

GILFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
March 11, 2015
Town Hall

The Board of Selectmen convened in a regular session on Wednesday, March 11, 2015, at 7:00 p.m., at the Gilford Town Hall, 47 Cherry Valley Road, Gilford, NH. Selectmen present were John O'Brien, Gus Benavides and Richard Grenier. Also present was Town Administrator Scott Dunn.

Staff members in attendance included Finance Director Geoff Ruggles, Fire Chief Steve Carrier, Deputy Fire Chief Brad Ober, Police Chief Anthony Bean Burpee, Police Lieutenant Jim Leach, DPW Director Peter Nourse, DPW Operations Manager Mia Gagliardi, Director of Planning and Land Use John Ayer, Parks and Recreation Director Herb Greene and Executive Secretary Sandra Bailey. Also in attendance from the Gilford Police Department were Jim Callahan, Charlie Hopkins, Doug Wall, Adam VanSteensburg, Curtis Mailloux, Evan Carey, Jordan Smith, Karen Craver, Tim Doris and Tessa Stevens.

1. **Non-Public Session – 6:30 P.M.** – Selectman Benavides moved to enter non-public session at 6:30 p.m., pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II, (a)(d)(e) to discuss pending litigation, sale of real estate and personnel matters. Selectman Grenier seconded. Motion carried on a roll call vote with all in favor. Present were John O'Brien, Gus Benavides and Richard Grenier. Also present was Town Administrator Scott Dunn.

Selectman Benavides moved to exit non-public session at 6:55 p.m. and seal the minutes. Selectman Grenier seconded. Motion carried on a roll call vote with all in favor.

2. **Non-Meeting**

- 2.1. **Discussion of collective bargaining agreement strategy [per RSA 91-A:2,I,(a)]** – held at the conclusion of the regular session.

3. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Chairman O'Brien led the assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and read the rules of the meeting. Next, Selectman Benavides announced that tonight is Chairman O'Brien's last night with the Board and he wanted thank him for his years of service. He stated that he has spent countless hours as a Selectman and truly cares about the Town of Gilford. Selectman Benavides then read aloud a plaque for Chairman O'Brien, commemorating his service to the Town.

Selectman Grenier also praised Chairman O'Brien and presented him with a key chain, indicating the latitude and longitude of Gilford, so that no matter where he travels he will be able to find his way back to Gilford.

Chairman O'Brien thanked Selectmen Benavides and Grenier and stated that he has enjoyed serving on the Board.

4. **Announcements/Presentations**

- 4.1. Chairman O'Brien turned the meeting over to Police Chief Anthony Bean Burpee, who described the recent act of bravery by Police Officer Curtis Mailloux. He stated that several members of the Gray and Mailloux families were in attendance. Chief Bean

Burpee pointed out that two of the characteristics of a good police officer are having initiative and courage, and then proceeded to cite many of the reasons why people become police officers. After stating that these are the reasons why Officer Mailloux is being honored tonight, Chief Bean Burpee asked him to come forward to the podium.

A “Medal for Lifesaving with Valor” was then bestowed upon Officer Mailloux, with Chief Bean Burpee detailing the events of the night of February 8, 2015. Chairman O’Brien then read aloud a “Certificate of Appreciation” for Meritorious Effort Pay for Officer Mailloux.

4.2. Chairman O’Brien read aloud “Caught in the Act” recognition for Timothy Cutter, who recently rendered assistance to a resident during a snowstorm.

4.3. Chairman O’Brien read aloud the results of the Town Meeting election.

4.4. Chairman O’Brien stated that vacancies are available for residents to serve on various boards and committees.

5. Review/Approval of Minutes

5.1. Selectman Benavides moved to approve the minutes of February 25, 2015, as presented. Selectman Grenier seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

6. Consent Agenda

6.1. Selectman Benavides moved to approve the previously signed documents for the period February 23, 2015 through March 6, 2015 as listed. Selectman Grenier seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

<u>DOCUMENT DATE</u>	<u>DOCUMENT</u>	<u>MAP/LOT #</u>
01/01/15	Change of Status - Doris	
02/11/15	Abatement - Boulas	243-005.000
02/17/15	Payroll Register(2)	
02/19/15	Payroll Register	
02/23/15	Change of Status - Maxwell	
02/23/15	Payroll Register	
02/24/15	AP Manifest	
02/25/15	Sewer Abatement - Guyotte	216-075.011
02/25/15	Sewer Abatement - Steedman	252-016.188
02/25/15	Sewer Abatement - Margate Motel	201-003.000
02/25/15	Payroll Register	
02/28/15	Change of Status - Petrozzi	
03/02/15	Change of Status - Suarez	

7. Appointments

7.1. **Herb Greene – Parks & Recreation Update** – Director Greene provided a brief synopsis of Parks & Recreation programming, since his last update in September 2014. He began with highlighting the successful season at the ice rink, which has remained open since January 2nd. Selectman Benavides praised the Recreation Commission for their continued support of the ice rink, which is utilized by many residents.

An engineering study is being considered to evaluate the erosion of the shoreline in the

unguarded portion of the beach. The Recreation Commission is supportive of the recent suggestion by Selectman Grenier for the volunteer development of a trail system at the Stonewall Park property. Selectman Grenier inquired about the development of a playground and dog park. Director Greene responded that there are some wet areas to be considered, as well as financial constraints for the rest of the project.

Director Greene highlighted many of the fall and winter programming that has taken place, followed by upcoming spring activities. This year's Old Home Day is scheduled for Saturday, August 29th.

The Board thanked Director Greene for his update.

8. Old Business – none.

9. New Business

9.1. Bid Award – 2 New Police Cruisers – Selectman Benavides moved to award the bid for the purchase of two new police vehicles to the low bidder, Hillsboro Ford, in the amount of \$27,600 each and to authorize the trade-in of a 2003 Ford Expedition. Selectman Grenier seconded.

Selectman Benavides commented that the owners of Hillsboro Ford are Gilford residents and they have consistently come in as low bid. In addition to this, they are very accommodating when cruisers require service. Selectman Grenier inquired about the \$9,080 designated for equipment for each vehicle. Chief Bean Burpee confirmed that the equipment in the old cruisers cannot be transferred to the new ones. However, once the changeover is made on other cruisers to Interceptor SUV's, the equipment can be transferred. Motion carried with all in favor.

9.2. Request for Farmers' Market – Rowe House (TAHS) – Carmel Lancia from the Thompson Ames Historical Society made a brief presentation to the Board concerning their request to conduct a farmers' market at the Rowe House on Saturdays between June and September or October. Brief discussion ensued regarding the number of vendors that could participate in the market.

Selectman Benavides moved to approve the use of the property for a farmers' market on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to noon from June through October, with the proceeds to be used for future Rowe House building improvements. Selectman Grenier seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

9.3. Ambulance Billing Rates – Fee Increase Proposal – Fire Chief Carrier briefly summarized a memorandum he prepared for the Board of Selectmen concerning a request to increase COMSTAR ambulance billing rates. He is proposing that rates be increased by 2.0% and mileage by 1.5%, as allowed by the Medicare Ambulance Fee Schedule. He advised the Board that the Fire Engineers approved this proposal at their meeting on February 17th.

Chief Carrier further stated that he thinks it is important to make these increases incrementally to avoid large spikes in rates. In addition, this will allow the Department

to keep their revenue stream fairly steady.

The Board concurred to hold a public hearing on the rate increase at their meeting on March 25, 2015, with the new rates becoming effective as of April 1, 2015.

9.4. Request for Religious Property Tax Exemption – Arbo Ministries – The Board concurred to table this matter, pending attorney review.

9.5. Head Mechanic Job Description – DPW Director Nourse advised the Board that the intent of this job description is to have a Head Mechanic who will oversee the division and be a working foreman. Selectman Benavides stated that it is his understanding that this position would not be part of the Collective Bargaining Agreement, to which Director Nourse agreed.

Town Administrator Dunn clarified that up until about a week ago, there was a position for Shop Supervisor. The intent is to change that position to that of Head Mechanic, who will be a working foreman and supervise employees within the division. He further recommended that the job description be approved so that the position can be advertised. The status of the Head Mechanic, within the Collective Bargaining Agreement, will be discussed at a non-meeting, at the close of the regular meeting.

Selectman Benavides moved to approve the job description for a Head Mechanic as presented, and to authorize the in-house solicitation of applications. Selectman Grenier seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

10. Other Business – none.

11. Public Input – Chan Eddy advised Chairman O'Brien that he is looking forward to learning what is involved in being a selectman in the Town of Gilford.

12. Selectmen's Issues – Selectman Grenier brought up concerns with the radar unit located at the intersection of Route 11-A and Alvah Wilson Road. He suggested making the unit inactive during the winter months, since it is not functioning properly when the battery freezes. Town Administrator Dunn reminded Board members that the radar unit was intended to be hard-wired, but the cost was too expensive. Police Lieutenant Leach pointed out that there are several issues involved in why the radar unit is not functioning correctly.

Selectman Benavides stated that the radar unit is effective in slowing down traffic. Selectman Grenier offered to look into alternative solutions to make the radar unit higher functioning. Chairman O'Brien stated that he thinks having the unit consistently working properly is key in having vehicle speed reduced.

Selectman Benavides thanked the many people responsible for the successful Town Meeting election: Staff of the TC/TC office, Supervisors of the Checklist, DPW Employees, Police Department, Town Moderator, Gilford Community Church and Kitchen Cravings.

13. Administrator's Report – Town Administrator Dunn reported that the Spring Road Posting will commence on Monday, March 16th.

Town Administrator Dunn is anticipating having a draft of the new special events policy at the next Board meeting. Representatives from the Timberman Triathlon have been awaiting the new policy so that they may apply for a special events permit for their 2015 event.

The Cable TV Revolving Fund warrant article was defeated at Town Meeting. As a result, the Board will need to re-visit the issue of paying dues, with the assistance of newly-elected Selectman Chan Eddy, who is also the Chairman of the LRPA Board of Directors.

The frost situation will be evaluated again on Monday, March 16th, to determine when the Police Station Renovation and Expansion project can commence.

The Board's next meeting will include its 2015 organizational set-up and goals. This includes election of a chair and board/committee assignments.

Town Administrator Dunn extended his personal thanks to Chairman O'Brien for his service to the Town. He also thanked the voters of Gilford for participating in the election process and candidates who ran for various offices.

In response to the Town's request for a waiver to be able to use waste oil for heating to NH DES, Town Administrator Dunn has learned that this mandate is from the EPA and there are no exceptions.

A request had been received from US Cellular to have a lease agreement with the Town for a cell tower on Town property. The property in question is under a conservation easement, so the tower would not be permitted in that location.

The NH DOT has sent correspondence to the Town of Gilford, indicating their plans for the re-surfacing of Routes 11-A, 11-B and 11-C in 2015. In addition, they are still planning to reconstruct the By-Pass bridge over Route 11-A.

The snow and ice needed to be removed from the Town Hall roof this winter. The roof did not leak but the snow and ice was so thick that water got behind the vinyl siding on the dormers and the back of the building.

Bids are currently being solicited for the 2015 road improvement projects and are due on April 8th.

Several trees on the edge of Town roads have been struck by lightning and need to be removed. It will be a considerable expense for the Town to have this done, but is necessary because they have become hazardous.

Following an inquiry from Town Administrator Dunn, the Board indicated that there were no parking issues at the recent election.

Selectman Grenier returned to the matter of the re-surfacing of Route 11-C, concerned that it is not an efficient use of funds. DPW Director Nourse stated that it was his understanding that Route 11-C will be reclaimed and paved and could last up to 10 years.

In closing, Chairman O'Brien expressed his appreciation for other members of the Board, as well as Town Administrator Dunn, Department Managers and Town employees.

14. Next Meeting – March 25, 2015

15. Adjournment – With no further business before the Board, the Board of Selectmen's March 11, 2015, meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Grenier
Clerk