

**TOWN OF GILFORD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
JULY 22, 2020**

A duly posted, public meeting of the Board of Selectmen was convened in the 1st floor conference room of the Gilford Town Hall at 7:00pm.

Selectmen in attendance: Chair Dale Channing Eddy, Vice-Chair Gus Benavides, Clerk J. Kevin Hayes.

Also in attendance: Town Administrator Scott Dunn, Fire Chief Stephen Carrier, Police Chief Anthony Bean Burpee, DPW Director Meghan Theriault, and Welfare Director Pamela Clark.

1.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Selectman Hayes led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

2.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

The Chairman addressed the following:

2.1 Rules of the meeting

2.2 Household Hazardous Waste Day 07/25/20 8:30 am - 12:00 pm @ DPW

2.3 Island Clean-up Day 07/25/20 9:00 am - 1:00 pm @ Glendale Docks (Dock #1)
(refer to Town website for specifics)

3.0 REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 July 8, 2020

Selectman Benavides made a motion to approve the minutes of July 8, 2020 as presented; seconded by Selectman Hayes and approved with all in favor; (3-0).

4.0 PUBLIC HEARING

4.1 Sewer Fees

The Chairman read the public hearing notice and then opened the hearing with an invitation for anyone interested to come to the speaker's table. No one spoke and the hearing was promptly closed.

Selectman Hayes asked about the process used by the State to bill the Town for sewer expenses at the Winnepesaukee River Basin Project. Administrator Dunn explained the allocation formula and a pending recalculation that will increase the fees charged to the Town once implemented based upon actual metered flow readings.

Selectman Hayes asked about the fluctuations of surpluses and deficits on the Sewer Fund from year to year. Administrator Dunn stated the numbers were calculated by the Auditors and he was unable to explain this process because the auditors determine the actual year-end status by taking into account asset depreciation, receivables, and also the recent pump rebuilds that were financed with bonds. The good news, however, is there have been no deficits over the past 5 years and the fund balance is very healthy, (\$889,364) in the event it is needed for some unanticipated catastrophe.

Selectman Benavides made a motion to approve the 2020 sewer rates as presented, to be effective July 1, 2020; seconded by Selectman Hayes and passed with all in favor; (3-0).

5.0 APPOINTMENT

5.1 Pamela Clark – General Assistance Department Update

Welfare Director Pam Clark gave a presentation on the status of general assistance since her appointment in August of 2018 and most recently during the coronavirus pandemic. She noted the value of her membership in several welfare professional associations, her goals of helping people in need while guarding taxpayer's funds, her reliance on several local non-profit organizations to help families, and her role in significantly reducing budgeted expenditures. A brief question and answer session followed, with the Board members expressing their appreciation for her efforts.

6.0 CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC BUSINESS

6.1 Outside Groups at Town Hall

It was the unanimous consensus of the Board to keep the current ban in place to prohibit outside organizations from using the Town Hall for their meetings. This matter will be reviewed again at the next meeting.

6.2 Recreation Facilities (playgrounds & basketball courts)

Selectman Benavides made a motion to re-open the Town's playgrounds and basketball courts, seconded by Selectman Hayes and passed with all in favor; (3-0). It was the consensus of the Board to have the playground equipment and swings at the Town Beach sanitized twice a day using grant funds and to have appropriate signage at all facilities advising visitors of cleaning schedules, (or lack thereof), and to use at their own risk.

6.3 Miscellaneous

Administrator Dunn mentioned the Town Beach was being very heavily used during the warm summer weekends and he had received concerns from staff and visitors about the lack of social distancing.

7.0 OLD BUSINESS

7.1 Solid Waste Committee Status

Chairman Eddy invited SWC Chairman Richard Grenier to participate in this discussion. Mr. Grenier said he and several members of the SWC he spoke with agreed that the mission of the SWC was completed and they were not opposed to the dissolution of the Committee. He went on to mention that he hopes to see the goody shack made operational someday soon and requested additional signage about mandatory recycling. He hoped the parking lines would be revisited to allow visitors more time to socialize without worrying about their vehicles obstructing traffic. He requested a plaque be installed in recognition of SWC members and also suggested the Board send some recognition to Sue Greene for her many years of service on the Budget Committee.

Selectman Benavides made a motion to dissolve the Solid Waste Committee with much appreciation for a job well done; seconded by Selectman Hayes and passed with all in favor; (3-0).

8.0 NEW BUSINESS

8.1 N.H. Humane Society Annual Agreement Renewal

Selectman Benavides made a motion to approve the agreement as presented and to authorize the Town Administrator to sign; seconded by Selectman Hayes and passed with all in favor; (3-0).

8.2 Appointment to Capital Improvements Planning Committee

Selectman Benavides made a motion to appoint Richard Grenier to a 3-year term on the Capital Improvement Planning Committee; seconded by Selectman Hayes and passed with all in favor; (3-0).

8.3 NH-DRA Form PA-28 (Inventory of Taxable Property) for 2021

Selectman Benavides made a motion to indicate the Town will not be using the PA-28 Form in 2021 and to sign the NH-DRA form as presented, seconded by Selectman Hayes and passed with all in favor; (3-0).

9.0 OTHER BUSINESS

Selectman Benavides made a motion to approve ambulance fee abatements totaling \$3,799.37 as recommended by the Board of Fire Engineers; seconded by Selectman Hayes and passed with all in favor; (3-0).

After a brief discussion with Police Chief Bean Burpee, Selectman Benavides made a motion to approve the destruction of 4 donated handguns that were unwanted by their previous owners; seconded by Selectman Hayes and passed with all in favor; (3-0).

10.0 SELECTMEN'S ISSUES

Selectman Hayes asked Fire Chief Carrier how many active Covid-19 cases were known in Town and inquired if there was any information available about their demographics. Chief Carrier said there were presently 2 known cases but no other information was available.

Chairman Eddy asked the Town Administrator to obtain an update from Comcast on their signing up new customers for cable television services. Chief Bean Burpee noted that Eversource indicated approximately 900 utility poles may need to be replaced and it was believed this was for Comcast.

11.0 ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Dunn advised the Board of the following:

- Elections will be held on September 8 and November 3
- The annual budget workshop was tentatively scheduled for October 6
- He would be out of the office attending a Health Trust Board of Directors meeting from August 5-7
- Many positive comments were still being received from citizens happy with the Solid Waste Center
- The DPW Director would make a presentation on the SWC recycling efforts at the next meeting
- Applications received for the pending Building Inspector vacancy were underwhelming
- An effort was underway to determine the cause of dying and dead Liberty Elm Trees
- NH-DOT would be making a public presentation on its 2 bridge replacement projects on September 3 at Town Hall
- The 2019 independent audit was completed, the Town's finances were in very good condition and the report was available on the Town's website.

12.0 NEXT MEETING

Chairman Eddy noted the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen was scheduled for Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at 7:00pm.

13.0 PUBLIC INPUT

There was none.

14.0 ADJOURN

At 7:39pm Selectman Benavides made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Selectman Hayes and passed with all in favor; (3-0).

Respectfully submitted,



Scott J. Dunn, Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on the 12th day of August, 2020.

Attest:



Selectman J. Kevin Hayes, Clerk