



Town of Gilford, New Hampshire  
Deliberative Session "First Session" Minutes  
February 5, 2019

Moderator Sandra McGonagle called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. McGonagle made several announcements regarding no food or drink in the auditorium, no smoking on the school grounds, silence cell phones and pointed out the emergency exits.

McGonagle introduced the Board of Selectmen, Chan Eddy, Richard Grenier and Gus Benavides; Town Administrator, Scott Dunn. Scott Dunn introduced Department Managers, John Ayer, Director of Dept. of Planning and Land Use; Fire Chief, Steve Carrier; Finance Director, Glen Waring; Park & Recreation Director, Herb Green; Police Chief, Tony Bean-Burpee; Librarian, Katherine Dormody; Director of Public Works, Jason Hayden and Town Clerk – Tax Collector, Denise Gonyer. Director Ayer pointed out that there were no zoning ordinances on the ballot this year. McGonagle introduced and thanked the Budget Committee members for their hard work, Sean Murphy (Chairman), Peter Karagianis, Sue Greene, David "Skip" Murphy, Tim Sullivan, Tom Chase, Tracie Corbett, Kristen Snow, and Joe Wernig, Chris McDonough (School Board Representative), Richard Grenier (Board of Selectmen Representative) and Jack Kelley (Gunstock Acres Village District Representative). McGonagle introduced Denise Gonyer, Town Clerk and recorder of the meeting and Larry Routhier, Assistant Moderator, and official timer of the meeting. McGonagle also introduced Supervisor's of the Checklist/Greeters, Irene LaChance, Miriam York in attendance this evening.

McGonagle went over the rules and purpose of the meeting. She further explained discussion, debate, amendment and how to overrule during the meeting. She cautioned the membership to direct questions to her and to have courteous debate during the meeting; no personal attacks would be permitted and would result in removal from the meeting by the Gilford Police Dept. She explained how to amend a question, the subject matter could not be eliminated (RSA 40:13) and how to proceed with a secret ballot if one was to be requested. McGonagle asked that anyone wishing to speak come to the microphone, announce their name and address for the record before speaking. McGonagle set a time limit of 5 minutes for the first time a person speaks and 2 minutes for a follow up after everyone had the opportunity to speak once on the Article. McGonagle explained that moving a question terminates discussion and that a second is required. McGonagle asked any unregistered voters to ask permission to speak and it would be on the honor system. Registered voters have voting cards and Department Managers may speak on any Article. McGonagle further

stated that after the discussion had terminated that the Article would be placed on the official ballot for the March 12<sup>th</sup> Town Election.

There were approximately 49 people in attendance for the meeting.

The Moderator read Article 1 as follows:

**Article 1:** To choose the necessary Town Officers for the following year; to wit:

- ◆ One Selectman for a three year term;
  - GUS BENAVIDES
  - MARK J. LAROCQUE
- ◆ One Trustee of Trust Funds for a three year term;
  - WILLIAM CHRIS RAY, JR.
- ◆ Two Library Trustees for a three year term;
  - ALEXIS R. JACKSON
  - MICHAEL D. MARSHALL
- ◆ One Cemetery Trustee for a three year term;
  - NO FILING/BLANK
- ◆ One Fire Engineer for a three year term;
  - JACK LYMAN
- ◆ Three Budget Committee Members for three year terms;
  - RICK S. NOTKIN
  - DOROTHY PIQUADO
  - TIMOTHY D. SULLIVAN
  - MICHAEL DOWE
  - S. PETER KARAGIANIS
  - SEAN P. MURPHY

The Moderator read Article 2 as follows:

**ARTICLE 2:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$13,657,901? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$12,903,658, which is the same as last year, except for certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the Board of Selectmen may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3 to 0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 10 to 1)

**Discussion:** There was no discussion, the Moderator stated Article 2 would be place on the official ballot as written.

The Moderator read Article 3 as follows:

**ARTICLE 3:** Shall the Town vote to approve the cost items included in the two year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Board of Selectmen and the Teamsters Local 633 of New Hampshire, on behalf of certain Police Department employees, which calls for increases in the wage and benefit package of \$17,269 for the estimated costs necessary to fund the new collective bargaining agreement in the current fiscal year over the costs attributable to wages and benefits that would have been due under the current agreement at the current staffing level; and furthermore, vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seventeen thousand two hundred sixty-nine dollars, (\$17,269), for the current fiscal year? The estimated cost to fund the wages and benefits in the second year of the agreement is an increase of \$17,700 over the costs attributable to the wages and benefits that would have been paid under the current agreement at the current staffing levels.

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3 to 0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 11 to 0)

**Discussion:** There was no discussion, the Moderator stated Article 3 would be place on the official ballot as written.

The Moderator read Article 4 as follows:

**ARTICLE 4:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars, (\$125,000), for Police Department radio system upgrades? This sum to come from fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. This is the first year of a 3 year project with a total estimated cost of \$225,000. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is completed or by December 31, 2020, whichever is sooner.

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3 to 0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 11 to 0)

**Discussion:** There was no discussion, the Moderator stated Article 4 would be placed on the official ballot as written.

The Moderator read Article 5 as follows:

**ARTICLE 5:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eighty-five thousand dollars, (\$85,000), to purchase and equip a forestry fire fighting vehicle? This sum to come from fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation.

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3 to 0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9 to 0)

**Discussion:** There was no discussion, the Moderator stated Article 5 would be placed on the official ballot as written.

The Moderator read Article 6 as follows:

**ARTICLE 6:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eighty thousand two hundred fifty dollars, (\$80,250), for building and floor improvements to the Fire Station? This sum to come from fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is completed or by December 31, 2020, whichever is sooner.

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3 to 0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9 to 0)

**Discussion:** There was no discussion, the Moderator stated Article 6 would be placed on the official ballot as written.

The Moderator read Article 7 as follows:

**ARTICLE 7:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four hundred thousand dollars, (\$400,000), to complete the improvements to the Recycle Center and the construction of a Transfer Station? This sum to come from fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is completed or by December 31, 2020, whichever is sooner.

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3 to 0)

(Not recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8 to 4)

**Discussion:** Skip Murphy, 9 Gilford Glen Rd., spoke in opposition of the article and stated that he was speaking in his own personal views and not speaking as a Budget Committee member and sighted a declining recycling market. Gretchen Gandini, 18 Belknap Mtn. Rd., wanted to know why \$1M was not enough. Dunn explained that the engineers said that \$950K would not be enough to the Solid Waste Committee and the Solid Waste Committee

recommended the amount for funding the project. Most of the funds have been expended to-date except for approximately \$35K. Gaye Fedorchak, 250 Mountain Dr., wanted to know what would happen if the article was defeated. Dunn responded that there has been no decision made yet. He further explained that the town has a building and it will be used to the maximum extent possible. Fedorchak wanted to know if the project is not finished would more of the recyclables go into the garbage. Dunn explained that the cost for garbage is \$84/ton and recycling is \$280/ton. The goal is to take the \$280/ton and get that figure to \$0 and possibly generate revenue. Selectmen Eddy further explained that the costs changes economics of what is going to be done and that single stream recycling is costly. Recycling will be done locally and he expects costs to come down with separating the recyclables and that the glass is getting crushed and used in town. Tim Sullivan, 56 Bedford Ave., spoke in opposition and explained that the article would be covering facility upgrades (plumbing, heat and water) and he thought solar panels should have been installed.

The Moderator asked if there was any further discussion, there being none, the Moderator stated Article 7 would be place on the official ballot as written.

The Moderator read Article 8 as follows:

**ARTICLE 8:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two thousand nine hundred dollars, (\$2,900), to be added to the Police Dog and Training Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2018?

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3 to 0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9 to 0)

**Discussion:** There was no discussion, the Moderator stated Article 8 would be place on the official ballot as written.

The Moderator read Article 9 as follows:

**ARTICLE 9:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty thousand dollars, (\$50,000), to be added to the Sidewalk Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2018? This sum to come from fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation.

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3 to 0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 5 to 4)

**Discussion:** There was no discussion, the Moderator stated Article 9 would be place on the official ballot as written.

The Moderator read Article 10 as follows:

**ARTICLE 10:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twelve thousand one hundred thirty-one dollars, (\$12,131), to be added to the Technology Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2018? This sum to come from fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation.

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3 to 0)  
(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 5 to 4)

**Discussion:** There was no discussion, the Moderator stated Article 10 would be placed on the official ballot as written.

The Moderator read Article 11 as follows:

**ARTICLE 11:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars, (\$20,000), to be added to the Building Repair Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2007? This sum to come from fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation.

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3 to 0)  
(Not recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 7 to 2)

**Discussion:** There was no discussion, the Moderator stated Article 11 would be placed on the official ballot as written.

The Moderator read Article 12 as follows:

**ARTICLE 12:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty thousand dollars, (\$50,000), to be added to the Fire Water Supply Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2008 for town-wide fire suppression purposes? This sum to come from fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation.

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3 to 0)  
(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9 to 0)

**Discussion:** There was no discussion, the Moderator stated Article 12 would be placed on the official ballot as written.

The Moderator read Article 13 as follows:

**ARTICLE 13:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty thousand dollars, (\$50,000), to be added to the Recreation Facilities Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2008? This sum to come from fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation.

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3 to 0)  
(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8 to 1)

**Discussion:** There was no discussion, the Moderator stated Article 13 would be placed on the official ballot as written.

The Moderator read Article 14 as follows:

**ARTICLE 14:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars, (\$10,000), to be added to the Glendale Boat and Launch Ramp Facilities Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2008? This sum to come from fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation.  
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3 to 0)  
(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8 to 1)

**Discussion:** There was no discussion, the Moderator stated Article 14 would be place on the official ballot as written.

The Moderator read Article 15 as follows:

**ARTICLE 15:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, (\$100,000), to be added to the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 1989? This sum to come from fund balance and no amount shall be raised from taxation.  
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3 to 0)  
(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9 to 0)

**Discussion:** There was no discussion, the Moderator stated Article 15 would be place on the official ballot as written.

The Moderator read Article 16 as follows:

**ARTICLE 16:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty-eight thousand dollars, (\$58,000), to be added to the Lakes Business Park Capital Trust Fund previously established pursuant to the terms of the Inter-Municipal Agreement that was approved under Article 18 of the 2001 Annual Town Meeting?  
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3 to 0)  
(Not recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9 to 0)

**Discussion:** Fred Butler, 65 Yasmin Dr., asked for some background and wanted to know what the repercussions would be if voted down. Dunn explained that it was a long term commitment voted on in 2001 and he was not sure of the repercussions if not approved. Norman Silber, 243 Mountain Dr., explained that the agreement was a contractual agreement and spoke in support of the article. Skip Murphy, 9 Gilford Glen Rd., spoke in opposition of funding for the article and said that the town could find funds within the budget to pay it. Butler asked if “no means no” on the funding for the contract. Dunn confirmed that the town could not pay on the agreement if the article was defeated unless court ordered. The Moderator asked if there was any further discussion, there being none, the Moderator stated Article 16 would be place on the official ballot as written.

The Moderator read Article 17 as follows:

**ARTICLE 17:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars, (\$10,000), to be added to the Sewer Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund

previously established in 2007? This sum to come from sewer fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation.

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3 to 0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9 to 0)

**Discussion:** Norman Silber, 243 Mountain Dr., complimented the Board of Selectmen and Administration for continuing to have capital reserve funds as a way of managing the town. He has asked previously and would still like the wording “no amount to be raised from taxation” on those articles to be changed to reflect that it is still tax dollars being spent.

The Moderator asked if there was any further discussion, there being none, the Moderator stated Article 17 would be place on the official ballot as written.

The Moderator read Article 18 as follows:

**ARTICLE 18:** Shall the Town vote, as authorized by RSA 261:157-a, to adopt an ordinance waiving the fee to be charged for a permit to register one motor vehicle owned by any person who was captured and incarcerated for 30 days or more while serving in a qualified war or armed conflict as defined in RSA 72:28, V, and who was honorably discharged, provided the person has provided the Town Clerk with satisfactory proof of these circumstances?

**Discussion:** There was no discussion, the Moderator stated Article 18 would be place on the official ballot as written.

The Moderator read Article 19 as follows:

**ARTICLE 19:** Shall the Town vote to allocate one hundred dollars (\$100) from the sale of cemetery plots to be deposited in the Town’s general fund, with the balance from such sales to be added to the Cemetery Trust Funds for perpetual care maintenance per RSA 289:2-a as previously determined by the Cemetery Trustees in 2011?

**Discussion:** There was no discussion, the Moderator stated Article 19 would be place on the official ballot as written.

The Moderator read Article 20 as follows:

**ARTICLE 20:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-one thousand dollars, (\$21,000), in support of the Lakes Region Mental Health Center (LRMHC) for the delivery of emergency mental health services? These services include access to Master’s level clinicians and psychiatrists by individuals, police, fire, schools, hospitals and others, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Services are provided to anyone in need, regardless of their ability to pay. LRMHC is designated by the State of New Hampshire as the community mental health center serving Belknap and Southern Grafton Counties. In Fiscal Year 2018, LRMHC served 4,067 children, families, adults and elders,



232 of whom were Gilford residents; and they provided emergency services to 74 Gilford residents along with \$44,782 in charitable care to Gilford residents. (Submitted by petition)

(Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3 to 0)

(Not recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 5 to 5)

**Discussion:** Gaye Fedorchak, 250 Mountain Dr., wanted to know the reason that this article is not supported by the Board of Selectmen. Selectmen Eddy explained that every year the Board would like not to put a recommendation on the warrant but they are required to recommend. The Board feels it is up to the voters to decide if they wish to support it or not. Sean Murphy, Chairman of the Budget Committee said that the Committee voted 5 to 5 not to recommend and that those that voted against the article felt that it was an inappropriate use of tax dollars; Sean Murphy said that he disagreed and that each year the voters approve the spending and he feels that the Budget Committee should vote the way that the taxpayers wants. Fedorchak agreed with Sean Murphy and further stated that the priorities were messed up and spoke in favor of the article. Meg Jenkins, 32 River Re., school nurse for 25 years and taxpayer in Gilford for 33 years spoke in favor of funding the article and expressed that there are crisis's happening in Gilford daily. Jenkins hopes that the town folks will continue their support. Skip Murphy, 9 Gilford Glen Rd., spoke in opposition to the article and feels that taxpayers should not be able to tell others how to spend their money. Skip Murphy shared a personal experience and feels that the support should be done personally and not through the budget process. Ann Nichols (petitioner) 1140 Cherry Valley Rd., explained that the funding provides medical services, is non-profit and has assisted with 232 Gilford residents. Nichols spoke in support of the article. Fedorchak used examples of outside services for other budgeted items. Dr. Les Suranyi, 18 Doris Dr., explained that the Federal, National level of paying for medical services Medicare/Medicaid are already being taxed for services and the funds have been coming from federal and local (state) government since 1965 and should be left up to the voter to decide and spoke in opposition to the article. Nichols further explained that not all providers accept Medicaid and that the funding rates are complex and have not had an increase since 2006. The monies are used for services that are not covered. It costs over \$1M to provide those services for a medical team at LRGH 24 hours a day 7 days a week and the State does not provide adequate funding. Dr. Suranyi stated that there are other areas that also lack funding. The Moderator asked if there was any further discussion, there being none, the Moderator stated Article 20 would be place on the official ballot as written.

The Moderator read Article 21 as follows:

**ARTICLE 21:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two thousand, six hundred and thirty dollars, (\$2,630), in support of New Beginnings Without Violence & Abuse, the center for free and confidential intervention, support and advocacy for those whose lives have been affected by domestic, sexual and stalking violence? Services include access to crisis line, emergency shelter, information and referral, staff and advocates for individuals, schools, police, courts, hospitals and others, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You don't have to be in crisis to call a crisis center. There are no fees for service. (Submitted by petition)

(Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3 to 0)  
(Not recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 5 to 5)

**Discussion:** There was no discussion, the Moderator stated Article 21 would be place on the official ballot as written.

The Moderator read Article 22 as follows:

**ARTICLE 22:** Shall the Town vote to allow the operation of Keno games within the corporate limits of the Town of Gilford? (Submitted by petition)

There was no discussion, the Moderator stated Article 22 would be place on the official ballot as written.

The Moderator read Article 23 as follows:

**ARTICLE 23:** Shall the Town vote to change the date for elections and the second session from the second Tuesday in March to the second Tuesday in May, which would change the date for the first session to a date between the first and second Saturdays after the last Monday in March, inclusive? (Submitted by petition)  
(Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 2 to 0).

**Discussion:** Norman Silber (petitioner), 243 Mountain Dr. spoke in favor and stated the reasons why he and the 70 petitioners have brought the article forward. Those reasons are to encourage voter turnout, better weather conditions, voters absent for the winter months and it eliminates concerns and objections to voter safety. Doug Kenney, 57 Briarcliff Rd., spoke in opposition explaining the absentee ballot allows for snowstorms (he read the wording listed on the absentee ballot form from the Secretary of State's Office) and absentee ballot process up to the Monday prior to the election. He further stated that there is a process for absentee voting for anyone leaving the area. Johnna Davis, 251 Cotton Hill Rd., spoke in opposition to the article and stated that she researched the pros and cons of the proposed changed and the weather back to the last 11 years (since 2008) and that voter participation has been about the same, 17%. In 2013 it was 15 degrees and cloudy and it was the least amount of voters. She further stated that there was no guarantee that the "snow birds" would be in town by May and she further explained that there would be issues with town and school spending, costs for running separate elections and further complications for the school system. The Moderator asked if there was any further discussion, there being none, the Moderator stated Article 23 would be place on the official ballot as written.

There being no further business before the membership, the Moderator moved all warrant Articles to the official town ballot for voting on March 12, 2019 from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Gilford Youth Center on 19 Potter Hill Rd. The Moderator thanked Scott Piddington, Technical Advisor from the Gilford High School for his service.

At 8:13 p.m. the Moderator asked for a motion to adjourn; motion by Skip Murphy, Seconded by Ann Nichols.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise M. Gonyer, CMC  
Town Clerk – Tax Collector