

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

The Board of Selectmen convened in a regular session on Wednesday, October 22, 2014, 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, DPW Director Sheldon Morgan, Police Chief Anthony Bean Burpee, Police Lieutenant Jim Leach, Fire Chief Steve Carrier and Executive Secretary Sandra Bailey.

- 1. Non-Public Session – 6:00 P.M.** – Selectman Benavides moved to enter non-public session at 6:00 p.m., pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II, (c)(d), to discuss matters which would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person and conveyance of real property. 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 6:45 p.m. and seal the minutes. Selectman Grenier seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

- 2. Pledge of Allegiance** – Chairman O'Brien led the assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

- 3. Announcements/Presentations**

- 3.1.** Chairman O'Brien announced that Gilford's Trick or Treat hours will be on Friday, October 31, 2014 from 4:30 – 8:00 p.m.

- 3.2.** Chairman O'Brien announced that the State General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2014 at the Gilford Youth Center, with the polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

- 3.3.** The Town Hall and Library will be closed on Tuesday, November 11, 2014 for Veterans Day.

- 4. Review/Approval of Minutes**

- 4.1.** Selectman Benavides moved to approve the minutes of October 8, 2014, as presented. Selectman Grenier seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

- 4.2.** Selectman Benavides moved to approve the minutes of October 14, 2014, as presented. Selectman Grenier seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

- 5. Consent Agenda**

- 5.1.** Selectman Benavides moved to approve the previously signed documents for the period October 6, 2014 through October 17, 2014 as listed. Selectman Grenier seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

DOCUMENT DATE

DOCUMENT

MAP/LOT #

01/01/14

Change of Status - Gonyer

02/06/14

Change of Status - Beland

09/11/14

Tax Collector's Warrant - Jeopardy - McArthur

252-016.913

09/15/14	Payroll Register	
09/24/14	Sewer Abatement - Poore	252-016.293
09/25/14	Payroll Register(2)	
09/26/14	Payroll Register(2)	
09/29/14	Payroll Register	
09/30/14	Payroll Register(2)	
09/30/14	Tax Collector's Warrant - Jeopardy - Fournier	252-016.041
10/06/14	Payroll Register	
10/07/14	Accounts Payable Manifest	
10/08/14	Sewer Abatement - Hazeltine	223-439.000
10/08/14	Sewer Abatement - Doherty & McClary	227-169.000
10/08/14	NOITC - State of NH	236-015.000
10/08/14	Veteran's Tax Credit - Lefebvre	224-081.301
10/08/14	Veteran's Tax Credit - Castellon	216-088.000
10/08/14	Veteran's Tax Credit - Jensen	237-014.100
10/08/14	Veteran's Tax Credit - Jones	223-456.000
10/08/14	Boat Agent Appointment - Silver Sands Marina	
10/08/14	Boat Agent Appointment - Gator Signs	
10/08/14	Boat Agent Appointment - Denise Gonyer	
10/08/14	Boat Agent Appointment - Irwin Marine/Mountain View YC	

6. Public Hearing

6.1. Appropriation of Unanticipated Funds – Chairman O’Brien stated that the public hearing is for the same purpose as the one conducted at the last meeting, to accept insurance premium refunds from New Hampshire HealthTrust, Inc.

Chairman O’Brien opened the public hearing at 7:04 p.m. There being no questions or comments from the public, he closed the public hearing at 7:04 p.m.

Selectman Benavides moved to accept \$63,208.11 from HealthTrust of NH in the form of health and dental insurance premium refunds and spend \$12,362.58 to reimburse current employees and retirees for their fair share of premium contributions, with the balance of \$50,845.53 being deposited into the general fund. Selectman Grenier seconded and asked for clarification as to whether or not former employees are eligible to receive any refund. Brief discussion ensued regarding the difficulty in determining the eligibility of past employees, with Town Administrator Dunn advising the Board that the decision on refunding former employees is up to them. Motion carried with all in favor.

7. Appointments

7.1. Chief Steve Carrier – Gilford Fire-Rescue Update – Chief Carrier began his presentation by reviewing the recent rehab of Engine 2, which was at Lakes Region Fire Apparatus for approximately 12 weeks, 6 weeks longer than was expected. Completely stripping the truck was a very lengthy process due to the presence of an extreme amount of bondo. Chief Carrier also detailed some of the other repairs and improvements made to Engine 2, both at Lakes Region and by Public Works staff. Engine 4 performed well during Engine 2’s absence.

Chief Carrier then updated the Board on the progress of the Fire Station rehab project.

The Department is currently well into the hiring process for the firefighter vacancy and will soon be ready to make a conditional offer of employment to a candidate.

Ambulance 2 is expected to be delivered in February 2015 and a loaner ambulance will be provided by the dealer for the balance of the delivery period. The Department had previously borrowed an ambulance from Laconia and thought it was best to return it before winter.

Chief Carrier provided a brief update on the status of the 2014 budget and advised the Board that the 2015 budget was submitted with a modest 1.97% increase.

Selectman Benavides inquired about the possibility of using linex in trucks to control rust. Brief discussion ensued. Selectman Grenier stated that he has always been concerned with taking a truck that is covered with salt in the winter months and parking it in a heated garage. He asked Chief Carrier to speak to DPW Director Morgan regarding the possibility of using a liquid film undercoating. Chief Carrier replied that this has already been discussed with DPW mechanic Roger Weeks and they are looking into it.

Chief Carrier announced that Senior Safety Day is scheduled for Saturday, November 1st.

Brief discussion ensued regarding the YTD incident statistics. Chief Carrier pointed out that last weekend the Department had two simultaneous water rescues taking place on Lake Winnepesaukee.

The Board thanked Chief Carrier for his update.

- 7.2. Geoff Ruggles – Financial Update** – Director Ruggles reported that revenues for September were down slightly from the previous September but total revenues are well above last year's level. Expenditures continued to moderate in September as road projects were completed and seasonal staffing levels were reduced. Property tax collections in all categories are once again the best they have been in three years.

Director Ruggles does not anticipate any issues with the cash flow levels.

The Board thanked Director Ruggles for his update.

8. Old Business

- 8.1. Police Station Expansion and Renovation Project** – Town Administrator Dunn advised the Board that the second draft of bid specifications was received on Monday. A meeting has been scheduled for next Wednesday, October 29th, with Amoskeag Architects and Police Department staff, to go over the documents and plans. He added that the contractor's contract will need to undergo review by the Town's attorney.

The Board concurred to have bids accepted until November 25th, and hopefully award a contract on December 3rd. Town Administrator Dunn expressed concern with the loss of

six parking spaces, which should have been re-located to another area, but are not shown on the revised plan. These parking spaces need to be added back in so Town Administrator Dunn is recommending that they be treated as a bid alternate item.

In closing, Town Administrator Dunn stated that he would categorize the project as being two months behind schedule.

- 8.2. Surplus Radar Unit** – Selectman Grenier stated that the surplus radar unit is working and along with the concurrence of the Police Department, would like to see it battery operated and re-located from time to time. All that is needed for the battery is a weatherproof box that is capable of being locked. Selectman Grenier further stated that he anticipates that a marine battery will keep the unit operating for at least one month.

The Board concurred to have locations for the portable radar determined by the Police Department. Town Administrator Dunn stated that he will have the classified advertisement for the radar unit removed from the NHMA website if it is the Board's intention to keep it.

- 8.3. Cat Path Petition to Remove Speed Bumps and One-Way Direction** – Selectman Grenier moved to remove the speed bumps on Cat Path. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Chairman O'Brien commented that he found it interesting that so many residents from other areas of Town signed the petition, but agreed that as taxpayers they do have a right to sign the petition.

Rick Hassler of Seasons Pass expressed concern with the amount of taxpayer money that has been spent on Cat Path, which he estimates at \$500,000. He thinks that this is a waste of money and does not understand why it is happening. He also stated that it is his understanding that some of the residents of Cat Path ignore the one-way designation and travel downhill.

Town Administrator Dunn asked Mr. Hassler where the figure of \$500,000 came from. Mr. Hassler replied that it is an estimate. Town Administrator Dunn further stated that the drainage project at the bottom of Cat Path cost approximately \$75,000 and the cost to pave the road and fix the sides of the road was approximately \$150,000.

Selectman Benavides advised Mr. Hassler that he will not receive his support when he throws out numbers and is unable to substantiate them. He pointed out that it is important for the Board to listen to Gilford residents and this is shown by their recent motion to remove the speed bumps. Selectman Benavides then outlined some of the history of the road and traffic problems that have evolved. He also stated that if the Board takes action that ends up not being in the best interests of its residents, that they will reverse their decision.

Chairman O'Brien reiterated that the Board has been dealing with traffic and road issues with Cat Path for many years. He also pointed out that safety concerns are frequently addressed on other Town roads. Susan Leach of Cat Path corrected Mr. Hassler by

stating that her husband placed the rip-rap on Cat Path while he was in the construction business, not the Town. Mrs. Leach further stated that she took care of a drainage issue that existed on her property. She also reiterated that cars continue to travel downhill on Cat Path.

Bill Roderick of Burr Lane asked the Board if they were planning to take action on the request to return Cat Path to two-way traffic. He also pointed out that he has seen a car coming out of Cat Path at the bottom of the hill and he thinks that if the local residents won't adhere to one-way travel that the road should be returned to two-way traffic.

Mark Corry of Intervale Road stated that, in his opinion, all of the residents of Gilford are being inconvenienced for six local residents. He does not understand this logic and suggested that the road have a weight limit and/or be posted that no trucks are allowed.

Missy Perkins of Cherry Valley Road responded to Chairman O'Brien's earlier comment regarding residents of other areas of Gilford signing the petition. She pointed out that with the Meadows Field and several other businesses that many residents from other parts of Gilford do travel in the Cat Path area. She also feels that any Gilford resident should be allowed to travel Cat Path. Chairman O'Brien agreed.

Selectman Grenier asked DPW Director Morgan if the directional sign to Gunstock has been installed, to which Director Morgan replied yes. Police Chief Bean Burpee advised Selectman Grenier that traffic enforcement on Cat Path has been stepped up, as cars continue to travel in the wrong direction. Selectman Grenier reiterated that if the residents are not concerned with the compliance of the direction of traffic that the Town should not be concerned either.

There were no further motions brought forward by the Board.

9. New Business

9.1. Health and Deputy Health Officer Appointments – Selectman Benavides moved to appoint Sheldon Morgan as Health Officer and David Andrade as Deputy Health Officer for 3 year terms. Selectman Grenier seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

9.2. Sale of Donated/Relinquished Firearms – Chief Bean Burpee described the process involved in the sale of donated/relinquished firearms. The licensed firearms dealer that the Department works with has the guns listed on the Internet and any sales will be credited to future purchases made by the Police Department. Town Administrator Dunn noted there was an additional request for two more weapons to be disposed of.

Selectman Benavides moved to approve the sale of donated and relinquished firearms with the sale proceeds to be used as a credit on future purchases. Selectman Grenier seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

9.3. Lakes Business Park II Marketing Expense – Selectman Benavides moved to authorize the expenditure of up to \$250 from the Lakes Region Business Park Phase II Capital Replacement Trust Fund to be used for marketing purposes in the purchase of a display pedestal as requested by the Lakes Business Park Commission and approved by

the City of Laconia. Selectman Grenier seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

9.4. Lakes Region Public Access Television – Selectman Benavides moved table consideration of the LRPA contract (and funding request) pending the implementation of organizational changes. Selectman Grenier seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

10. Other Business – none.

11. Public Input – Gail Ober of Laconia inquired about the business plan submitted by LRPA last year. Town Administrator Dunn stated that they submitted a 3-tier proposal for a level of contributions and the Town agreed to pay at the highest level, which was \$1,700.00.

Mark Corry asked how the residents would be able to view Selectmen’s meetings if LRPA discontinues broadcasts. Chairman O’Brien stated that the videos are available on the Town’s website.

Mr. Corry then asked if the issue of the one-way travel on Cat Path could be placed on the 2015 Town Warrant. Town Administrator Dunn responded that any such warrant article would be advisory only since State law delegates the regulation of highways to the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Corry inquired if any of the donated/relinquished firearms could be purchased by a private citizen. He was advised that he would have to make any purchase through the Town’s licensed firearms dealer.

12. Selectmen’s Issues – none.

13. Administrator’s Report – None.

14. Next Meeting – November 12, 2014.

15. Adjournment – With no further business before the Board, the Board of Selectmen’s October 22, 2014 meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Grenier
Clerk