



Town of Gilford, New Hampshire
Deliberative Session "First Session" Minutes
February 4, 2016

Moderator Sandy McGonagle called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. McGonagle started the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. McGonagle also went over the Fire/Safety Evacuation rules. Approximately 45 people in attendance (This number included Department Heads, various Committee members, Media and registered voters) McGonagle introduced the Board of Selectmen: Richard Grenier, Chan Eddy and Town Administrator, Scott Dunn. McGonagle also introduced Department Managers: John Ayer, Geoff Ruggles, Herb Greene, Peter Norse, Steve Carrier, Tony Bean-Burpee, Denise Gonyer and Katherine Dormody. McGonagle also introduced Budget Committee members. McGonagle explained to use the honor system with voting for people who are non-voters in attendance and asked all non-voters to stand to be recognized).

McGonagle outlined the purpose, rules and decorum of the meeting. McGonagle further stated a voting area was set up in the rear of the auditorium if an Article needed to be amended by ballot vote. When there was no further discussion she would move to place the Article on the official ballot and then move to the next Article until we reached the end; at which time the ballot would be set for the March 08, 2016 election. She explained RSA 40:13 where no one shall eliminate the subject matter in the Article but that they could still change the dollar amount to zero. She stated that all remarks are to the Moderator and there would be no disorder or personal attacks permitted. The Moderator stated that if anyone had any questions on how to do anything they should feel free to ask the Moderator during the meeting. She said that each Article would be explained and placed on the ballot as written or amended on the floor. She asked the audience to give their name and address when they speak for the Town Clerk to enter into the official minutes of the meeting. Each person would be given 5 minutes to speak the first time and the speaker will be 2 minutes for the follow up comments. S. Peter Karagianis would be the official time keeper. The Moderator explained how to move the Article that any amendments must be submitted in writing and must be stated in the positive. Moderator explained that traditionally articles are read line by line. The Moderator asked attendees if not reading articles line by line in order to expedite the process and a general over view and time to read the article, ask questions etc. would work for voters in attendance. Fred Butler made a motion to skip the reading of the articles in entirety. Kevin Roy asked for further explanation. The moderator explained the waiving of reading aloud of the articles for expediting the process for time sake. Sue Allen seconded the motion.

Dave Horvath 28 Timber Lane asked the Moderator how to read to amend the article. Moderator would allow time on each article. The Moderator called for the vote and the vote was in the affirmative to skip the reading of the articles.

Moderator read Article 1:

The moderator read **Article 1** with the list of candidates running for the necessary Town Officers for the following year:

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

- One Selectman for a three year term; (Gus Benavides)
- One Moderator for a two year term; (Sandra McGonagle)
- One Supervisor of the Checklist for a six year term; (Irene LaChance)
- One Supervisor of the Checklist for a four year term; (Miriam York)
- One Trustee of Trust Funds for a three year term; (William Chris Ray, Jr.)
- Two Library Trustees for three year terms; (Michael Marshall & Alexis Jackson)
- One Cemetery Trustee for a three year term; (William Day)
- One Fire Engineer for a three year term; (Jack Lyman)
- Three Budget Committee Members for three year terms
(Tim Sullivan, S. Peter Karagianis, Sean Murphy).

The Moderator moved to zoning articles 2-8. The Moderator explained that the zoning articles are not subject to amendments and are introduced to voters for discussion and clarification purposes only.

ARTICLE 2 – Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment Number 1 as proposed by a citizen’s petition for the Gilford Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amend the Official Zoning Map of the Town of Gilford as requested by Leslie R. and Linda A. Schuster, owners of the Gunstock Inn & Resort, located at 580 Cherry Valley Road, to change the existing zoning for said location from LR (Limited Residential) zone to RC (Resort Commercial) zone. The property is Tax Map and Lot Number 253-016.000. The property is 11.55 acres. (The Planning Board recommends adoption of this amendment.) (An official copy of the entire proposal is on file at the Town Clerk’s Office and on display at the meeting place on the date of the Town Meetings and may be viewed at www.gilfordnh.org.) (Majority Vote Required)

Kevin Leandro asked if ever zoned resort commercial. John Ayer explained it was never zoned resort commercial. There was no further discussion and the Moderator asked the Town Clerk to place Article 2 on the official ballot; The Moderator moved to the next Article.

ARTICLE 3 – Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment Number 2 as proposed by a citizen’s petition for the Gilford Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amend the Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Gilford by amending Section 4.5.2, “Church” to make churches a non-permitted use, “N”, in the LR (Limited Residential) zone. This amendment would bring the four (4) residential zones in Gilford into conformity with each other, where currently “Church” is non-permitted in the other three residential zones. (The

Planning Board recommends adoption of this amendment.) (An official copy of the entire proposal is on file at the Town Clerk's Office and on display at the meeting place on the date of the Town Meetings and may be viewed at www.gilfordnh.org.) (Majority Vote Required)

There was no discussion. There was no further discussion and the Moderator asked the Town Clerk to place Article 3 on the official ballot; The Moderator moved to the next Article.

ARTICLE 4 – Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment Number 3 as proposed by a citizen's petition for the Gilford Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amend Article 3, Definitions, of the Gilford Zoning Ordinance by adding definitions for "Agriculture" and "Agritourism"; and to amend Section 4.7.1(a) to include Agriculture and Agritourism and to allow said uses in all zones. (The Planning Board does not recommend adoption of this amendment.) (An official copy of the entire proposal is on file at the Town Clerk's Office and on display at the meeting place on the date of the Town Meetings and may be viewed at www.gilfordnh.org.) (Majority Vote Required)

Fred Butler asked for a synopsis if not recommended by the Planning Board. John Ayer explained that it was a citizen's petition and that the Planning Board has addressed it through their own warrant article. Isaac Howe, Gunstock Hill Rd., asked if the use still comes under site plan review if Article passes and wanted to know if the Planning Board still takes a role in the process. Ayer said yes, depending on the nature; the Planning Board will claim jurisdiction; the Planning Board still has authority over impact of neighborhood, traffic etc. There was no further discussion and the Moderator asked the Town Clerk to place Article 4 on the official ballot; The Moderator moved to the next Article.

ARTICLE 5 – Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment Number 4 as proposed by a citizen's petition for the Gilford Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amend the Official Zoning Map of the Town of Gilford by adjusting zoning boundaries in the Old Lakeshore Road and Gunstock Hill Road area to extend the existing Lake Shore Road Resort Commercial district to include properties at 299 Gunstock Hill Road, 300 Gunstock Hill Road, 263 Gunstock Hill Road, and 285 Gunstock Hill Road and change the zoning of these properties from Single Family Residential (SFR) to Resort Commercial (RC), which properties are Tax Map and Lot Numbers 225-001.200 (6.17 acres), 225-013.000 (41.85 acres), 225-002.100 (23.3 acres), and 225-001.100 (180.8 acres); and to amend the Official Zoning Map of the Town of Gilford by adjusting zoning boundaries in the Intervale Road and Old Lakeshore Road area to extend the existing Lake Shore Road and Intervale Road Resort Commercial districts to include the property at 264 Intervale Road and change the zoning of this property from Limited Residential (LR) to Resort Commercial (RC), which property is Tax Map and Lot Number 224-038.000 (17.0 acres). (The Planning Board does not recommend adoption of this amendment.) (An official copy of the entire proposal is on file at the Town Clerk's Office and on display at the meeting place on the date of the Town Meetings and may be viewed at www.gilfordnh.org.) (Majority Vote Required)

The Moderator asked Ayer to briefly discuss Article 5. Ayer clarified that the Article is to rezone the mentioned areas. Isaac Howe spoke in favor of the amendment and gave a brief history of the zoning and conservation easement. There was no further discussion and the Moderator asked the Town Clerk to place Article 5 on the official ballot; The Moderator moved to the next Article.

ARTICLE 6 – Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment Number 5 as proposed by the Gilford Planning Board for the Gilford Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amend Section 5.1.1(e) to allow driveway areas to be included in the calculation of buildable area under certain conditions. (An official copy of the entire proposal is on file at the Town Clerk's Office and on display at the meeting place on the date of the Town Meetings and may be viewed at www.gilfordnh.org.) (Majority Vote Required)

Chan Eddy asked Ayer to explain the Article. Ayer explained that there would be no need to excavate and the area would be counted as a buildable area. There was no further discussion and the Moderator asked the Town Clerk to place Article 6 on the official ballot; The Moderator moved to the next Article.

ARTICLE 7 – Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment Number 6 as proposed by the Gilford Planning Board for the Gilford Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amend Section 6.2, Nuisances, to make Agritourism uses subject to the nuisance regulations of this section whereas Agritourism uses are currently exempt from these nuisance regulations. (An official copy of the entire proposal is on file at the Town Clerk's Office and on display at the meeting place on the date of the Town Meetings and may be viewed at www.gilfordnh.org.) (Majority Vote Required)

There was no discussion. The Moderator asked the Town Clerk to place Article 7 on the official ballot; The Moderator moved to the next Article.

ARTICLE 8 – Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment Number 7 as proposed by the Gilford Planning Board for the Gilford Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amend Article 3, Definitions, by creating a new definition for "Agritourism"; amend Table 1, Chart of Uses, and Section 4.1, Open Space Uses, by creating a new Section 4.1.6, Agritourism, making Agritourism a Non-Permitted use in the Island Residential (IR) zone and a Permitted use in all other zones; and amend Section 4.7.1 by creating a new subsection (f), Agritourism, establishing regulations for Agritourism uses. (An official copy of the entire proposal is on file at the Town Clerk's Office and on display at the meeting place on the date of the Town Meetings and may be viewed at www.gilfordnh.org.) (Majority Vote Required)

Mark Corry asked what the difference was between this article and the others dealing with Agritourism. Ayer explained that the Planning Board wanted to set the conditions and was anticipating effects of the petitioned article and was hoping to remove any conflicts that could come from it. If both Articles pass a legal opinion would be necessary. Isaac Howe stated that if there was a conflict in the law govern and prevail often times goes to the more restrictive law. Ayer remarked that he was referring to the zoning laws. Howe stated that it was hastily done by the Planning Board and the amendment was pushed through. He further stated that it is an important issue for the town and referred to the right to farm laws in the State of NH. There was no further discussion and the Moderator asked the Town Clerk to place Article 8 on the official ballot; The Moderator moved to the next Article.

ARTICLE 9 – 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 \$12,053,164? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$12,015,382, which is the same as last year, with 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. (This operating budget warrant article does not include appropriations contained in any other warrant articles.) (Majority Vote Required)
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3 to 0)
(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 10 to 0)

Article 9 was summarized by the Moderator. The Moderator gave time for the membership to review and to come forward with any questions or comments. There was no discussion and the Moderator asked the Town Clerk to place Article 9 on the official ballot; The Moderator moved to the next Article.

ARTICLE 10 – 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 \$2,351 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 two thousand, three hundred fifty-one dollars, (\$2,351), 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 \$2,413 over the costs attributable to the wages and benefits that would have been paid under the current agreement at the current staffing levels. (Majority Vote Required)
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3 to 0)
(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 10 to 0)

Article 10 was summarized by the Moderator. The Moderator gave time for the membership to review and to come forward with any questions or comments. There was no discussion and the Moderator asked the Town Clerk to place Article 10 on the official ballot; The Moderator moved to the next Article.

ARTICLE 11 – Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty thousand dollars, (\$50,000), to be added to the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 1989? (Majority Vote Required)
(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)

Article 11 was summarized by the Moderator. The Moderator gave time for the membership to review and to come forward with any questions or comments. There was no discussion and the Moderator asked the Town Clerk to place Article 11 on the official ballot; The Moderator moved to the next Article.

ARTICLE 12 – Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars, (\$10,000), to be added to the Fire Water Supply Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2008 for town-wide fire suppression purposes? (Majority Vote Required)
(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)

Article 12 was summarized by the Moderator. The Moderator gave time for the membership to review and to come forward with any questions or comments. There was no discussion and the Moderator asked the Town Clerk to place Article 12 on the official ballot; The Moderator moved to the next Article.

ARTICLE 13 – 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? (Majority Vote Required)
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3 to 0)
(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 1)

Article 13 was summarized by the Moderator. The Moderator gave time for the membership to review and to come forward with any questions or comments. Merrill Fay asked what the balance was in the fund. Geoff Ruggles responded with \$73,475.00. There was no further discussion and the Moderator asked the Town Clerk to place Article 13 on the official ballot; The Moderator moved to the next Article.

ARTICLE 14 – 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? (Majority Vote Required)
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3 to 0)
(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 1)

Article 14 was summarized by the Moderator. The Moderator gave time for the membership to review and to come forward with any questions or comments. There was no discussion and the Moderator asked the Town Clerk to place Article 14 on the official ballot; The Moderator moved to the next Article.

ARTICLE 15 – Shall the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a three year lease purchase agreement in the amount of \$150,000 for a front-end loader; and furthermore, vote to raise and appropriate the sum of sixty thousand dollars, (\$60,000), as the first year's payments for that purpose, contingent upon such an agreement having a non-appropriation clause in accordance with the provisions of RSA 33:7-e? (Majority Vote Required)
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3 to 0)
(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 7 to 0)

Article 15 was summarized by the Moderator. The Moderator gave time for the membership to review and to come forward with any questions or comments. There was no discussion and the Moderator asked the Town Clerk to place Article 15 on the official ballot; The Moderator moved to the next Article.

ARTICLE 16 – Shall the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a four year lease purchase agreement in the amount of \$250,000 for a mechanized sweeper; and furthermore, vote to raise and appropriate the sum of sixty-five thousand dollars, (\$65,000), as the first year’s payments for that purpose, contingent upon such an agreement having a non-appropriation clause in accordance with the provisions of RSA 33:7-e? (Majority Vote Required)
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3 to 0)
(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 7 to 0)

Article 16 was summarized by the Moderator. The Moderator gave time for the membership to review and to come forward with any questions or comments. There was no discussion and the Moderator asked the Town Clerk to place Article 16 on the official ballot; The Moderator moved to the next Article.

ARTICLE 17 – Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, (\$100,000), to purchase a heavy duty pick-up truck with plow and accessories? (Majority Vote Required)
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3 to 0)
(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 7 to 0)

Article 17 was summarized by the Moderator. The Moderator gave time for the membership to review and to come forward with any questions or comments. There was no discussion and the Moderator asked the Town Clerk to place Article 17 on the official ballot; The Moderator moved to the next Article.

ARTICLE 18 – Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars, (\$20,000), to be added to the Sand Pile Cover Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2014? (Majority Vote Required)
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3 to 0)
(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 7 to 0)

Article 18 was summarized by the Moderator. The Moderator gave time for the membership to review and to come forward with any questions or comments. There was no discussion and the Moderator asked the Town Clerk to place Article 18 on the official ballot; The Moderator moved to the next Article.

ARTICLE 19 – 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? If approved, this sum will come from sewer user fees whereby no amount shall be raised from taxation. (Majority Vote Required)
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3 to 0)
(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 7 to 0)

Article 19 was summarized by the Moderator. The Moderator gave time for the membership to review and to come forward with any questions or comments. There was no discussion and the Moderator asked the Town Clerk to place Article 19 on the official ballot; The Moderator moved to the next Article.

ARTICLE 20 – Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty-five thousand dollars, (\$45,000), to study the feasibility and costs of constructing a solid waste transfer station and expanding the processing of recyclable materials at the current facility located off of Kimball Road? This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the study is completed or by December 31, 2017, whichever is sooner. (Majority Vote Required)
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3 to 0)
(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 1)

Article 20 was summarized by the Moderator. David Horvath asked for an explanation. Richard Grenier stated that the Solid Waste Committee is reviewing the town's solid waste needs, the current facilities and will reduce costs to the town. The Committee is looking at the potential at the current transfer station. Grenier informed the membership that there was a final report available in hallway at this meeting. Kevin Leandro explained that the contract with the City of Laconia financial obligations expire in 2018. Grenier stated that the Committee is checking all options before another agreement is signed with the City of Laconia. There was no further discussion and the Moderator asked the Town Clerk to place Article 20 on the official ballot; The Moderator moved to the next Article.

ARTICLE 21 – Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars, (\$10,000), to be added to the Recreation Facilities Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2008? (Majority Vote Required)
(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)

Article 21 was summarized by the Moderator. The Moderator gave time for the membership to review and to come forward with any questions or comments. There was no discussion and the Moderator asked the Town Clerk to place Article 21 on the official ballot; The Moderator moved to the next Article.

ARTICLE 22 – 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 which was approved under Article 18 of the 2001 Annual Town Meeting? (Majority Vote Required)
(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)

Article 22 was summarized by the Moderator. The Moderator gave time for the membership to review and to come forward with any questions or comments. There was no discussion and the Moderator asked the Town Clerk to place Article 22 on the official ballot; The Moderator moved to the next Article.

ARTICLE 23 – Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand dollars, (\$3,000.00), for the purpose of supporting services provided to residents to access counseling and family support services, without regard to income from Child and Family Services. Child and Family Services provides accessible and affordable programs to children, youth and their families leading to stronger family connections, improved school performance and better citizenship. From June 1, 2014 – May 31, 2015 thirty-eight, (38), Gilford residents received 241 hours of free and reduced service valued at over \$10,500 from Child and Family Services. These services protected children from abuse and neglect, strengthened families, prevented out

of home placements, provided adolescents substance abuse prevention and treatment services and offered school year and summer enrichment programs for children.

[*Submitted By Citizens Petition*] (Majority Vote Required)

(Not 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 1)

Article 23 was summarized by the Moderator. The Moderator gave time for the membership to review and to come forward with any questions or comments. Chan Eddy explained that the Board of Selectmen's stance was to leave the outside agencies up to the voters and to not make a recommendation on Articles 23 – 27. There was no further discussion and the Moderator asked the Town Clerk to place Article 23 on the official ballot; The Moderator moved to the next Article.

ARTICLE 24 – Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of nine thousand dollars, (\$9,000), to support the operation of the Laconia Area Center of Community Action Program? The Laconia Area Center staff provides low income, elderly and disabled residents of Gilford assistance with basic needs such as fuel assistance, electric assistance, home weatherization, security deposits for housing, emergency housing assistance and maintains a food pantry accessible every day during business hours. In 2015 residents of Gilford received more than \$365,939 in services through the programs of Community Action Program, Belknap-Merrimack Counties, Inc., and the Laconia Area Center. [*Submitted By Citizens Petition*] (Majority Vote Required)

(Not 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 1)

Article 24 was summarized by the Moderator. The Moderator gave time for the membership to review and to come forward with any questions or comments. There was no discussion and the Moderator asked the Town Clerk to place Article 24 on the official ballot; The Moderator moved to the next Article.

ARTICLE 25 – Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-three thousand five hundred dollars, (\$23,500), to support the operations of Central New Hampshire VNA & Hospice, a local agency that provides visiting nurse services, hospice care, and pediatric care to residents of the Town of Gilford, NH? This past year residents of Gilford received over 3,500 home visits from Central New Hampshire VNA & Hospice and approximately forty-two thousand dollars in uncompensated care. Town funds are used chiefly to support hospice care, pediatric care to children at medical or social risk, wellness clinics, bereavement support groups and immunization services. [*Submitted By Citizens Petition*] (Majority Vote Required)

(Not 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 1)

Article 25 was summarized by the Moderator. The Moderator gave time for the membership to review and to come forward with any questions or comments. There was no discussion and the Moderator asked the Town Clerk to place Article 25 on the official ballot; The Moderator moved to the next Article.

ARTICLE 26 – 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 24 hour 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 Citizens Petition*] (Majority Vote Required)
(Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3 to 0)
(Not recommended by the Budget Committee by a tie vote of 9 to 1)

Article 26 was summarized by the Moderator. The Moderator gave time for the membership to review and to come forward with any questions or comments. There was no discussion and the Moderator asked the Town Clerk to place Article 26 on the official ballot; The Moderator moved to the next Article.

ARTICLE 27: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-one thousand dollars, (\$21,000), in support of Genesis Behavioral Health 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. Genesis Behavioral Health is designated by the State of New Hampshire as the community mental health center serving Belknap and Southern Grafton Counties. We served 3,843 children, families, adults and elders in Fiscal Year 2015, 189 of whom were Gilford residents. Genesis Behavioral Health provided emergency services to 41 Gilford residents in Fiscal Year 2015. We provided \$7,144 in charitable care to Gilford residents. [*Submitted By Citizens Petition*] (Majority Vote Required)
(Not 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 2)

Article 27 was summarized by the Moderator. The Moderator gave time for the membership to review and to come forward with any questions or comments. Kelley White of Belknap Mtn. Rd and Board of Directors offered more information and history and explained that there was a handout available on the table at the meeting; Ms. White spoke in support of the Article. There was no further discussion and the Moderator asked the Town Clerk to place Article 27 on the official ballot; The Moderator moved to the next Article.

ARTICLE 28 – Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seven hundred fifty dollars, (\$750.00), for the purpose of supporting 5th Annual Candlelight Stroll. Over the last four years, the Stroll has brought hundreds of residents, area locals, and visitors together to enjoy a variety of old fashioned community festivities in Gilford Village. The funds will be used to assist the extensive all-volunteer efforts and supplement donations toward the costs of horse drawn wagon and supplies. [*Submitted By Citizens Petition*] (Majority Vote Required)
(Not 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)

Article 28 was summarized by the Moderator. The Moderator gave time for the membership to review and to come forward with any questions or comments. Richard Grenier stated the Board of Selectmen's position against the Article and explained that the Board did not want to support with taxpayer's dollars. Dave Horvath supported the Board of Selectmen's position and spoke against the Article. There was no further discussion and the Moderator asked the Town Clerk to place Article 28 on the official ballot; The Moderator moved to the next Article.

ARTICLE 29 – Shall the Town, pursuant to RSA 231:45, vote to discontinue subject to gates and bars, Wood Road, which is currently a Class V, Town maintained Highway? The intent of this article is to covert Wood Road to a Class VI Highway, subject to gates and bars and other regulations of the Board of Selectmen as allowed by law, whereby the road shall continue to serve as a public highway but the Town shall be relieved of all obligations to maintain and all liability for damages that may be incurred in the use of the roadway; although the Town may continue to perform minimal maintenance to preserve its use for public, private, emergency and recreational access without changing the road classification. (Majority Vote Required)

The Moderator read Article 29. The Moderator gave time for the membership to review and to come forward with any questions or comments. Selectman Grenier explained that the Board made an oversight due to lack of information and spoke in opposition of the Warrant Article as written. Grenier made a **motion to amend** the article as follows:

“Shall the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to study the reclassification of Wood Road from a Class V, Town maintained highway to a Class VI, unmaintained highway subject to gates and bars?” (Majority Vote Required)

Seconded by: Selectman, Chan Eddy.

The Moderator asked if there was any further questions or comments. There were none so the Moderator read the Article as Amended and called for the vote by a show of hands. The vote was in the **Affirmative.**

There was no further discussion and the Moderator asked the Town Clerk to place Article 26 on the official ballot as amended; The Moderator moved to the next Article.

ARTICLE 30 – Shall the Town vote to disband the Town of Gilford Budget Committee, in accordance with RSA 32:14, Section V, to reduce taxpayer expenses and eliminate a redundant layer of town government? [*Submitted By Citizens Petition*] (Majority Vote Required)

The Moderator read Article 30. The Moderator gave time for the membership to review and to come forward with any questions or comments.

Fred Butler, 65 Yasmin Drive, spoke in support of the Article and explained his position is to make the process more efficient, save time and money.

Grenier- spoke in opposition of the article. Explained the process and stated that there is minimal cost associated with the current process.

Kevin Leandro- Spoke in opposition of the article.

Butler- Spoke in support of the article.

Horvath- 28 Timer Lane, Spoke in opposition of the article

Butler- Called for a Point of Order. The Moderator reminded Mr. Horvath to speak to the Article.

Butler asked Town Administrator Scott Dunn if there were legal fees or lawsuits in past 6 years. Dunn- replied yes.

Merrill Fay- spoke in opposition of the warrant article. Fay made a **motion to Amend** the article as written and omit the words “to reduce tax payer expenses & eliminate redundant layer of town government” from the Article.

The Moderator explained that the “subject matter” of the article cannot be removed and that she felt the proposed amendment did not remove the subject matter.

The Motion was **Seconded** by Dave Horvath.

The Moderator opened the floor for comments, questions and discussion on the proposed amendment. Butler questioned how to correct if the Moderator was wrong. Moderator quoted appropriate RSA to Butler. Butler agreed with the Moderator that the amendment would not change the subject matter of the Article. Leandro spoke in support of the amended warrant article.

There was no further discussion and the Moderator read the article as amended and called for the vote. Horvath asked to be recognized and came forward with a signed petition of five voters present asking for a secret ballot vote. Kevin Roys asked if the petitioners were present at the meeting. The Moderator and Town Clerk confirmed that the petitioners were present in the audience.

The Moderator declared the polls open to vote on a YES/NO paper ballot whether to amend the warrant article. The Moderator read the amended warrant article and explained that a vote for yes was in favor of amending the warrant article and a vote of no was not in favor of amending the warrant article as presented.

The Moderator gave a warning that the polls would be closing and the Ballot Clerk’s would be tallying the results for the membership. The Town Clerk handed the Moderator the results of the Yes/No vote. The results were as follows:

YES – 27
No – 23

The Moderator declared the vote was in the **Affirmative** and the warrant article would be amended. The Moderator asked if there was any further discussion, there being none the Moderator asked the Town Clerk to place Article 30 on the official ballot as amended.

The Moderator asked if there was any other business to be brought before the meeting. Dr. Leslie Suranyi of the Budget Committee was introduced as being in attendance. Dave Horvath, Jeff Beane and Robert Henderson were thanked and recognized for their service on the Budget

Committee. McGonagle thanked Peter King from the School District for operating the lights and sounds throughout the meeting.

With no other business before the meeting Moderator McGonagle reminded the audience that the Articles as written and amended would be placed on the official town ballot and that voting would take place at the Youth Center at the Gilford Community Church for town and school elections being held on March 8th. At 8:44 p.m. the Moderator called for vote to adjourn; motion by Grenier and Second by Eddy and it was in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise M. Gonyer
Town Clerk – Tax Collector