

GILFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
January 26, 2011
Town Hall

The Board of Selectmen convened in a regular session on Wednesday, January 26, 2011, 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 Finance Director Geoff Ruggles, Deputy Police Chief Kevin Keenan, Fire Chief John Beland and Director of Public Works Sheldon Morgan.

1. Non-Public Session (6:30 p.m.)

- 1.1.** Selectman O'Brien moved to enter non-public session at 6:30 p.m., pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (c)(a), to discuss matters which may adversely affect someone's reputation and personnel issues; and pursuant to RSA 91-A:2, I (a) to discuss union negotiations. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried on roll call vote with all in favor. Present were Selectmen Kevin Hayes, John O'Brien and Gus Benavides. Also present was Town Administrator Scott Dunn.

Selectman O'Brien moved to exit non-public session at 7:00 p.m. and seal the minutes. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

- 2. Pledge of Allegiance** – The Selectmen recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Announcements/Presentations

- 3.1.** Chairman Hayes announced that the Town's Annual Deliberative Session would be held on Tuesday, February 8, 2011, at 7:00 p.m., at Gilford High School.
3.2. Chairman Hayes announced that the School District's Annual Deliberative Session would be held on Thursday, February 10, 2011, at 7:00 p.m., at Gilford High School.
3.3. Chairman Hayes read aloud a letter of appreciation for members of Gilford Fire-Rescue from LRGHealthcare President & CEO Tom Clairmont, for the assistance they provided during a recent water pipe break at the hospital.

4. Review/Approval of Minutes

- 4.1.** Selectman O'Brien moved to approve the minutes of the regular and non-public sessions of January 12, 2011. 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 January 10, 2011 through January 21, 2011. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

DOCUMENT DATE

DOCUMENT

MAP/LOT #

09/14/10	Change of Status - deSousa	
11/01/10	Change of Status - Leach	
11/01/10	Change of Status - Beland	
11/21/10	Change of Status - Madon	
11/23/10	Change of Status - VanSteensburg	
11/24/10	Change of Status - Feehily	
11/30/10	Change of Status - Wall	
12/19/10	Change of Status - Bailey	

12/22/10	Sewer Abatement - Allen	203-116.000
12/22/10	Sewer Abatement - Hickey	223-428.000
01/01/11	Change of Status - Hart	
01/01/11	Change of Status - Bettez	

6.0 Appointments

6.1 Chief John Beland – Fire-Rescue Department Update – Chief Beland stated that he has additional report information for the Board, beyond what is being included in the 2010 Town Report, including many photographs. He further stated that the call volume this year, in comparison to the same time period last year, is approximately 35% less.

Work continues on the Fire Training Facility and since Engine 4 is scheduled for replacement in 2012, a Truck Committee is now in place to determine specifications for the new engine. The call company has recently experienced some resignations due to career advancements to other communities. To date in 2011, there have been no major fires or equipment breakdowns, but a fatal snowmobile accident occurred last weekend. This accident may have been the result of a medical issue.

The Department will undergo water rescue training this weekend.

Selectman O'Brien asked about the number of members in the call company, to which Chief Beland replied there are currently 23 members, with a provision for a total of 30 members. He also asked which firefighters were members of the Truck Committee. Chief Beland replied that Jeff Madon, Dominic DeCarli, Steve Carrier and Rick Andrews are members, as well as a few members of the call company.

Selectman Benavides asked about the matter that was recently in the news regarding false certifications for EMT's. Chief Beland replied that this problem was confined to the southern part of the state where certifications were done by contracted vendors. In Gilford, however, certifications are done in-house or through LRGH, providing a good system of checks and balances.

Selectman Benavides then asked about the funds that are invested in training firefighters when the firefighter takes employment elsewhere. Chief Beland responded that contracts are in existence, but all of the members of the call company who left were well past the time limit. In response to Derek Sevin leaving, Chief Beland clarified that although he was only with the call company for a short period of time, he was already certified and the Town of Gilford did not expend funds for his training.

Brief discussion ensued regarding the upcoming World Run. Chief Beland indicated that he does not expect this will have an impact on the Department. He also stated that calls to Gunstock are significantly lower than last year, most likely due to the excellent ski conditions. More discussion ensued regarding fundraising for the Fire Training Facility and the shoveling of hydrants and accesses to water supplies.

The Board thanked Chief Beland for his presentation.

6.2 Geoff Ruggles – Financial Update – Finance Director Ruggles presented his financial reports for December 2010. Revenues for 2010 did finish slightly higher than the estimates and expenditures were lower than anticipated, resulting in a surplus of \$250,000 - \$300,000. The collection rate for property taxes of 94.8% is the highest percentage collection rate in the past five years. The strong property tax collection

rate, as well as the surplus, contributed to the higher than anticipated cash balance at the end of the year.

7.0 Old Business

7.1 Review Town Meeting Warrant/Default Budget – Town Administrator Dunn reported that the 2011 Warrant is not ready for signature yet, due to the fact that the union contracts have not yet been ratified. It is possible that Articles #7 and #21 might not be printed in the warrant if they are not ratified. The Board of Selectmen will need to sign the warrant and default budget, regardless of the outcome of the union contracts. The union contracts will be voted on by the end of the week, after which the Board will meet again to finalize the warrant.

7.2 Entertainment Permit – Cackling Crow – Chairman Hayes reported that this application was tabled at the last meeting. Selectman O'Brien moved to put it back on the table. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Michael Zaccheo was in attendance representing the Cackling Crow. He is interested in having Karaoke and DJ entertainment, as well as acoustic guitar, which will be geared for the 30+ age group. Mr. Zaccheo stated that he has received his liquor license and clarified that the dancing specified in the application refers to patrons of the restaurant.

General discussion ensued regarding the past noise issues in the area that have been generated by China Bistro. Mr. Zaccheo stated that he is hopeful of having the residents in the area become patrons of his restaurant, so he is sensitive to the noise factor. Selectman Benavides explained to him why he felt it was important for him to attend a meeting where this application was being discussed. He also emphasized that no entertainment would be permitted outside of the restaurant.

Selectman O'Brien moved to approve the Entertainment Permit for the Cackling Crow for the period January 27, 2011 – 2012, conditioned upon receipt of \$200 payment and a copy of the approved State liquor license; provided that no outdoor entertainment is permitted on the premises. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

8.0 New Business

8.1 Conservation Commission Alternate Member Resignation – Selectman O'Brien moved to accept the resignation of Terry Stewart as an alternate member of the Conservation Commission, with regret. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

8.2 Plowing of Kimball Wildlife Trail Parking Lot– Selectman O'Brien asked Deputy Police Chief Keenan if the police officers would conduct routine checks on the parking lot if it were to be plowed out in the winter. Deputy Chief Keenan replied yes. Selectman O'Brien moved to authorize the Department of Public Works to plow the Kimball Wildlife Forest Trailhead Parking lot, upon completion of all other essential after-storm plow duties. Selectman Benavides seconded and commented that plowing of the lot is a positive thing for the community and thanked Director Morgan for being willing to take on this added responsibility. Motion carried with all in favor.

8.3 Year Ending December 31, 2010 Audit Contract – Selectman O'Brien moved to approve the 2010 Audit Contract with Vachon Clukay & Company in the amount of

\$18,634. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

8.4 Lakes Region Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) – Sheldon Morgan informed the Board that the State’s 10 Year Transportation Improvement Plan has been amended so that the reconstruction of Route 11 from Ellacoya State Park to Minge Cove in Alton has been placed on a Contingency Project List. He was in attendance at tonight’s meeting seeking direction from the Board as to whether or not they would like to support an “in corridor” option for the contingency plan. Discussion followed regarding the issues present with both options, including the location of homes and wetlands. The Board concurred with supporting the “in corridor” option.

8.5 NH Highway Safety Agency Funding – Town Administrator Dunn noted that the Board could pursue grant funds through the State Highway Safety Agency if the Town has an active Highway Safety Committee. Selectman O’Brien moved to establish a Highway Safety Committee, consisting of the Police Chief, Fire Chief and Director of Public Works, to serve indefinitely as part of their job responsibilities. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

8.6 Police Cruiser Bids – Deputy Police Chief Keenan reported that three bids have been received for the purchase of a 2011 Ford Crown Victoria police cruiser, with the low bid being \$23,721 from Hillsboro Ford. Selectman Benavides asked Deputy Chief Beland why he did not make a recommendation on which dealership to purchase the cruiser from. Deputy Chief Keenan replied that he left it to the Board’s discretion because all of the bids are very close and didn’t know if the Board wanted to consider local dealerships. He further stated that he supports purchasing the cruiser at the lowest price.

Selectman O’Brien moved to approve the purchase of one 2011 Ford Crown Victoria Police Cruiser from Hillsboro Ford, in the amount of \$23,721. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

8.7 Library Trustee Resignation & Appointment to Fill Vacancy – Chairman Hayes read a letter of resignation from Library Trustee Tracy Petrozzi, who is accepting part-time employment at the Gilford Public Library. Selectman O’Brien moved to accept the resignation of Tracy Petrozzi as Library Trustee. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Selectman O’Brien moved to appoint Sue Cutillo as a Library Trustee, to fill the unexpired term of Tracy Petrozzi, until Town Meeting in March 2013. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

9.0 Public Input – None.

10.0 Selectmen’s Issues – Selectman Benavides encouraged residents to file for vacant Town offices, which can be done until Friday, January 28th at 5:00 p.m.

Selectman O’Brien thanked the Police Department for their presence in Gunstock Acres recently during a series of burglaries.

Selectman Hayes stated that alternate members are still needed for the Zoning Board of Adjustment and he encouraged citizens to apply for these positions. He also commended Director of Public Works Sheldon Morgan for the excellent job performed by his crew

during recent snow storms.

- 11.0 Administrator's Report** – Town Administrator Dunn reported that he received correspondence from the NH DOT regarding the possibility of constructing a “T” intersection where Routes 11-A and 11-B meet. The Board concurred with supporting this proposal, particularly where they are interested in making improvements to the Town-owned land that is currently at the center of the intersection.

Town Administrator Dunn anticipates having a draft Social Media Policy for the Board's review at the meeting on February 9, 2011. He recognized the Department of Planning and Land Use and Executive Secretary Sandy Bailey for the extensive information that has been posted to the Town's website regarding the Lakes Business Park.

He then noted he has been busy preparing for Town Meeting and working on union negotiations.

- 12.0 Next Meeting** – Regular Meeting – February 9, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.; Special Meeting to vote on union contracts and sign warrant – January 28, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.

- 13.0 Adjournment** – With no further business before the Board, the Board of Selectmen's January 26, 2011 meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gus Benavides
Clerk