

# GILFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

July 27, 2011

Town Hall

The Board of Selectmen convened in a regular session on Wednesday, July 27, 2011, 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 Kevin Hayes. Also present were Town Administrator Scott Dunn and Executive Secretary Sandra Bailey.

Staff members in attendance included Finance Director Geoff Ruggles, Police Chief John Markland, Director of Public Works Sheldon Morgan and Town Appraiser Wil Corcoran.

## 1. Non-Public Session (6:00 p.m.)

- 1.1. Selectman Benavides moved to enter non-public session at 6:00 p.m., pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (c)(a)(d) to discuss matters which may adversely affect someone's reputation, compensation and promotion of employees and consideration of the sale/acquisition of real estate. Selectman Hayes seconded. Motion carried on roll call vote with all in favor. Present were Selectmen John O'Brien, Gus Benavides and Kevin Hayes. Also present was Town Administrator Scott Dunn.

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

## 2. Pledge of Allegiance – The Selectmen recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

## 3. Announcements/Presentations

- 3.1. Chairman O'Brien announced that the Household Hazardous Waste Collection will take place on July 30, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the DPW Building; and the Island Clean-up will be held on the same day between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. at the Glendale Docks.
- 3.2. Chairman O'Brien announced that the Summer Town Forum will be held on August 10, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

## 4. Review/Approval of Minutes

- 4.1. Selectman Benavides moved to approve the minutes of the regular and non-public sessions of July 13, 2011. Selectman Hayes seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

## 5. Consent Agenda

- 5.1. Selectman Benavides moved to approve the previously signed items for the period July 11, 2011 through July 22, 2011. Selectman Hayes seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

<u>DOCUMENT DATE</u>	<u>DOCUMENT</u>	<u>MAP/LOT #</u>
04/01/11	Change of Status - Craver	
04/19/11	Change of Status - Chitty	
05/01/11	Change of Status - Baron	
05/27/11	Change of Status - Thevenin	
06/01/11	Change of Status - Ainsworth	
06/20/11	Payroll Register	
06/21/11	Accounts Payable Manifest	
06/23/11	Abatement Denial - Keaveny	243-045.000
06/23/11	Abatement Denial - Kuusisto	249-034.000
06/27/11	Notice of Lien - Smock	203-237.000
06/27/11	Notice of Lien - Kuehn	224-046.027
06/27/11	Payroll Register (2)	
06/28/11	Abatement - Clermont (2)	242-198.003
06/28/11	Payroll Register	
06/29/11	Abatement - Grape Hill Assoc. (2)	201-009.104

07/05/11	Notice of Lien - McMurtrie	224-081.406
07/05/11	Accounts Payable Manifest	
07/05/11	Payroll Register (2)	
07/06/11	Accounts Payable Manifest	
07/11/11	Payroll Register	
07/12/11	Accounts Payable Manifest	
07/13/11	Veteran's Tax Credit - Weaver	266-079.000
07/13/11	Deed Waiver - Smith	213-088.005
07/13/11	Deed Waiver - Morello	240-037.000
07/13/11	Deed Waiver - Lavallee	228-018.000
07/13/11	Deed Waiver - Holland	252-016.133
07/13/11	Change of Status - Fasshauer	
07/13/11	Proclamation - Albert Doyle	
07/13/11	Appointment Form - Knightly	
07/13/11	Appointment Form - Corry	
07/13/11	NH Parade Permit - Winnepesaukee Relay Race	
07/13/11	Entertainment Permit - Meadowbrook	
07/13/11	Release of Lien - Atherton	226-034.010
07/14/11	Change of Status - Silloway	
07/18/11	Notice of Intent to Cut - Rogers	228-007.000
07/18/11	Notice of Intent to Excavate - Lyman	228-081.000

## 6.0 Appointments

**6.1 Keith Jordan – Timberman Triathlon** – Keith Jordan introduced his race co-director Audra Tassone-Indeck to the Board. He provided the Board with an update on various aspects of the upcoming event, including signage, parking, bussing and police details. Selectman Benavides stated that the Town appreciates that this is a huge event and brings in many visitors to Gilford. He also informed Mr. Jordan that an issue was brought up during the 2011 Town budget review regarding the Town bearing the cost of the street sweeping that occurs prior to the race. Keith Jordan assured the Board that the Timberman would take care of these costs.

Selectman Hayes inquired if there would be any loud music this year and Mr. Jordan replied no. Brief discussion also ensued regarding the location of various vendors who are part of the event. Also discussed was the matter of Meadowbrook having a concert on the same night of the event. Keith Jordan stated that this congestion could likely be resolved if the bike racking were to occur earlier in the day.

Merrill Fay stated that last year the race effectively shut down Fay's Boat Yard because of the congestion on Varney Point Road. He wants this problem alleviated this year or he will place equipment in the road that will block the race.

**6.2 Geoff Ruggles – Financial and Department Update** – Director Ruggles stated that he has no significant changes to report with the budget report as of June 30, 2011. He also stated that because this report indicates the results of the first six months of the budget, it is more in-depth than other reports. He proceeded to provide the Board with an update of the year-to-date revenue and expenditure amounts.

He did express some concern with the Welfare budget, which is tracking at approximately 60% mid-year. Although money is not being expended for heating fuel at this time of year, rent and electricity bills continue to be paid for some residents. He also updated the Board on the status of the changes to the NH Retirement System and the percentage of property taxes collected to date.

The Finance Department continues to learn the features of the new accounting software. Director Ruggles stated that he is working with the Library to create a spreadsheet where their hours worked can be directly imported into the payroll program each week. This feature will eventually be utilized with all departments. He also plans to allow Department Managers "read-only" access to their

budgets and expenditures. Future software training will include accounts receivable training and fixed assets.

The Board thanked Director Ruggles for his update.

**6.3 Wil Corcoran – Island Property Tax Abatements** – Wil Corcoran provided the Board with an overview of the rationale behind the property assessments on Governor’s Island. Because the number of sales on Governor’s Island has been dramatically reduced, it reduces the confidence level in utilizing the figures for appraisal purposes. Only two sales occurred in 2010 and since one of them was an estate liquidation, it could not be utilized for comparison purposes.

Mr. Corcoran further stated that he has received sixteen (16) requests for abatements from Governor’s Island. Each request is reviewed on a case by case basis. He also pointed out that in recent years, many of the Governor’s Island properties have been sold for the land value and homes have been torn down so that large, Adirondack homes can be built.

Brief discussion ensued regarding the procedure used by his staff for appraisals if they are not permitted access to the interior of a building. Mr. Corcoran stated that because the laws on this matter have recently changed, he will coming back to Board in the near future for guidelines on how to respond to this change.

Barbara Aichinger of Edgewater Drive made several rebuttal comments to the information provided by Mr. Corcoran.

The Board thanked Mr. Corcoran for his presentation.

## **7.0 Public Hearing**

**7.1 Speed Zone Regulation – Alteration of Speed Limit on Potter Hill Road** – Chairman O’Brien opened the public hearing at 7:40 p.m.

Shelli Boucher of 101 Potter Hill Road expressed concern with the lack of police presence and cited several instances of speeding that she has witnessed. She alleged that many of the violators are high school students, specifically members of the football team. After stating that she had witnessed a car traveling at 70 miles per hour, Chairman O’Brien inquired how she knew the speed limit, to which Ms. Boucher stated “you can tell”.

Selectman Benavides cautioned Ms. Boucher to not point out certain segments of the community as the violators and not to make accusations based on assumptions. He further indicated that all of the data presented to the Board does not indicate any speeds at 70 miles per hour.

Gary Kiedaisch of 147 Potter Hill Road addressed the Board next. He stated that more aggressive action is required and signs alone will not lower the traveled speed limit. He pointed out radar monitoring that has occurred that he thinks has been flawed. He also stated that it is up to the Board of Selectmen to direct the Police Department when they are to ticket speeders and reiterated his previously stated position that he would personally pay for speed enforcement equipment.

A letter was read aloud from Potter Hill Road resident Penny Pitou, as well as an e-mail from Director of Planning and Land Use John Ayer. Director Ayer responded to a recent request made by Mr. Kiedaisch regarding any traffic studies that were conducted prior to the construction of the new Library and Youth Center. No traffic studies were conducted because they were pre-existing uses.

Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of reducing the speed limit on Potter Hill Road in the Village to 20 miles per hour. Mr. Kiedaisch suggested that the area of the Library and Youth Center could be posted as School Zones. Kirk Dougal expressed concern for the safety of the residents of Gilford Village Knolls with the speeding problem. Sue Leach, a resident of Cat Path, stated that the recently reduced speed limit on Cat Path has not reduced the speeding on that road.

Sheldon Morgan stated that next year the Town plans to meet with the State regarding improvements to the intersection of Potter Hill Road and Route 11-A. Chairman O'Brien asked Director Morgan who would bear these costs and Director Morgan replied that the Town would.

Selectman Hayes asked Police Chief Markland what it would take for his Department to issue more tickets. Chief Markland responded that the tickets issued have increased, as well as enforcement efforts. He also pointed out that the Department's calls have increased and there are other crimes within the Town that require their attention. He strives to maintain a balance of police matters with the staff that is available to him.

Sandy McGonagle of 165 Potter Hill Road reiterated that the residents of Potter Hill Road are very appreciative of the efforts of the Board of Selectmen regarding speeding issues. They are not looking to reduce the usage of Potter Hill Road. Rather, they would like to avoid a catastrophe on the road.

Mr. Kiedaisch pointed out that radar cameras are used in Europe and with Gilford being a wealthy community, should be able to afford them.

Chairman O'Brien closed the public hearing at 8:24 p.m.

Selectman Hayes stated that the problem with the speeding on Potter Hill Road is an enforcement issue, not a speed limit issue. He further responded to Mr. Kiedaish that Gilford is not a rich town and he will not support the reduction of the speed limit because it won't take care of the problem.

Following further discussion, Selectman Benavides moved to approve the proposed Speed Zone Regulation Alteration of Speed Limit of Potter Hill Road as amended. Chairman O'Brien seconded. Motion carried by a vote of 2-1. Selectman Hayes voted no.

In closing, Selectman Benavides stated that he is hopeful that Mr. Kiedaisch will continue to work with Town Administrator Dunn and Director of Public Works Morgan to address safety concerns on Potter Hill Road.

## **8.0 Old Business**

**8.1 Public Safety Employee Memorial Park (Route 11-A and 11-B Triangle)** – Selectman Benavides moved to accept the following donations, with sincere appreciation, for the flag fund: \$250 – Gilford Police Relief Association; \$100 – Mulan Restaurant; \$25 – Gator Signs; and \$50 – OPA. Selectman Hayes seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Chairman O'Brien stated that Bill and Sally Bickford of Kitchen Cravings have offered to pay for the cost of the flag at the Memorial Park.

Selectman Benavides moved to authorize Town Administrator Dunn to appeal the recent decision of the NH DOT to deny the Town of Gilford use of the Route 11-A and 11-B Triangle for a flagpole. Selectman Hayes seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

## **9.0 New Business**

**9.1 Appointment to LRPA TV Board of Directors** – Selectman Benavides moved to appoint Dale Channing Eddy to the Lakes Region Public Access TV Board of Directors for a 2-year term. Selectman Hayes seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

**9.2 Entertainment Permit – Patrick's Pub** – Selectman Benavides moved to approve the Entertainment Permit for Patrick's Pub for the period May 14, 2011 – 2012. Selectman Hayes seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

**9.3 Lakes Region Cable Television Consortium** – Selectman Benavides moved to approve the Inter-Municipal Agreement for the cable franchise consortium as presented, and to appoint Town Administrator Scott Dunn to serve as the Town's representative to the Consortium and to approve the special counsel representation agreement as presented. Selectman Hayes seconded.

**9.4 Lakes Region Planning Commission – Letter of Support** – Following brief discussion, the Board concurred to not sign the Letter of Support for the Lakes Region Planning Commission regarding being in favor of sustainable community regional planning.

**10.0 Public Input** – Barbara Aichinger of Edgewater Drive stated that since the State of NH recently reduced their budget by 11%, the Town of Gilford should consider reducing their budget by even more. She cited that population has increased only 4% over the past four years, although the budget has increased by 59% over the same period.

Selectman Benavides countered that over the past three years, this Board has presented a “flat” budget. Ms. Aichinger would like the tax rate to return to its 2000 level. Selectman Benavides noted that the Board has made many difficult cuts, as well as freezing the salaries of the Town Administrator and Department Managers. In addition, part-time benefits have been eliminated and employees have absorbed more health insurance costs. Staff reductions have also occurred.

Chairman O’Brien stated that he’d appreciate a rounded presentation from Ms. Aichinger and not just numbers out of a book or report that only present one side of the story. In addition, he pointed out that numbers can be manipulated to show anything.

Extensive discussion ensued and following many comments from Ms. Aichinger directed at reducing the number of personnel and associated costs, Town Administrator Dunn commented that none of the Gilford Town employees own two properties on Governor’s Island. Ms. Aichinger responded that this was an unfair comment and Town Administrator Dunn clarified that he was not referring to her property. Selectman Benavides defended Town Administrator Dunn that his comment was not a personal attack on Ms. Aichinger.

Ms. Aichinger would like to educate the voters of Gilford on exactly what they are voting for. After a comment made by Ms. Aichinger regarding the recent Employee Benefits Committee, Town Administrator Dunn corrected her misconception of the purpose of that committee. Selectman Benavides added that the Board denied the request by the Employee Benefits Committee to increase dental coverage.

**11.0 Selectmen’s Issues** – none.

**12.0 Administrator’s Report** – Town Administrator Dunn stated that NH DES has indicated that a draft decision is being completed regarding the Liberty Hill Waste Disposal Site.

The new DPW van has arrived and Town Administrator Dunn requested authorization from the Board to sign the lease agreement. Selectman Benavides moved to authorize Town Administrator Dunn to sign the lease agreement for the new DPW van. Selectman Hayes seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Town Administrator Dunn advised the Board that Robert Dion has resigned as a regular member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment and Stephan Nix has agreed to step up from being an alternate member to a regular member. Selectman Benavides moved to accept the resignation of Robert Dion with regret and appoint Stephan Nix as a regular member. Selectman Hayes seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Town Administrator Dunn advised the Board that some issues have arisen at the Town Recycling Center and in order to address them, it will be necessary for the Board to take action to approve specific regulations pertaining to the “Goodie” Shed and metal pile, so that enforcement can take place. The “Goodie Shed” has a limit of five items per day and the metal pile is intended to be sold by the Town for revenue.

He explained that abuse is taking place as it is suspected that people are re-selling articles, which is not the intent of maintaining the “Goodie Shed”. Selectman Benavides moved to limit the number of items to be taken from the “Goodie Shed” in one day to five (5) and restrict members of the public

from picking through the metal pile. Selectman Hayes seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Town Administrator Dunn advised the Board that he will be directing Department Managers to prepare their CIP budgets by August 30, 2011. He also asked the Board to specify parameters for the preparation of the 2012 budgets that can be passed onto Department Managers.

Town Administrator Dunn advised the Board that he has recently been appointed as the Chairman of the LRPA TV Consortium.

**13.0** **Next Meeting** – Regular Meeting – August 10, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

**14.0** **Adjournment** – With no further business before the Board, the Board of Selectmen's July 27, 2011 meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Kevin Hayes  
Clerk