

APPROVED

**Board of Selectmen
22 November 2010
Minutes**

6:00 pm - Chairman Betty Ann Abbott read “This meeting of the Selectmen of the Town of Gilmanton is now open, and the matters presented and discussed here shall be for the purpose of managing the prudential affairs of the town and to perform the duties by law prescribed.”

Present were Chairman Abbott, Selectmen Don Guarino and Rachel Hatch and Clerk Lois Dionne. Town Administrator Tim Warren was not in attendance.

John & Carolyn Dickey, Carolyn Baldwin, Lori Baldwin, Paula Gilman, Fred Buchholz and Tommy Dombrowski, members of the Historical Society, and Historic District Commission Chair Allen Everett were also in attendance.

Old Town Hall Space – John Dickey explained that the Historical Society Museum currently occupies space in the basement of the Academy Building. They have artifacts, paper goods and other items that have been donated to the society since they began in 1970, and continually get additional items donated. The space in the Academy building is crowded, not easily accessible to the general public, and many people don’t know of its existence. The committee asked the Selectmen to consider letting the Historical Society use the space in the Old Town Hall that has recently been vacated by the police department for their museum. They felt a sign could be put up outside the building to promote awareness of the museum; it is easily accessible, has parking spaces, and they would better be able to display their items. John said they could work to develop a regular schedule of hours when the museum would be open, which they don’t have now. Any changes that would have to be made to the space would be done at the expense of the society. The museum would not be a source of revenue for the Town, but would be of great interest, value and information for the residents.

There was discussion about the desire to maintain the building as a Town building. Carolyn Baldwin said the paperwork has been submitted to include the building on the State Register of Historic Places. She said that later she would like to apply for a charette, which would allow residents to present their ideas for the use of the building. Selectman Abbott felt a charette would be something for the future, but not at the present.

The Selectmen will discuss the issue later tonight, and will let the historical society know their decision.

Recycling Certificates – Selectman Hatch said the school has been working in conjunction with Recycling Manager Justin Leavitt, and the school has become very proactive in recycling. The sixth grade had a field trip to the recycling center, during which Justin showed and explained the whole recycling process to the students. The 6th graders have formed a recycling club at the school, and are now composting as well as recycling. In recognition of their efforts, Justin will present a Certificate of Accomplishment, which the Selectmen signed tonight, to all the students who participated.

Highway Dept. Budget – The Selectmen reviewed the highway department budget with Road Agent Paul Perkins. There were very few changes to the operating budget, but there will be warrant articles for a new one-ton truck and for a sander.

CPR Class – Another CPR Class was held on November 16th. Participating in the class were some members of the highway department and recycling center, as well as Selectman Hatch and Conservation Commission member Nanci Mitchell.

7:00 – Public Input – No one was present for public input.

Crushed Glass – There was a discussion as to whether or not the Road Agent could use any of the crushed glass from the recycling center. Paul stated that he could use it in roads that were going to be paved, also in some culvert projects, but not on dirt roads. He said he would use the glass in projects when he can.

Sanding – Public Safety Building – The road agent was asked if it would be a problem for the highway department to sand the driveway at the new public safety building. It was felt his crew would be out and would know when sand was needed, and the truck could sand when sanding Allens Mill Road.

Currier Hill Road - Selectman Hatch stated that she had received a call about trees in danger of falling on Currier Hill Road; she drove the road, and didn't see any she felt were a danger. She asked Paul if he had received a complaint about any trees. Paul replied that he hadn't, but would drive Currier Hill Road to see if he could see any trees he felt would be a danger.

EMT Training – Chairman Abbott read the following email from Joe Hempel in response to the recent newspaper article regarding EMT recertification. “Regarding the current news story exposing the improper licensing of EMT’s in NH. The Town of Gilmanton’s current staff meets all the requirements of the National Registry of EMTs. No staff member has participated in a recertification class taught by Mr. Nault.”

Locker/Shower Room – Fire Dept. – Safety Building – Chairman Abbott stated that at the grand opening of the safety building, she was asked if it was appropriate to have a unisex locker and shower facility on the fire department side. She said the issue had been brought to both chiefs when the building was being built, and they both, especially Chief Lockwood, had agreed that the locker/shower room on the fire department side could be used by men and women. Chairman Abbott stated that both doors lock, and a policy should be put in place that both doors must be locked when the room is being used; and further only one person at a time be allowed to use the facility. The public restroom between the conference room and the lobby of the police department is also accessible, if the shower room is tied up. Also, if the police are there, and there is a woman who wants to use the shower/locker room on the police department side, they can do so.

Chairman Abbott said that in order to be sure we couldn't be accused of discrimination in the workplace, or be in violation of the law, she had consulted Town Counsel. She received an email from Town Counsel's office stating that based on their research, the answer is "no". There are other unisex facilities in that building, which gives credence that it is not discriminatory. Chairman Abbott said that they are in the process of changing the signs to read "employee locker and shower room". The previous sign had said "men's locker and shower room". Chairman Abbott said she had met with both chiefs and Guy Picard of Ricci Construction, and to create separate facilities would cost between \$1,500 and \$3,000. She added that there have been no complaints from any town employee; the situation had been brought up from someone out of town.

Town Report Bids – Last week Tim had been asked to find out if the bid from Country Press was for a colored cover. The price to include a colored cover brought their bid price up to \$1,836.48, which was still the lowest bid.

MOTION – Selectman Hatch moved to award the bid for the printing of the 2010 Town Report to Country Press for the amount of \$1,836.48. Selectman Guarino seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Approval of Minutes – The Selectmen reviewed the minutes of last week's meeting.

MOTION – Selectman Hatch moved to approve the minutes of November 15, 2010 as amended. Motion passed 3-0.

Energy Commission – Nate Abbott and Amy Russell of the Energy Committee met with the Selectmen to request approval to apply for a low interest loan through Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA), a State organization that provides Federal funding for energy consumption reduction.

Amy said she had spoken with Brian Pilcher of CDFA, who felt the energy audit Paul Callahan had done for the Town was one of the best he has seen. The interest could be as low as 1.25% if all the paperwork is submitted by December 3rd, otherwise, it could still

be as low as 2.3%. This would be for approximately \$56,000 for seven years. This is the amount the energy committee estimated would be needed to retrofit the building.

There was considerable discussion of the recommended upgrades to make the Academy building more energy efficient. The main thing would be the “envelope” that would include repairing the windows, insulation and the addition of gutters, which they felt would be essential to solve the current water problems around the foundation of the building.

It was explained that applying for the loan would not commit us to anything; it is understood that any of the energy upgrades would have to be approved at town meeting. The Selectmen gave permission to apply for the loan. The energy committee will also draft RFPs for the Selectmen for projects that would be involved in the upgrades.

Building Capital Improvements Study Committee Report – The Selectmen reviewed the report the Building Capital Improvements Study Committee had submitted with recommendations for maintenance and repairs of Town-owned buildings.

Many of the recommendations of the building committee were the same as had been recommended by the energy committee. Both committees stressed the need to repair, not replace, the windows in the academy building. The Selectmen didn’t feel it is necessary to create the position of a Town Facilities Manager, which had been one of the building committee’s recommendations. They also want to get more information on establishing a permanent Town Buildings Committee.

Old Town Hall – The Selectmen discussed the Historical Society’s request to use the vacated space at the Old Town Hall. They felt they should discuss it at a public hearing to allow the residents a chance to be aware of potential uses of the vacated space in the building. They could also be informed that Carolyn Baldwin would like to have a charette in the future to discuss the use of the entire building.

A public hearing will be held to discuss potential use of the Old Town Hall on December 13th at 6:00 pm.

9:07 pm – MOTION – Selectman Hatch moved to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Guarino seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Dionne
Recording Clerk

