

GILFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
October 8, 2014
Town Hall

The Board of Selectmen convened in a regular session on Wednesday, October 8, 2014, 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 Richard Grenier. Also present was Town Administrator Scott Dunn.

Staff members in attendance included Finance Director Geoff Ruggles, DPW Director Sheldon Morgan, DPW Operations Manager Mia Gagliardi, Police Chief Anthony Bean Burpee, Police Lieutenant Jim Leach, Fire Chief Steve Carrier, Highway Superintendent Brian DeNutte and Executive Secretary Sandra Bailey.

1. **Non-Public Session – 6:40 P.M.** – Selectman Grenier moved to enter non-public session at 6:40 p.m., pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II, (c), to discuss matters which would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person. Selectman Benavides seconded. Motion carried on a roll call vote with all in favor. Present were John O'Brien, Gus Benavides and Richard Grenier. Also present was Town Administrator Scott Dunn.

Selectman Benavides moved to exit non-public session at 6:55 p.m. and seal the minutes. Selectman Grenier seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Chairman O'Brien led the assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Announcements/Presentations**

- 3.1. Chairman O'Brien announced that the Town Hall and Library will be closed on Monday, October 13, 2014 for Columbus Day.

4. **Review/Approval of Minutes**

- 4.1. Selectman Benavides moved to approve the minutes of September 10, 2014, as revised. Selectman Grenier seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.
- 4.2. Selectman Benavides moved to approve the minutes of September 23, 2014, as presented. Selectman Grenier seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.
- 4.3. Selectman Benavides moved to approve the minutes of September 24, 2014, as presented. Selectman Grenier seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

5. **Consent Agenda**

- 5.1. Selectman Benavides moved to approve the previously signed documents for the period September 22, 2014 through October 3, 2014 as listed. Selectman Grenier seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

<u>DOCUMENT DATE</u>	<u>DOCUMENT</u>	<u>MAP/LOT #</u>
09/23/14	Accounts Payable Manifest	
09/29/14	Change of Status - DeNutte	

6. Public Hearing

6.1. Appropriation of Unanticipated Funds – Town Administrator Dunn presented a brief overview of the refund received from HealthTrust, in the amount of \$66,659.95. The refund of insurance premiums has \$12,543.29 earmarked for employees, with the remaining balance of \$54,116.66 to be deposited in the general fund. He further noted that since the public hearing was noticed, an additional refund check has been received from HealthTrust. An additional public hearing will be held to accept these funds.

Brief discussion ensued regarding how the determination has been made to allocate the refund check to employees and retirees. Only current employees are eligible to receive a refund.

Chairman O'Brien opened the public hearing at 7:08 p.m. There being no questions or comments from the public, he closed the public hearing at 7:08 p.m.

Selectman Benavides moved to accept \$66,659.95 from HealthTrust of NH and to distribute \$12,543.29 as a reimbursement to employees and retirees for health and dental insurance expenses, with the balance of \$54,116.66 to be deposited into the general fund and to schedule a public hearing on October 22nd to consider allocating a portion of the additional \$63,208.11 that was received from HealthTrust of NH after the public hearing notice was published. Selectman Grenier seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

7. Appointments

7.1. Kent Hemingway - Gilford School District Update – Mr. Hemingway began his presentation by informing the Board that the subjects to be covered tonight are all available in greater detail on the District's website. He highlighted the utilization of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium in measuring proficiency in math and language arts. This replaces the former NECAP assessment.

Superintendent Hemingway reviewed the current robotics program at Gilford Middle School, as well as the Gilford Education Endowment, which is chaired by Derek Tomlinson.

In order to meet the needs of a changing world, the School District is looking seriously at personalized learning. Also included in Superintendent Hemingway's report were the 2014 SAT and NECAP scores.

In closing, an overview of the Meadows Field Improvement and the Gilford Got Lunch program were provided.

Selectman Benavides praised Gilford High School Principal Sawyer for his communication with parents via a weekly e-mail. He also recognized Superintendent Hemingway for his dedication to the community in attending weekend school events.

Following a question from Selectman Grenier, Mr. Hemingway outlined some of the accomplishments of the high school robotics program, which are geared to the US competition according to Dean Kamen's specifications.

Brief discussion ensued regarding the irrigation of the Meadows Field.

The Board thanked Superintendent Hemingway for his update.

8. Old Business

8.1. Surplus Radar Unit – Selectman Grenier stated that he did inspect the unit and proposed that if the unit can be converted to solar power that sets of posts be installed in key areas so that the unit can easily be moved from one location to another. In response to a question from Chairman O'Brien, Chief Bean Burpee stated that there would be no problem with moving the unit between different locations. He further stated that the covert radar unit that was recently in use was placed at 120 Cherry Valley Road and was able to take readings from both directions.

Chief Bean Burpee provided statistics on the percentage of "ticketable" motorists, with the eastbound traffic being approximately 33%. He further pointed out that the radar unit would include the speeds of emergency vehicles, which frequent Cherry Valley Road and most likely exceed the speed limit.

Selectman Grenier inquired if the other Board members were in favor of him trying to convert the surplus radar unit to solar. Chairman O'Brien expressed concern with not knowing the cost. Selectman Grenier replied that he can make the conversion for under \$200 to run during daylight, with additional expense for a battery if the unit is to be run at night.

In closing, the Board concurred to have Selectman Grenier convert the unit to solar power, with him reporting his results at the next meeting. Town Administrator Dunn recommended that the Board consider various locations where they would like to see the unit operating.

8.2. FY2015 Town Budget – Selectman Benavides moved to approve a FY2015 recommended budget in the amount of \$12,314,072 and sign the memorandum for the Budget Committee as drafted. Selectman Grenier seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

9. New Business

9.1. Capital Improvement Plan 2015-2020 – Selectman Benavides moved to accept the Capital Improvement Plan for 2015-2020 as presented by the CIP Committee. Selectman Grenier seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

9.2. Potter Hill Road Storage Building Roof – Selectman Benavides moved to accept the bid of Roof & Home Solutions from Center Harbor, NH in the amount of \$5,800 for repairs to the Potter Hill Road Storage Building, with funds to come from the Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund; and to allow for change orders up to \$1,450 (25%) for unanticipated plywood and sheet metal if necessary, to also come from the Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund. Selectman Grenier seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

9.3. LRPC-TAC Scenic Byway Subcommittee – Selectman Benavides moved to designate John Ayer as the Town’s representative to the LRPC-TAC Lakes Region Scenic Byway Advisory Subcommittee. Selectman Grenier seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

9.4. Job Description – Sewer System Technician – Selectman Benavides moved to approve the revised job description for Sewer System technician as presented. Selectman Grenier seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

9.5. RFP – Town Insurance – Town Administrator Dunn provided the Board with a brief overview of the RFP that has been prepared. The Board concurred with having Town Administrator Dunn send out the RFP for Town Insurance.

9.6. General Election Warrant – Selectman Benavides moved to approve and sign the warrant for votes on Governor, United States Senator, United States Representative, Executive Councilor, State Senator, State Representatives and County Officers, as presented. Selectman Grenier seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

10. Other Business – none.

11. Public Input – Fred Wernig of Belknap Mountain Road was in attendance to request that the Board once again close off a portion of the road during Halloween Trick or Treat hours on Friday, October 31st. Brief discussion ensued regarding the need to make sure that Belknap Mountain Road is closed from Potter Hill Road to the Elementary School parking lot. Town Administrator Dunn advised Mr. Wernig that the Town is planning to close off Belknap Mountain Road during Trick or Treat hours.

Mr. Wernig also expressed concern with vehicle speeding on Belknap Mountain Road between the hours of 7:00-8:30 a.m. Police Chief Bean Burpee stated that he can place the portable radar unit on Belknap Mountain Road, but his list of requests for it is growing.

Missy Perkins of 902 Cherry Valley Road stated that she is requesting that the Board reconsider the recent changes made to Cat Path, specifically the two speed bumps and posting as a one-way road. She further stated that she has a petition with over 100 names of Gilford taxpayers who support this request. In addition, she thinks that there are many other roads in Gilford that would benefit from the installation of speed bumps.

Sue Salmon of Escarole Lane agreed that there are many other roads that would benefit from having speed bumps. She further stated that one of the residents of Cat Path has been seen frequently driving the wrong way on Cat Path, creating a safety hazard for other motorists.

Mark Bourgeois of Edgewater Drive thinks that as a public road, motorists should be able to drive on Cat Path. Discussion ensued, with Chairman O’Brien stating that the amount of traffic on Cat Path has increased substantially with the usage of GPS. Missy Perkins reiterated that a resident of Cat Path frequently travels the wrong way on the road, and she thinks that if the local residents can travel in two directions that the rest of the motorists should also be able to travel in both directions.

Selectman Benavides stated that he wishes these residents had come forward during the

many meetings the Board has had over the past few years regarding the traffic problems on Cat Path. The only input that the Board received was from the residents of Cat Path. Extensive discussion ensued, with Chairman O'Brien expressing his concern with the danger that existed with vehicles accessing Cat Path from Cherry Valley Road during winter months. Missy Perkins added that she thinks the expense of installing and removing speed bumps on Cat Path is unreasonable given the amount of traffic on the road. She also thinks that residents should have full access to use the road in both directions.

Selectman Grenier stated that he regrets supporting the speed bumps on Cat Path because he does not think they belong on roadways.

Chan Eddy of Chestnut Drive agrees with the opinions previously expressed on Cat Path. He considers the speed bumps an experiment that has failed.

In response to comments on closing Belknap Mountain Road on Halloween in 2013, Lt. Leach stated that the Police Department blocked off the road at the entrance to the Village Field to allow for the parking lot to be used for vehicles. The Board concurred to still have the road blocked off at Potter Hill Road, instead, since vehicles can park at the Community Church.

12. Selectmen's Issues – none.

13. Administrator's Report – Town Administrator Dunn advised the Board that he is still awaiting plans for the Police Station project.

Town Administrator Dunn will be attending the Public Sector Labor Law seminar all day tomorrow.

It is anticipated that the MS-1 form will be ready for the Board's signature by the next meeting.

A mobile home that was acquired by tax deed is scheduled to be demolished next week.

Vacancies exist for the positions of Sewer System Technician and Budget Committee Secretary.

The Lakes Business Park Board of Directors approved the installation of solar panels on the Laconia Eye Clinic building at their meeting last week.

Town Administrator Dunn anticipates working on an update of the Minimum Road Standards and provided the Board with an update on various Public Works projects.

The Board recognized and congratulated newly appointed Highway Superintendent Brian DeNutte.

14. Next Meeting – October 22, 2014.

15. Adjournment – With no further business before the Board, the Board of Selectmen’s October 8, 2014 meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Grenier
Clerk