

GILFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
July 28, 2010
Town Hall

The Board of Selectmen convened in a regular session on Wednesday, July 28, 2010, 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 were Town Administrator Scott Dunn and Executive Secretary Sandra Bailey.

Staff members in attendance included Director of Public Works Sheldon Morgan, Finance Director Geoff Ruggles, Police Chief John Markland, Deputy Police Chief Kevin Keenan and Town Clerk/Tax Collector Denise Morrissette.

1. **Boston Post Cane Presentation** – Chairman Hayes announced that this afternoon, the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator traveled to the Merrimack County Nursing Home in Boscawen to present Gilford resident Dorothy Mastine with the Boston Post Cane at 4:00 p.m. He read aloud the proclamation that was given to her and spoke highly of both Mrs. Mastine and the staff at the Merrimack County Nursing Home, who prepared a small reception in her honor.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** – The Selectmen recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Announcements/Presentations**
 - 3.1. Chairman Hayes announced that the Summer Town Forum will be held on Wednesday, August 11, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.
 - 3.2. The new SAU Offices, located at 2 Belknap Mountain Road, will hold an Open House on Saturday, August 28, 2010, commencing at 11:30 a.m. (Old Home Day). The dedication ceremony will take place at 12 noon.
4. **Review/Approval of Minutes**
 - 4.1. Selectman O'Brien moved to approve the minutes of the regular and non-public sessions of July 14, 2010. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.
5. **Consent Agenda**
 - 5.1. Selectman O'Brien moved to approve the Consent Agenda for the period July 12, 2010 through July 23, 2010. Chairman Hayes seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

<u>DOCUMENT DATE</u>	<u>DOCUMENT</u>	<u>MAP/LOT #</u>
01/05/10	Change of Status - Crumb	
01/30/10	Change of Status - LaFond	
02/06/10	Change of Status - Beland	
03/28/10	Change of Status - J. Mooney	
05/28/10	Change of Status - Kelley	
06/01/10	Change of Status - Ainsworth	
06/18/10	Sewer Abatement - Goodwin	203-139.000
06/21/10	Unlicensed Dog Warrant	
06/23/10	Sewer Abatement - Messina	287-211.035
06/23/10	Abatement - Mullen & Emans	213-013.005
06/23/10	Memo to TC/TC on Tax Deed	253-182.000
06/23/10	Appointment Form - Hopkins	

06/23/10	Appointment Form - Craver	
06/23/10	PA-28 Form - 2011	
06/23/10	CAMA Software Support Contract	
06/25/10	Revised Abatement - Touma	222-002.000
06/29/10	Payroll Register	
06/30/10	Payroll Register	
07/01/10	Payroll Register (2)	
07/01/10	Accounts Payable Manifest	
07/01/10	Change of Status - Stevens	
07/02/10	Supplemental Tax Collector's Warrant	
07/06/10	Payroll Register	
07/06/10	Accounts Payable Manifest	
07/10/10	Change of Status - O'Brian	
07/12/10	Payroll Register	
07/13/10	Deed Waiver - Mullen & Emans	213-013.005
07/13/10	Accounts Payable Manifest	

6. Appointments

6.1. Denise Morrissette – Town Clerk/Tax Collector Update – Town Clerk/Tax Collector Morrissette was in attendance to provide the Board with her Department update. She provided them with various statistics on their everyday operation, providing an indication of how many citizens are utilizing the services of her Department.

She also advised them that Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector Jenn Mooney will soon be commencing her final year of training to attain her certification as a Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector. They have also begun work on absentee ballots for the upcoming State Primary Election in September.

The Board thanked TC/TC Morrissette for her presentation.

6.2. Belknap County Commissioners – Commissioner Ed Philpot was in attendance for the 2010 Belknap County Conversations and introduced County Administrator Debra Shackett and Human Resources Coordinator Norm O'Neil. Commissioner Philpot reviewed the County's goals for 2010, more specifically focusing on Nursing Home privatization and the possibility of regionalization of Police and Fire services. Other areas of consideration are the regionalization of Juvenile Prosecutor services and expanded programming in Community Corrections.

Extensive discussion ensued regarding pursuing more treatment alternatives, as opposed to incarceration, for alcohol and drug related offenses. Commissioner Philpot elaborated on the inefficiency of the legal system, which incurs extensive costs in personnel and transportation for the County.

Discussion focused next on the possibility of regionalization of other services, such as technology, fuel oil and health insurance. Commissioner Philpot stated that the County has recently undergone savings in electric power and recycling by entering into agreements to reduce costs. Selectman Benavides encouraged the Commissioners to continue to seek ways to reduce costs, but cautioned them on proceeding with the privatization of the Belknap County Nursing Home. Selectman O'Brien is a proponent of strategic planning and supports the County in this endeavor.

Discussion also focused on the differences between Police and Fire dispatching. Selectman O'Brien inquired if there had been any progress regarding the issues brought forward by the Board regarding Police dispatch services, to which Commissioner Philpot replied no. Chairman Hayes specifically inquired about the Town's request for the County to be able to provide dispatch services for Gilford or reduce Gilford's payment to the County, since they are currently paying for a service that they are not receiving. Commissioner Philpot compared this to people who have to pay for children to attend school, who do not have children in school. Town Administrator Dunn disagreed, stating that the Town of Gilford does "have children who want to go to school but there's no room for them."

When Chairman Hayes inquired about a timeline on the Police dispatch issues, Commissioner Philpot responded that the Police Chiefs need to be involved in this process. Chairman Hayes also asked how the financial situation with the State of NH has affected the County. Commissioner Philpot commented on the reductions in Medicaid reimbursement and the inefficiency of the situation with beds in the State Hospital.

The next area of discussion was that of the funding of outside agencies. Commissioner Philpot indicated that the County is seeking a unified approach to the funding of outside agencies and a sub-committee has been established to that end.

At this time, Representative Alida Millham introduced the other members of the County Delegation that were in attendance: Bill Johnson, Laurie Boyce, Dick Stuart and Kate Miller.

Town Administrator Dunn inquired about the Juvenile Prosecutor services that are being provided to three police departments. Commissioner Philpot stated that this service is provided out of the County Attorney's office. In closing, Town Administrator Dunn encouraged the County to develop a budget where the towns that receive police dispatch services from the County pay more than those towns that do not receive the services.

- 6.3. Geoff Ruggles – Financial Update** – Finance Director Ruggles reported that revenues continue to run lower than last year. Selectman O'Brien inquired regarding an audit RFP. Director Ruggles replied that he is currently reviewing proposals for accounting software and will be commencing with the audit RFP next. He also provided the Board with an update of the percentage of collected property taxes, which is running slightly lower than at the same time last year.

The Board thanked Director Ruggles for his update.

7. Old Business

- 7.1. Ernest Houle Logging Request** – This third request has come forth from Mr. Houle after the Board denied his second request at their last meeting. Chairman Hayes asked Board members for their thoughts on the new request. Selectmen O'Brien stated that since the Board has already approved the first logging request for Mr. Houle that he should stay with that original plan. Ernest Houle, who was in attendance, stated that that plan is no longer viable since the temporary right-of-way will expire before the project is completed. His new request will improve

the Town road and generate some income for himself. He stated that the poor economy has affected him so he would like to earn some income and still be a good steward to the land. Selectman Benavides pointed out that the original approval will need to be rescinded.

Mr. Houle reiterated that his latest proposal will benefit the Town of Gilford. Town Administrator Dunn stated that his concerns with the latest proposal are that improvements to a Class VI road may result in changing its classification to Class V and using Town property for a landing that will only benefit a private landowner. He further stated that if this request were to be approved, the Town Forester should manage the project and all damages must be repaired. In addition, the landing for the logging equipment should be on private property.

Mr. Houle responded that the landing is not feasible to be on his property because of the steep, rough terrain. He thinks that it must be on Town property.

The Board concurred to table this matter to the August 11th meeting and have Town Administrator Dunn address some of these concerns with Town Forester Tim Nolin.

- 7.2. Elks Sewer Line on Sugarbush Lane** – DPW Director Sheldon Morgan provided the Board with a brief overview regarding this section of Town sewer. Town Administrator Dunn stated that although the Elks have provided a letter from the Elks acknowledging the transfer of ownership rights, the conveyance of a deed instrument that could be recorded is preferable, despite the additional costs it will incur.

Selectman O'Brien moved to accept Town ownership of 338 feet of 8-inch sewer line and the termination manhole beginning at a manhole at the intersection of Maple Street and Sugarbush Lane and terminating near the entrance to the Laconia Lodge of Elks at 17 Sugarbush Lane, subject to the conveyance of a deed instrument. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

- 7.3. Governor's Island Street Speed Limits** – Police Chief John Markland and DPW Director Sheldon Morgan were in attendance to discuss their assessment of the speed limit of the streets on Governor's Island. Chief Markland began by passing out data regarding the recorded speeds and traffic counts on Governor's Island. He also elaborated on some of the unique factors, such as the shadowing effect, that exist on Governor's Island. Their recommendation is to reduce the speed limit to 25 miles per hour on all Governor's Island roads.

Director Morgan commented on several other roads within the Town of Gilford that would benefit from reduced speed limits. Brief discussion ensued regarding the use of speed bumps vs. speed dips.

Jack McDevitt, former President of the Governor's Island Club, advised the Board that the residents of Governor's Island appreciate all of the Town's efforts to address this problem. He thinks that reducing the speed limit is essential. Selectman O'Brien expressed the Board's appreciation to Chief Markland and Director Morgan for their thoroughness in preparing this data for the Board.

Selectman O'Brien moved to reduce the speed limit on the following streets on

Governor's Island immediately and begin enforcement upon the posting of the new speed limit: Edgewater Drive, Shore Road, Loch Lane, Brook Road, Broadview Terrace, Pineway Street, Blueberry Hill Lane, Sturrock Place, Natalie's Way and Summit Avenue. Selectmen Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

8. New Business

8.1. Request for Crosswalk – Route 11-B – Town Administrator Dunn stated that a petition has been received requesting the installation of a crosswalk in front of the Marina Bay Condominiums on Route 11-B.

Selectman Benavides moved to accept the petition, approve the request for the crosswalk and authorize the Department of Public Works to apply for permission to install a crosswalk and appropriate signage from the State of NH DOT. Selectman O'Brien seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

8.2. Request for Guest Pas Refund – Selectman O'Brien moved to approve the request for refund of \$50 for a guest pass purchased by Edward Lanigan of 120 Riley Road. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

8.3. Acceptance of Donations – Selectman O'Brien moved to accept the following donations with sincere appreciation: \$20 from Ryan Stevens for the Fire Training Facility, \$32.58 from bucket donations for cemetery restorations and \$1,500 from the Gilford Rotary Club for Weeks Cemetery restoration. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

9. Public Input – none.

10. Selectmen's Issues – Chairman Hayes asked Town Administrator Dunn for an update on the status of the breathing apparatus purchase and the training facility fund at the next meeting.

11. Administrator's Report – Town Administrator Dunn reminded the Board that seven (7) parcels of Town-owned land will be auctioned on Saturday, August 21, 2010 at 11:00 a.m.

Town Administrator Dunn provided a brief overview of this year's Old Home Day schedule.

12. Next Meeting – Regular Meeting – August 11, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

13. Adjournment – With no further business before the Board, the Board of Selectmen's July 28, 2010 meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gus Benavides
Clerk