting Police Chief Jim Leach, Acting Deputy Police Chief Kris Kelley, Fire Chief Steve Carrier, DPW Operations Manager Mia Gagliardi, Patrolman First Class Doug Wall, Sergeant/Prosecutor Eric Bredbury and Executive Secretary Sandra Bailey.

- 1. Non-Public Session (6:30 p.m.)** Selectman O'Brien moved to enter non-public session at 6:30 p.m., pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II, (d) to discuss the conveyance of real property. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried on a roll call vote with all in favor. Present were Kevin Hayes, John O'Brien and Gus Benavides. Also present was Town Administrator Scott Dunn.

The Board discussed the request of the Kimball Wildlife Forest Committee to consider the Town purchase of the castle property using grant funds, donations and trust funds.

The Board concurred to continue the pursuit of amendments to restrictive covenants to allow for private development of a single family home as a taxable entity, contingent upon some castle stones being used for a memorial on Town property. The Board directed the Town Administrator to draft a press release.

Selectman O'Brien moved to exit non-public session at 7:00 p.m. 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.** The filing period for Town Offices is from Wednesday, January 22, 2014 through Friday, January 31, 2014.

- 3.2.** School Deliberative Session – Tuesday, February 4, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at Gilford High School

- 3.3.** Town Deliberative Session – Wednesday, February 5, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at Gilford High School

- 3.4.** There will be a Public Forum on Liberty Hill Coal Tar Clean-up on Wednesday, February 12, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

- 3.5.** Acting Deputy Police Chief Kris Kelley announced the promotion of FTO Douglas Wall to Patrolman First Class. He provided some background information on Officer Wall,

who has been a member of the Department for 13 years. He praised Officer Wall for his many contributions to the Department, including being a mentor for younger officers.

The Board congratulated Patrolman First Class Wall.

4. Review/Approval of Minutes

4.1. Selectman O'Brien moved to approve the minutes of January 8, 2014, as amended: The spelling of "Cook" on page 5 to "Kuk". 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 January 6, 2014 through January 17, 2014 as listed. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

<u>DOCUMENT DATE</u>	<u>DOCUMENT</u>	<u>MAP/LOT #</u>
07/01/13	Change of Status - DeCarli (Dominic)	
07/01/13	Change of Status - Stevens	
08/11/13	Change of Status - Harris	
09/17/13	Change of Status - Godin	
09/23/13	Change of Status - DeNutte	
10/21/13	Change of Status - Balcom	
12/18/13	Accounts Payable Manifest	
12/19/13	Change of Status - Bailey	
12/23/13	Payroll Register(2)	
12/27/13	Accounts Payable Manifest	
12/30/13	Payroll Register	
12/31/13	Payroll Register	
01/06/14	Payroll Register	
01/07/14	Payroll Register	
01/07/14	Accounts Payable Manifest	
01/08/14	Abatement - Old Lakeshore Coop.	224-046.050
01/08/14	Abatement - Perron	224-046.050
01/08/14	Accounts Payable Manifest	
01/08/14	Sewer Abatement - Preston	252-016.335
01/08/14	Elderly Exemption	201-009.130
01/08/14	Veteran's Tax Credit - Moody	214-035.000
01/08/14	Elderly Tax Deferral	211-028.000

6. Appointments

6.1 Acting Police Chief Jim Leach – Police Department Update – Acting Police Chief Leach began by announcing the retirement of School Resource Officer Kelly Stiegler, who has been with the Department since 1999. Priscilla Leclair has done very well as the new Communications Specialist, having handled a call for an armed standoff on one of her first nights of being on her own. Jeremy Breton is currently in his third week at the Police Academy and doing well.

Denise Parker has been re-familiarizing herself with Gilford as a new patrol officer, doing ride-alongs and assisting Detective Jacques with some of his cases. The Guardian Tracking program has been in use since April of last year. This is management software that documents employee performance. To date, most entries have documented high

quality performance.

Acting Police Chief Leach stated that he and Acting Deputy Police Chief Kelley are looking forward to Town Meeting so that they can provide information on the proposed Police Station renovation and addition project. Next, he reviewed YTD accident and arrest statistics, the Park Walk and Talk Program, K-9 updates and 2013 budget challenges. Many of the challenges created by staffing shortages were addressed by salaried employees covering patrol shifts, in order to control overtime costs. Acting Deputy Police Chief Kelley has been very active applying for grants for radar, vests and speed and DUI enforcement.

The Board thanked Acting Police Chief Leach for his update.

6.2 Geoff Ruggles – Financial Update – Director Ruggles reported that for the year ending 2013, revenues were up \$433,000 over 2012. Although some of the sources of revenue will not continue into 2014, motor vehicle fees did exceed projections by \$145,000. As far as expenditures are concerned, they were up nearly \$687,500 over 2012 but still almost \$328,000 under budget. As a result, he is anticipated a 2013 surplus of \$250,000 - \$300,000. Director Ruggles highlighted some of the areas where significant budget savings occurred.

Property tax collections were down slightly due to the late due date of the tax bills.

Chairman Hayes praised Director Ruggles and Department Managers for returning money to taxpayers at the end of the year and not feeling compelled to spend their entire budget, once their work for the year is completed.

The Board thanked Director Ruggles for his update.

6.3 Denise Beauchaine – Ms. Beauchaine stated that she was not in attendance as an employee of LRPA, but rather, a franchise fee payer and taxpayer of Gilford. She further stated that she has several questions regarding public access contract and funding, and it is her understanding that the Board will be voting on the final 2014 budget figure tonight. She provided Board members with a handout including information about public access television, as well as the questions she posed to the Board. (copy attached) In addition, she pointed out the differences between public broadcast service and public access television.

Ms. Beauchaine then asked if Gilford had convened a Cable TV Committee, to which the response was no, they have not. After reading through additional questions regarding the ramifications of the expired MetroCast contract, she expressed concern that the Town is not aware of how involved this matter is. Further, she stated that during the contract negotiations, no one has ever asked her for any information on LRPA.

Chairman Hayes stated that her written questions will be answered. Selectman O'Brien expressed confusion in that Ms. Beauchaine stated at the beginning of her presentation that she was not representing LRPA. However, most of her comments were in support of LRPA, so Selectman O'Brien wanted clarification of her position before the Board

tonight. Ms. Beauchaine responded that she was in attendance as a franchise fee payer and wanted to provide the Board with her ideas of where she would like to have the money spent.

7. Old Business

7.1 Proposed Permissible Fireworks Ordinance – Chairman Hayes and Selectman O’Brien stated that they were in favor of the proposed ordinance. Selectman Benavides stated that, while he is in favor of safety, he is not in favor of this ordinance. Because fireworks can be legally purchased in New Hampshire, he thinks that this ordinance will present a burden to the Police and Fire Departments. He also thinks that this ordinance goes against what most citizens want, as well as the previous ban that exists on fireworks within the Town. This was a decision made by a previous Board of Selectman without input from the public.

Chairman Hayes stated that a public hearing on the proposed ordinance will be scheduled for February 12, 2014.

Selectman O’Brien responded that this Board also makes decisions for the Town all the time that affect the residents of Gilford. The ban has been in effect for many years, yet is very difficult to enforce. He supports the ordinance because of the potential for injuries and the permit process for permissible fireworks being worse than the fireworks ban that is in place. As an alternative, he recommends that residents attend public fireworks displays.

7.2 2014 Budget and Town Warrant – Chairman Hayes clarified that the final figure that the Board has arrived at for the 2014 Town Budget is essentially the same as that of the Budget Committee, with the exception of \$200 which was cut from the TC/TC budget. Selectman O’Brien moved to approve and sign the 2014 Annual Town Meeting Warrant as presented, with a final budget figure of \$13,285,693, in order to be in agreement with the recommended final figure of the Budget Committee. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

7.3 Ice Treatment on Vincent Drive – DPW Director Sheldon Morgan stated that he has not received any complaints relative to the road conditions on Vincent Drive, since the trial period of using a much higher concentration of sand than salt. He added that during the trial period, there was more rain and ice than snow. Responding to a question from Selectman O’Brien, Director Morgan provided a detailed explanation of how the appropriate mix of salt and sand is determined throughout Gilford, based on road conditions.

Selectman O’Brien moved to add Vincent Drive to the low salt/no salt appendix to the Winter Maintenance Policy as previously adopted on February 27, 2013. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Chairman Hayes extended his appreciation to Director Morgan for the manner in which the sidewalks on Belknap Mountain Road and Alvah Wilson Road have been kept clear of snow during the winter so that people are able to walk on them.

7.4 Conservation Easement Deed – Gage Parcel – Selectman O’Brien moved to approve and sign the revised deed as presented, which incorporates language from the LCHIP grant program. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

8. New Business

8.1 Acceptance of Donation – Selectman O’Brien moved to accept the donation from NH HealthTrust in the amount of \$500 and to authorize the expenditure of those funds for their intended purpose. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

8.2 Appointments to CRSW/RRC – Selectman O’Brien moved to reappoint Sheldon Morgan as the Town’s Representative to CRSW/RRC and to reappoint Scott Dunn as the Alternate Representative for terms to expire on December 31, 2016. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

8.3 Representation Agreement for Legal Services – Donahue, Tucker & Ciandella – Selectman O’Brien moved to approve the agreement as presented and authorize the Town Administrator to sign. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

8.4 2014 Asphalt Paving Contract – DPW Operations Manager Mia Gagliardi provided the Board with an explanation of the 2014 Paving Contract. She stated that a proposal has been received from Wolcott Construction to hold the existing pricing. She explained how this pricing is determined, with an adjustment made for the percentage of virgin asphalt. Based on the negotiations of Wolcott with Pike Industries, the cost for material in 2014 will be less than it has been over the past few years.

Further discussion ensued regarding how the pricing of asphalt is determined. Selectman O’Brien moved to approve the 2014 Asphalt Paving Contract with Wolcott Construction and authorize the Town Administrator to sign. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

9.0 Other Business – none.

10.0 Public Input – Gail Ober of the Laconia Daily Sun asked for clarification on the proposed fireworks ordinance. Selectman O’Brien responded that the group working on the proposed ordinance made a decision that prohibiting fireworks would be the best option, rather than having a permit process in place. Town Administrator Dunn further clarified that the draft ordinance before the Board tonight was very different from the draft ordinance they reviewed at their last meeting.

11.0 Selectmen’s Issues – Selectman O’Brien questioned how many DVD’s are sold through LRPA for televised Selectmen’s Meetings. Denise Beauchaine stated that very few are sold because most people have the capability to make their own recording.

12.0 Administrator’s Report – Town Administrator Dunn advised the Board that the attorney representing one of the parties involved in a serious motor vehicle accident this past summer has notified the Town of his intent to file a liability claim based on vegetation obstructing the Town’s stop sign.

The Area Road layout has not yet been concluded because the County Delegation must first conduct a public hearing. This hearing will be held on February 10, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.

13.0 Next Meeting – Wednesday, February 12, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall

14.0 Adjournment – With no further business before the Board, the Board of Selectmen's January 22, 2014 meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gus Benavides
Clerk