

1 The inhabitants of the Town of Gilmanton in the County of Belknap in the state of New Hampshire qualified to vote in
2 Town affairs are hereby notified that the two phases of the Annual Town Meeting will be held as follows:

3 **First Session of Annual Meeting (Deliberative Session):**

4 Date: Saturday February 3, 2024 (and Saturday February 10, 2024 as needed)

5 Time: 9:00 AM (9:00 AM on Saturday February 10, 2024 as needed)

6 Location: Gilmanton Elementary School – 1386 NH Rt 140, Gilmanton, NH

7 Details: School deliberative session first, then Town

8 **Second Session of Annual Meeting (Official Ballot Voting)**

9 Date: Tuesday, March 12, 2024

10 Time: 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

11 Location: Academy Building – 503 Province Rd, Gilmanton NH

12 Details: Voting is upstairs in the Auditorium

13 **GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION**

14 We certify and attest that on or before 1/30/2024 a true and attested copy of this document was posted at the place of
15 meeting and at the Gilmanton Academy Town Office, the Gilmanton Corners Post Office and the Gilmanton Iron Works
16 Post Office and that an original was delivered to the Town Clerk/Tax Collector.

17

18 MARK E. WARREN CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF SELECTMEN

19 VINNIE BAIOCCHETTI SELECTMAN

20 EVAN COLLINS SELECTMAN

21

22 *Town Deliberative session opened at 10:08 am*

23

24 **Mark Sisti, Moderator:** Going to open this up right now. The rules are the same as what we just went through, with
25 regard to the school district warrant articles. We will take them up in order. The first article has to do with elections,
26 there may have been some slight alteration in the language. I'm just going to take the liberty of reading this, just for
27 clarification.

ARTICLES FOR VOTING

Article #1: Election of Officials

To choose all necessary elected positions for which there are vacancies, for such terms, as may be permitted by law; and to elect:

BOARD OF SELECTMAN

THREE YEARS VOTE FOR ONE:

EVAN COLLINS

TOWN CLERK / TAX COLLECTOR

THREE YEARS VOTE FOR ONE:

ELISE N SMITH

TRUSTEE OF CEMETERIES

THREE YEARS VOTE FOR ONE:

CANDACE DAIGLE

TRUSTEE OF TRUST FUNDS

THREE YEARS VOTE FOR TWO:

FREDERIC A BUCHHOLZ, JR

NEIL R ROBERTS

LIBRARY TRUSTEE

THREE YEARS VOTE FOR ONE:

SUZANNE CHRISTIE

Discussion:

No Discussion.

Article will appear on ballot as written.

ZONING WARRANT ARTICLES

Article # 02: Zoning Ordinance Amendment #1

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Gilmanton as follows: To amend Article VI by adding Paragraph 9 titled- Manufactured Housing- In the Residential Lake Zone, Storage and Parking: to allow for the storage and parking of one recreational vehicle in the Residential Lake Zone and to not require the storage or parking of the recreational vehicle meet setbacks or be parked in a driveway?

Recommended by the Planning Board: Yes

Discussion:

No Discussion

Article will appear on ballot as written.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

THREE YEARS VOTE FOR TWO:

ALEC BASS

ANNE KIRBY

PLANNING BOARD

THREE YEARS VOTE FOR TWO:

JACOB DALZELL

GARETH "MARTY" MARTINDALE

GRACE L SISTI

SUPERVISOR OF THE CHECKLIST

SIX YEARS VOTE FOR ONE:

VIRGINIA SAPIRO

SUPERVISOR OF THE CHECKLIST

TWO YEARS VOTE FOR ONE:

CLAUDIA J FERBER

85 **Article # 03: Zoning Ordinance Amendment #2**

86 Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Gilmanton as
87 follows: to amend Article XVI. Definition of "Structure" to exclude a fence as a structure and do not require a fence to
88 meet setbacks?

89 **Recommended by the Planning Board: Yes**

90 **Discussion:**

91 **No Discussion**

92 **Article will appear on ballot as written.**

93 **WARRANT ARTICLES**

94 **Article # 04: Operating Budget**

95 **Est tax impact \$ 5.505**

96 Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles
97 and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted within the warrant or as
98 amended by vote of the first session, for the purpose set forth therein totaling Five Million, Seven Hundred and Eighty-
99 Two Thousand, Three Hundred and Seventy-Seven Dollars (\$5,782,377.00). Should this article be defeated, the default
100 budget shall be Five Million, Four Hundred and Twenty-Eight Thousand, and Seventy-Eight Dollars (\$5,428,078.00),
101 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by the previous action of the Town or by law; or the
102 governing body may hold one special meeting in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI to take up the issue of a revised
103 operating budget only.

104 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes**

105 **Recommended by the Budget Committee: Yes**

106 **Discussion:**

107 **Mark Sisti:** Everybody good with that? Open it up for discussion right now, on article four, it's the two- 2024 operating
108 budget request. [Pause] Step right up.

109 **Mike Bedford:** Testing, testing-

110 **Mark Sisti:** You're good.

111 **Mike Bedford:** I had two questions-

112 **Mark Sisti:** State your name, please, for the record.

113 **Mike Bedford:** Mike Bedford, 62 Second here in the Iron Works.

114 **Mark Sisti:** Thank you.

115 **Mike Bedford:** I'm looking through some of the differences between 2023 and 2024 that's being proposed. And some of
116 the things that stood out [inaudible] we see a massive increase in the uh- Transfer Station and Recycling Station.

117 \$163,000, if I'm reading that correctly, I'd like an explanation to what that involves? Especially cause I believe most of
118 the staff has been terminated? So, I wanted to know if that meant we would hire them back, what that would entail?

119 And second question, assuming we can address this as well, was that uh- going through looking at plan changes that are
120 documented here, some of these are some pretty substantial increases. Plan changes to executive health plans,

121 insurance plans are- Well, I would like to understand the nature of the change are, are we offering something different
122 to town employees that we haven't in the past? What- why would they be changing and operating under [inaudible]

123 **Mark Sisti:** Thank you. Anybody want to address that?

124 **Heather Carpenter, Town Administrator:** Mark, I can speak to that.

125 **Mark Sisti:** Thank you.

126 **Heather Carpenter:** Full disclosure, I am not a resident. I am the Town Administrator, Heather Carpenter, hi. So basically,
127 the insurance increase is a 15.6% increase, based on the plan that we already have. The additional increase is, last year
128 the Budget Committee and members of the community wanted to see some more wage increases for next year. So, in

129 order to at least provide the margin somewhere we offered 100% paid insurance, with the additional 15.6%, it is a
130 cheaper alternative. We did the numbers on if we kept it at the 80%, which is always what we've done. Town takes 80%
131 and the employees take 20%. If we added 3-4% COLA those were more expensive choices. Other than the prorated
132 budget that we see, in that one. It is a 3 month at 80% and 9 month at 100%. So next year that will be an increase on the
133 total budget because you'll see the full impact of the 100%. The two ways you can think about it, there is always
134 opportunities to decrease. So, this year, there was a 15.6%, last year with Health Trust it was 11.7%. But the year
135 previously, it was a surplus that the town got back and went through in the unassigned balance. That always has the
136 opportunity to do that again, I just have no indication on how we- how that is going to look because it is based on a pool
137 and based off what- what's happening [inaudible].

138 **Mike Bedford:** Follow up question [inaudible]. In your guess or estimation; does health insurance, the cost associated
139 with that- what my concern about is we commit to 100% today or the next few years, next year health insurance sky
140 rockets more, we're now committed to buying the entire rate. Or- I understand the total difference comparing for this
141 year; are we locking ourselves in for something that's actually going to come up in the long run. 100% health insurance
142 rises higher in many cases, then [inaudible].

143 **Heather Carpenter:** Again, I can't answer to the fact that it may or may not increase, right? You could see a decrease.
144 This year our Budget Committee announced the 15.6%, and then some towns got a 20% increase. These were
145 equalizations that happened. On a personal note, we saw a decrease prior to COVID, because people were couldn't get
146 into doctors. So, we saw a decrease which was registered as was, this is- how I'm thinking of it is like an equalization of
147 what's happened. COVID weren't allowed to go into doctors as much, you couldn't get into places, everything was
148 overwhelmed. So, you didn't see the impact on the insurance. Now everything is going back to doctors that we are
149 trying to get everything equalized. I can't answer to that fact that there may be an increase or decrease. Anytime we
150 make changes like this, I don't think you're locking yourself in. We are trying to give employees a benefit of working
151 here. We're having a really hard time with retention. We lost 52-54% of our staff in 2023. We are running on bare bones
152 and to try to get comparable staff to fill those positions is very difficult when we can't give them comparable wages to
153 say, Gilford or Belmont or anything like that as it- Regardless of us comparing ourselves to those towns, those are the
154 towns we are fighting for the same type of candidates for. So, for longevity purpose and quality of staff and what we are
155 giving to our staff, it is a benefit.

156 **Mark Sisti:** Thank you. Do you have a second question with regard to the um - ?

157 **Mike Bedford:** I was going to open that wide and ask if there would be-

158 **Mark Sisti:** Speak up.

159 **Mike Bedford:** I was saying I'm just going to open that discussion while I'm at it, I know that something that's been a hot
160 topic for a while. About changing the Transfer Station, just looking to see if that \$168,000 is in the proposed budget.

161 **Mark Sisti:** Correct, if somebody could speak to that?

162 **Heather Carpenter:** So, we do have hiring changes, there are increases to staff. We did remove three staff members, as
163 you mentioned. We weren't removing them because they weren't needed, we removed because of a situation. So, we
164 are looking to fill the positions. We added another full-time employee. There was an increase, the budget used to retain
165 a manager, due to the - the warrant article that was pushed through last year, as a petition warrant article, our DPW
166 Director. The board decided to go not with a management position but a foreman position because with the DPW it
167 would be an irrelevant position for the highway and the transfer station. So, the increase on one or more [inaudible] full-
168 time role isn't an addition, and I believe that there's two part-time positions in there and the one other part-time is the
169 compactor employee which has always been in there.

170 **Mike Bedford:** Ma'am I'm looking at the 2022 [inaudible] 2023 \$465. The actual being \$432 and then now proposing
171 \$625. I'm having a hard time reconciling that number to what you just said.

172 **Heather Carpenter:** So, well what you're - remember is that [inaudible] that employee, the manager previously wasn't a
173 full-time employee, at a lesser rate, and we have to look at retirement [inaudible]. We added another full-time
174 employee to the roster, we're also adding insurance, we're also adding retirement, which was pricey; we were obligated
175 to put 7% for the retirement. And then of course worst-case scenario, the other new positions. This is what could also
176 change next year, the more vacant positions we have, because we don't have any contingency funds you have to budget
177 at a family rate. We don't know what we're getting. So, you can't budget a single and then hire someone at a family rate
178 and have that deficit. So, all the vacant positions are currently budgeted for family roles. That doesn't mean that's what
179 we're going to get, we could get singles, we could get doubles, or we could get families. So, there is, I think - is there any
180 particular line, that you're seeing, other than wages on that [inaudible] hand out?

181 **Mike Bedford:** No, other than that just showing the total budget?

182 **Heather Carpenter:** Yeah, so -[inaudible] The biggest impact on what you are seeing is because of staff changes.

183 **Mike Bedford:** So, my last question is- I appreciate you answering all these. Is there- as a resident, the services from
184 2022 in the proposed budget, is there a change in, am I getting anything more or different than what I was getting in
185 2022 as a resident of Gilmanton?

186 **Heather Carpenter:** Sure, so what you're going to be receiving now is a compliant facility- yay, um it's- [laughter] much
187 cleaner, the services that we have been bringing back, you- you always had your regular waste, we did try to provide
188 recycling for you when we had to shut down. It wasn't the preferred option, which was sorting. That also takes time and
189 effort, um so we are slowly bringing it back. We have half our [inaudible] hours [inaudible]. So, you are getting the same,
190 yes, it is more expensive. However, we have not been in compliance for a long time. And running on bare bones gets you
191 into the non-compliance. So, this budget is a reflection of what it takes to be compliant for the hands that are needed.

192 **Mike Bedford:** I appreciate that, thanks.

193 **Mark Sisti:** Thank you.

194 **Joshua Mann, Budget Committee:** [inaudible]

195 **Mark Sisti:** Certainly.

196 **Joshua Mann:** Heather, what would happen if we were non-compliant-

197 **Mark Sisti:** Please hold up one second. We gotta do this right. So, state your name.

198 **Joshua Mann:** Joshua Mann, vice chairman of the committee.

199 **Mark Sisti:** Thanks.

200 **Joshua Mann:** What would happen if we were non-compliant at the transfer station?

201 **Heather Carpenter:** Um, I guess it depends on who you talk to. So, when DES came out originally, we had an 80-page
202 non-compliance report, that was pretty terrible. It cost us well over \$60,000 to clean it up, which was not budgeted for.
203 Luckily the residents of this town have done infrastructure funds, have done CIP funds that helped us navigate that
204 situation. Because that budget is relatively low at the Transfer Station. DES told us they were going to hold us to
205 compliance. They- they would have started fining and they have the potential to shut us down. They have not done that,
206 they've been very gracious working with the whole situation and trying to get it cleaned in a manner of time. Well, Rome
207 wasn't built in a day so it didn't take us 2 seconds to clean it up. But it- basically it could have been loss of the Transfer
208 Station.

209 **Mark Sisti:** Thank you. Anything else? Step right up.

210 **Susan Farrell:** Susan Farrell, 17-

211 **Mark Sisti:** Right over here if you could. Thank you.

212 **Joshua Mann:** Don't get yelled at, I did.

213 [laughter]

214 **Elise Smith, TCTX:** I just can't see you.

215 **Susan Farrell:** [inaudible] Susan Farrell, 17 Edwards Drive, Iron Works. So, what do we have in place now? Obviously, we
216 had [pause] not good supervision of what was going on at the Transfer Station. What do we have in place now that is
217 going to stop us from going into the same spot?

218 **Heather Carpenter:** So, on the compliance end, what we have is staff that is more up to date on code and the rules and
219 regulations from DES. They are all certified, including our Highway Department. Additionally, what we have is a Joint
220 Loss Committee that we honed in on doing, technically we have to meet quarterly, the town has taken it upon
221 themselves that the Transfer Station will be reviewed quarterly. [inaudible] We will be always going to the transfer
222 station for our own inspections. Fire chief is involved in those, a building inspector could be involved in those, police
223 chief is involved in those, myself and we would report back to the Selectmen on those inspections.

224 **Susan Farrell:** Okay, so we're doing that on a quarterly basis?

225 **Heather Carpenter:** Correct.

226 **Susan Farrell:** Okay, thanks. Thank you.

227 **Mark Sisti:** Thank you. Anything else on the general operating budget? Okay, seeing nothing ...

228 **Article will appear on ballot as written.**

229 **Article # 05: Add to existing ETFs Non-Capital Expendable Trust Funds and CRFs Capital Reserve Funds**

230 **Est. tax impact \$0.230**

231 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One-Hundred and Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$130,000.00)
232 to be deposited in the previously established Non-Capital Expendable Trust Funds (ETF) and Capital Reserve Funds (CRF)
233 identified below. This sum to come from taxation. (Majority vote required.)

Highway Equipment	(CRF)	\$ 70,000.00
Highway Vehicle Equip/Repair	(ETF)	\$ 10,000.00
Recycling & Transfer Facility Improvement	(CRF)	\$ 30,000.00
Recycling Equipment	(CRF)	\$ 15,000.00
Transfer Station Vehicle & Equip Rep	(ETF)	\$ 5,000.00
TOTAL		\$ 130,000.00

234 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes**

235 **Recommended by the Budget Committee: Yes**

236 **Discussion:**

237 **No Discussion**

238 **Article will appear on ballot as written.**

239 **Article # 06: Exterior Painting & Rot Repair Academy Building-Town Offices**

240 **Est. tax impact \$0.209**

241 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred and Eighteen Thousand Dollars
242 (\$118,000.00) for the exterior painting and rot repair at the Academy Building Town Offices. This amount to come from
243 taxation. (Majority vote required)

244 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes**

245 **Recommended by the Budget Committee: Yes**

246 **Discussion:**

247 **No Discussion**

248

249

250

251 Article will appear on ballot as written.

252 **Article # 07: Add to existing ETF Non-Capital Reserve Fund- Infrastructure Repairs & Upgrades**

253 **Est. tax impact \$0.177**

254 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) to be
255 deposited in the Infrastructure Repairs and Upgrades Non-Capital Reserve Fund previously established by the 2022
256 Town Meeting. This amount to come from taxation. (Majority vote required).

257 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes**

258 **Recommended by the Budget Committee: Yes**

259 **Discussion:**

260 **No Discussion**

261 Article will appear on ballot as written.

262 **Article # 08: Purchase Police Cruiser**

263 **Est. tax impact \$0.133**

264 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-Five Thousand (\$75,000.00) to purchase, equip,
265 and prepare for service a new Police cruiser. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7
266 VI and will not lapse until the purchase of the Police Cruiser is complete or until December 21, 2025, whichever comes
267 first. This amount to come from taxation. (Majority vote required)

268 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes**

269 **Recommended by the Budget Committee: Yes**

270 **Discussion:**

271 **Mark Sisti:** Any discussion in which regard to article 8? Come on up.

272 **Mike Bedford:** Just real quick-

273 **Mark Sisti:** If you'll come up to the microphone please.

274 [laughter, crowd murmurs]

275 **Mike Bedford:** I'm sorry. This is our money we're spending so I want to make sure that we're answering all the answers
276 to these things. Uh-

277 **Mark Sisti:** Hold on, hold on, every time you come up you gotta-

278 **Mike Bedford:** Mike Bedford, 62 Secord Road.

279 **Mark Sisti:** Thank you.

280 **Mike Bedford:** The 124 – excuse me, the \$75,000, [inaudible] it says that the uh – to appoint a cruiser for the police
281 department per the schedule in the Capital Improvement Plan. Does the Capital Improvement Plan have money set
282 aside for cruisers like this? Cause I thought [inaudible] that's what the Capital Improvement Plan did, at least cover some
283 of these things? Is this not covered in those Capital Improvement Plans?

284 **Heather Carpenter:** Can I answer to this?

285 **Mark Sisti:** Yes.

286 **Heather Carpenter:** Heather Carpenter. So, there is no cruiser fund for this. There is a Police Revolving Fund that could
287 be used for that and usually to offset- um. We had change in finance, over three different people touched it this year
288 and we're trying get our head rapped around the amount in the fund is only \$12,000 at the moment. So, there's not a
289 real offset. But you could potentially use some of those funds to offset this minor, but it doesn't have to be a warrant
290 article. [inaudible] you could slightly reduce that- um for that offset.

291 **Mike Bedford:** Okay, last question, the \$75,000, is that a quote or that just an estimate?

292 **Heather Carpenter:** No, that is a good number based on what the Chief has received.

293 **Mike Bedford:** Perfect, thank you.

294 **Mark Sisti:** Thank you. Any other discussion on article 8? Seeing nobody's hands up, nobody approaching the
295 microphone...

296 **Article will appear on ballot as written.**

297 **Article # 09: Deposit into Welfare ETF Non-Capital Expendable Trust Fund**

298 **Est. tax impact \$0.027**

299 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) to be deposited in
300 the Welfare ETF Non-Capital Expendable Trust Fund previously established by the 2001 Town Meeting. This amount to
301 come from taxation. (Majority vote required).

302 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes**

303 **Recommended by the Budget Committee: Yes**

304 **Discussion:**

305 **No Discussion**

306 **Article will appear on ballot as written.**

307 **Article # 10: Purchase Forestry Vehicle**

308 **Est. tax impact \$0.203**

309 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred and Fifteen Thousand Dollars (115,000.00)
310 for the purpose of a Forestry pickup truck equipped with a fire pump skid tank and snow plow package. This special
311 warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until the purchase of the
312 equipment is complete or until December 21, 2025, whichever comes first. This amount to come from taxation.
313 (Majority vote required).

314 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes**

315 **Recommended by the Budget Committee: Yes**

316 **Discussion:**

317 **No Discussion**

318 **Article will appear on ballot as written.**

319 **Article # 11: Deposit into the Replace Ambulance A1 Fund**

320 **Est. tax impact \$0.044**

321 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) to be
322 deposited in the Replace Ambulance A1 Capital Reserve Fund previously established by the 2001 Town Meeting. This
323 amount to come from taxation. (Majority vote required).

324 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes**

325 **Recommended by the Budget Committee: Yes**

326 **Discussion:**

327 **No Discussion**

328 **Article will appear on ballot as written.**

329 **Article # 12: Add to existing SCBA Replacement Fund**

330 **Est. tax impact \$0.018**

331 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to be deposited into
332 the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Replacement Capital Reserve Fund established by the 2011 Town Meeting. This
333 amount to come from taxation. (Majority vote required)

334 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes**

335 **Recommended by the Budget Committee: Yes**

336 **Discussion:**

337 **No Discussion**

338 **Article will appear on ballot as written.**

339 **Article # 13: Add to existing Fire Radio Replacement Account**

340 **Est. tax impact \$0.018**

341 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to be deposited into
342 the Fire Radio Replacement Capital Reserve Fund, previously established by the 2015 Town Meeting. This amount to
343 come from taxation. (Majority vote required).

344 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes**

345 **Recommended by the Budget Committee: Yes**

346 **Discussion:**

347 **No Discussion**

348 **Article will appear on ballot as written.**

349 **Article # 14: Elected Official Pay**

350 ***No Tax Impact***

351 To see if the Town will vote to require that any alteration to the compensation for an elected official to be approved by
352 the vote of the Town Meeting by an individual warrant article. Further, to see if the Town will vote to allow elected
353 officials to participate in the Town-provided health insurance benefits for a single-person plan and in the New
354 Hampshire Retirement System, if otherwise eligible under RSA chapter 100-A, provided that such official meets all
355 requirements for a full-time employee as defined in the Town of Gilmanston Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual
356 and maintains time cards reflecting such hours worked. Effective on Passage.

357 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes**

358 **Recommended by the Budget Committee: Yes**

359 **Discussion:**

360 **Mark Sisti:** Now's the time to discuss article 14 if there's any interest. Seeing none I'm moving onto article- hold on.

361 [pause]

362 **Mark Sisti:** Ok, I'm going to move onto article – well someone's gotta speak up

363 **Brian Forst, Budget Committee:** Sorry, there was some concern with the language in this article, this article is directly –
364 not directly - we currently have two elected- oh, two substantial paid elected positions in our town. Road Agent and
365 Town Clerk Tax Collector, are those two positions. One of the concerns here is the language “town-provided health
366 insurance benefits for a single-person plan”. The feeling is that would limit, if we were to vote this, that it would limit
367 anybody in that capacity to only be able to achieve that and not be able to achieve a family plan if they so desire. We
368 have provided these benefits to current individuals in these positions. So, I guess my question would be – and I guess
369 legal could help me with this – can we change the wording? It's not changing the intention of the article, could we
370 change the wording of the article this morning?

371 **Town's Legal:** Yes

372 **Mark Sisti:** Wait a minute, hold on, wait a minute; woah. Changing the wording is kind of a general interesting kind of
373 comment. Which words do you want to change?

374 **Brian Forst:** My amendment would read, for this article to be worded.. it would allow elected officials to participate in
375 the “town-approved health insurance benefits for a single-person or up to a family plan and in the New Hampshire
376 Retirement System”. Would be my change to the wording, proposed. I probably need a second on that.

377 **Mark Sisti:** Well is that, is that the motion you want to make?

378 **Brian Forst:** That is the motion – yes, I guess that is the motion that I wish to make.

379 **Mark Sisti:** So, the addition of “or up to a family plan”

380 **Josh Mann, Budget Committee:** I'll second it.

381 **Mark Sisti:** It is seconded. Any discussion on 14 with the proposed amended language? You would insert, after single-

382 person plan, “or up to a family plan”. Everybody got that? Any discussion?
383 **Elise Smith, TCTX:** Once the Road Agent position changes, it’s only my position at that point? Okay.
384 **Heather Carpenter:** So, you’re the only one eligible for full-time benefits. This actually affects all elected paid positions,
385 it’s- so I don’t want you to think it’s targeting one individual. It’s the process of how we change increases for any elected
386 official that gets paid. Your position is the only one eligible for full-time.
387 **Elise Smith:** Okay, alright. Because I am currently on a Double Plan right now, so the way it was worded..?
388 **Heather Carpenter:** Correct.
389 **Elise Smith:** Okay, alright, so I agree with Brian. Thank you.
390 **Mark Sisti:** Thank you.
391 **Alec Bass, Budget Committee:** Alec Bass, 152 Potter Road; member of the budget committee. I agree with the intent
392 and legal, but would it be simpler just to strike “for a single-person”? Then that way it just reads “participating in town-
393 provided health insurance benefits plan” and without that, should language and terminology perhaps change? Does that
394 still meet the intent and maybe be simpler? That’s all.
395 **Mark Sisti:** Do you understand what the proposed language was? I do, but I’m not- we’re waiting for a little bit of a legal
396 thing here.
397 **Town’s Legal:** Hi, Billy Warren [inaudible] I see no issue with either amendment, certainly it would be cleaner to strike
398 the family plan- uh, single-person plan language. But, I think the advantage of specifying single-person plan or up to
399 family helps to limit and really specify what this article is attempting to accomplish.
400 **Mark Sisti:** Alright so, with Legal input, I guess I can exercise discretion. I think I am going to leave the motion on the
401 table as it was made and seconded. Keep it that way. The Forst amendment would read “a single-person plan or up to a
402 family plan”. Understood? Any further discussion? Seeing no interest in further discussion, I will gotta read this one in.

403 **MOTION: Brian Forst**

404 **SECOND: Josh Mann**

405 **Article # 14: Elected Official Pay – Amended**
406 To see if the Town will vote to require that any alteration to the compensation for an elected official to be approved by
407 the vote of the Town Meeting by an individual warrant article. Further, to see if the Town will vote to allow elected
408 officials to participate in the Town-provided health insurance benefits for a single-person plan **or up to a family plan** and
409 in the New Hampshire Retirement System, if otherwise eligible under RSA chapter 100-A, provided that such official
410 meets all requirements for a full-time employee as defined in the Town of Gilmanton Personnel Policies and Procedures
411 Manual and maintains time cards reflecting such hours worked.

412 [pause]

413 **Mark Sisti:** All those in favor of the amendment to article 14, indicate by stating I. Oppose neigh. I’s have it.

414 **Mark Sisti:** Language will be amended in article 14, and that amended language will be on your ballot. March 12th.

415
416 **Article # 15: Increase the number of Cemetery Trustees**
417 ***No Tax Impact***

418 To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to RSA 289:6,I, to increase the number of Cemetery Trustee Board members from
419 three members to five members. If approved, two additional trustees shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen, one
420 for one year and one for two years. Thereafter, subsequent trustees shall be elected by ballot at the annual town
421 meeting to replace those whose terms expire. (Majority vote required).

422 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes**

423 **Recommended by the Cemetery Trustees: Yes**

424 **Discussion:**

425 **No Discussion**

426 **Article will appear on ballot as written.**

427 **Article # 16: Add to existing Town Building Repair and Maintenance Non-Capital Reserve Fund**

428 **Est. tax impact \$0.035**

429 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) to be deposited
430 into the Town Building Repair and Maintenance Non-Capital Reserve Fund, previously established by the 2010 Town
431 Meeting, and to further name the Board of Selectmen agents to expend from said fund. This amount to come from
432 taxation. (Majority vote required).

433 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes**

434 **Recommended by the Budget Committee: Yes**

435 **Discussion:**

436 **Mark Sisti:** Any discussion on article 16? Come on up.

437 **Mike Bedford:** Michael Bedford, 62 Secord Road. I'm trying to reconcile this motion, this warrant article to the
438 previously described for the painting and apparent rot on the Academy Building. Is there a reason why that previous
439 amount is not coming out of this fund? This fund set aside for maintenance and repair?

440 **Mark Sisti:** Heather?

441 **Heather Carpenter:** Currently, this fund is set up to be based for all town buildings. The Academy fund is separate just to
442 paint the Town Hall. This fund would hit any- any infrastructure maintenance for PD, Fire, Highway or Transfer Station
443 repairs. Like, for example, we just had an over \$10,000 repair for a (something?) system [inaudible] that is not budgeted
444 for. It's not budgeted for in 2024. It is going to be roughly \$10,000. This fund could benefit [inaudible].

445 **Mike Bedford:** Could this fund cover the academy building?

446 **Heather Carpenter:** It could cover any town building.

447 **Mike Bedford:** Does it exist today? This fund?

448 **Heather Carpenter:** This fund exists. Yep.

449 **Mike Bedford:** I think I'm going back, I apologize, I'm mixing things up. I'm trying to figure out why we're spending
450 \$110,000 on all this paint-

451 **Heather Carpenter:** It's \$118,000 for repairs-

452 **Mike Bedford:** Yeah, when we have a fund set aside to do that?

453 **Heather Carpenter:** There is only \$13,000 in that fund.

454 **Mike Bedford:** That's what I saw-

455 **Heather Carpenter:** Just so everybody understands, the CIP concept is generally a savings, we don't like to pull it. If we
456 had done this over 5 years, budget planning for this for the painting, that would be one thing. But we did not. We used
457 to do it one side of the building, super aesthetically not pleasing. So, that's why we have the 18 versus the 20.

458 **Mike Bedford:** I appreciate it.

459 **Mark Sisti:** Thank you. Any further discussion on article 16? Seeing no interest in further discussion.

460 **Article will appear on ballot as written.**

461 **Article # 17: Establish a Town Forest Maintenance Fund**

462 **No Tax Impact**

463 To see if the Town will vote to establish a special forest maintenance fund, pursuant to RSA 31:113, and to authorize the
464 placement of any proceeds from the management of the Town forests, up to a total balance amount of \$25,000.00, into
465 said fund. Said monies to be allowed to accumulate from year to year and to name the Conservation Commission as the
466 agent to expend from such fund.

467 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes**
468 **Recommended by the Budget Committee: Yes**
469 **Recommended by the Conservation Commission: Yes**
470 **Discussion:**
471 **No Discussion**

472 **Article will appear on ballot as written.**

473 **Article # 18: Establish an ETF for the Management/Control of Invasive Species in Public Water Bodies**
474 **Est. tax impact \$0.032**

475 To see if the Town will vote to establish an Expendable Trust Fund pursuant to RSA 31:19-a for the purpose of the
476 management, control, and remediation of aquatic invasive species, to be known as the Public Water Body Reclamation
477 Expendable Trust Fund, and to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighteen Thousand Dollars (\$18,000.00) to put into this
478 fund, with this amount to come from taxation; further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from such
479 fund. (Majority vote required).

480 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes**
481 **Recommended by the Budget Committee: Yes**
482 **Discussion:**
483 **No Discussion**

484 **Article will appear on ballot as written.**

485 **Article # 19: By Petition - Rescind Public Works Director & Change to Appointed Road Agent**
486 **No Tax Impact**

487 We, the undersigned registered voters of Gilmanton, NH, vote to change the title of appointed Public Works Director to
488 appointed Road Agent. The vote would additionally rescind the one or more additional duties pursuant to RSA 231:63. If
489 approved, this article shall be effective as of the date of the 2024 Town Meeting.

490 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: No**
491 **Recommended by the Budget Committee: No**
492 **Discussion:**

493 **Mark Sisti:** Okay, there is going to be some discussion on this. State your name.

494 **Josh Mann:** Josh Mann, 157 Stage Road. I was wondering if any petitioner's here to speak to what they are intending
495 with this? Again, I know the language but, the town voted last year- pretty overwhelmingly- to have a Public Works
496 Director, we haven't even given it a shot yet. If the petitioner wants to change this to a Road Agent. As I understand, the
497 Town set up the 2024 budget to have a PWD. So, we spent time, effort and money into going in that direction. And
498 second question, from the town - to the town is uh- if this does get voted in. How much, I don't want to say pain and
499 suffering, but how much work is going to be lost, how much disorderly will occur if we all decided as of March meeting
500 we end up going a different direction? Are there any increased costs with that?

501 **Mark Sisti:** Okay, let's take it one at a time. Is anybody here that was a signatory on the petition able to discuss this
502 matter? The reasoning behind it? Now is the time to do it. I mean, we're all here for it [pause]. So, is it my understanding
503 that no petitioner wishes to advocate for article 19?

504 **Parker Hoffacker:** Mister Moderator. My name is Parker Hoffacker-

505 **Mark Sisti:** Come on right up.

506 **Parker Hoffacker:** My name is Parker Hoffacker, I signed on that petition under the fear of how much that position
507 would end up costing the town, with the new salary. I feel like that position would have to be a pretty highly talented
508 person to take on that whole role. I fear it would be an over six figure salary we would have to pay, so I signed on that.

509 Thank you.

510 **Mark Sisti:** Thank you. Any other discussion?

511 **Josh Mann:** What is the budgeted salary for the current position?

512 **Heather Carpenter:** Mark, so, if you look at the budget numbers- I'll get mine now, so the role for the Road Agent is –

513 from the line- \$131,058. What you are seeing included in that is the overlap of our current Road Agent, for a period of

514 months, until we hire a road agent. The salary amount is \$92,328 for a road agent. So, once our Road Agent position,

515 elected, has been removed, and that was done effectively last year's article petition warrant, so there is no more elected

516 role. What will happen if this petition warrant doesn't go through, the salary line will stand at \$92,328. We won't see the

517 \$131,000 next year. Cause that's just taking care of our Road Agent as we transition into a DPW Director. And I just need

518 a little clarification; the petitioner signed the warrant article under the pretense of not- of fear in cost of the DPW or a

519 qualified individual to fill that role? Is that- is that what I heard? Okay. So, yeah, the salary is going to stand at \$92,328 if

520 last year's warrant article remains and this one would be voted down.

521 **Josh Mann:** One more follow up, [inaudible] Earlier we talked about the transfer station and how we don't have a

522 manager down there, with the expectation of having a DPW for there. So, we have a foreman at the Transfer Station

523 right now. If we have a road agent, appointed, not elected, appointed Road Agent, are we going to have to hire

524 somebody to manage the Transfer Station? Or can the person that's down there right now more of a manager?

525 **Heather Carpenter:** So, currently what we have is the Town Administrator is overseeing the Transfer Station. And you

526 would either have to increase, because it's not part of their original duties, would have to increase compensation

527 eventually or hire a new position to fortify the Transfer Station. You can't keep muddling along with what you have.

528 We're doing the best with what we have but-. It is not more cost effective to do a Road Agent based on what direction

529 we went last year. So, the highway position is hired currently that can go both Transfer Station and Highway. That

530 interchangeable theory that we've gone with, based on last year's warrant article has already been invested in by this

531 town. If you want to go back to a Road Agent, we would have to pivot and see how that's going to look. I'm not sure it

532 would be a significant increase, but there is monetary cost with [inaudible].

533 **Mark Sisti:** Thank you. Thanks.

534 **Mike Bedford:** Michael Bedford, 62 Secord Road. I think I was kind of following along with this gentleman, I'm just

535 looking at something directly titled [inaudible] certain compensation bans. I think - I guess a straightforward answer, if

536 you have someone who is [inaudible] for this role and compared to someone who is just a road person, Road Agent,

537 what is the difference in compensation between those two roles?

538 **Heather Carpenter:** If you look at that budget line, I just lost my page, bear with me –

539 **Evan Collins, BOS:** Evan Collins, Selectmen. The 2023 budget for the hired Road Agent is \$77,459. The PWD would be

540 \$92,328.

541 **Mike Bedford:** So about \$20,000 difference?

542 **Heather Carpenter:** Correct.

543 **Mike Bedford:** So there is a monetary difference. In which- this list for the meeting says there's no tax impact.

544 **Heather Carpenter:** No, so with a petition there isn't a tax impact because you don't have any monetary things spelled

545 out in it. So, DRA requires us to put no tax impact. That's not necessarily true. [inaudible]

546 **Mike Bedford:** That's what my question original was [inaudible] tax impact [inaudible] something else, if there is a

547 potential tax savings there [inaudible]

548 **Heather Carpenter:** So, again, what we've heard and why we went this direction. Is because the warrant article last year

549 by petition and impacts it. So, what we hear on a daily basis in the office is; the roads aren't up to par, we don't allocate

550 enough money, we don't allocate enough time, we don't allocate enough resources. And that's habitual. These are not

551 [inaudible] that's- I would say over 90% of what we hear are issues with Transfer Station and Highway and roads. So, in

552 order to do that and fortify what the residents are thinking of for service and what they deserve and are looking for, it's
553 going to cost you more. I will tell you, when we talked to putting a whole road project through, we were about \$3
554 million dollars shy of what we required for our roads. We have about 70 miles, just under 70 miles, of roads. So, your
555 budget currently, as it stands, is not a good reflection of the services that the residents want based on what we can give
556 them and what we need too.

557 **Mike Bedford:** My last question, do you think this director position will make a difference [inaudible] we talked about?

558 **Heather Carpenter:** So, educational differences between a road agent and elected official who doesn't need any
559 qualifications- um, is a different standard under a director position.

560 **Mike Bedford:** Thank you.

561 **Mark Sisti:** Thank you.

562 **Brian Forst:** Brian Forst, Province Road. It's really amazing coming up here how much better the sound system is, sitting
563 up here I can't hear anybody.

564 **Mark Sisti:** What'd you say?

565 **[laughter]**

566 **Brian Forst:** In 2005, I was a Selectman and we tried to change the method this town used in electing a person
567 appointing Road Agent. It failed then, we tried again, I want to say in uh- somewhere in the teens, it failed then. Now
568 we've got it approved. The Selectmen spent a year, they are moving in the direction of hiring a working DPW Director.
569 I've asked the question many times. This isn't going to be a person that sits in an office and tells people what to do.
570 They're going to be out on the ground, whether they're at the Transfer Station, whether they're at the Highway
571 Department. The single largest budget in this town, outside of the school, is our Highway Department. So, if you want to
572 shave some money off, I would have somebody look that over – it's really bad, anybody who has driven the roads in this
573 town knows that we do not have the best roads. I am not asking for THE best roads. But, and I am not up here to be
574 negative about our Road Agent. But the current system does not allow checks and balances. We have an elected Road
575 Agent, if there is a complaint about the roads, the Selectmen field that complaint, however when they try to act on that
576 complaint the elected person can look at them and go "let them vote me out in a few years". It's not a good
577 management system that we currently use. This is hopefully an improvement. Now to sleight the hand, at the eleventh
578 hour and say we're to change this again, I don't understand it. I really don't. We need to move forward, we need to have
579 an accountable person. We just witnessed a year of turmoil at Transfer Station. We didn't have a good manager, we are
580 asking here for a management position. If we rescind this, I'm pretty sure we don't get a management position at the
581 Transfer Station. So, I- really as a tax payer, as a resident, I really feel strongly that we need to stay the course that has
582 been needed and move forward as it was presented. It has been budgeted, it had been planned, and I don't think it is
583 advisable to change it again and see what happens a year from now.

584 **Mark Sisti:** Thank you. Baiocchetti?

585 **Vinnie Baiocchetti, BOS:** Vinnie Baiocchetti, Board of Selectmen. The board started, after town meeting last year, to
586 draft the PWD position. So, we spent almost a year working a job description for the position, we've done some research
587 on salary wages, and we also are looking at what the community has wanted in the past from the department heads. So,
588 we heard that [inaudible] not having an administrative department they're gonna be like the Fire Chief or the Police
589 Chief, who actually goes out onto the road but has administrative duty. The PWD – the PWD, will also be responsible for
590 planning these road projects that we're supposed to be doing. They'll be responsible for working with relation in
591 planning with plans for the roads. They'll be - under the control, or direction of the Board of Selectmen so they'll attend
592 the meetings, for CIP or JLC, all the things that they should be doing to bring better services to the town. This is not
593 something that we should be scared of. It's not something that's going to be directly just roads and bridges. We have
594 wood to pick up, trees to be pruned, culverts, all these are the things that people complain about regularly, and the

PWD will now be responsible for. And whether it's contracting work out or using our employees, as well as the PWD to accomplish those tasks. I hope that kinda answers some of your questions that relates to your fears with the PWD.

Mark Sisti: Thank you.

Candace Daigle: Looking from the outside-

Mark Sisti: I'm sorry, you gotta -

Candace Daigle: Candace Daigle.

Mark Sisti: Thank you.

Candace Daigle: 216 Province. Looking from the outside, all the comments that we're hearing here are mostly related to our town of Gilmanton. Whether or not this is going to solve our problems, but looking from the outside, I spent 50 years in management of municipal government. And I- In one position, I had dear Road Agent, for many of my first few years there. He was always accommodating, he – he tried to be helpful with the projects that related to roads, the town then chose to go to a PWD. It was like somebody flipped the light on. We now had someone when DES came knocking on the door, he was there – the PWD was there, he knew the answers. He knew what was going on and knew how to anticipate that the state laws and how to ride within them. He would come to us for some assistance, depending on LRPC on available grants. He got us grants time and time again for environmental purposes and other purposes. When we built the town- the new town facility for public works, he had a place at the table because he knew exactly what we needed to be more efficient in what they did. He found cost savings, he built a road plan; as to what roads need to be fixed in what sequence and if he changed it he would come back with a legitimate discussion about why [inaudible] or why it needed change. Or how he was going to update his plan with the money that the town did raise for it. I can tell you roads were repaired, when it was paved it was done. The culverts were clean, the culverts were changed, ditches were dug. It was done. He worked with the contractors- he worked with the contractors, where before the Road Agent hadn't had that ability. It just wasn't something he had. He worked with all the contractors; we no longer did our road basically with one contractor. People had to bid, we held their toes to the fire, when that job was done or when it failed 5 years later. I just, this is such a big step for the community to consider, and it is just such a step forward. And, the other point is, if you advertise the same - relatively same position as a town Road Agent, you're going to get a town Road Agent, you're not going to get a PWD. If he was a PWD, he will be looking for that in the advertisement. You're going to get a person who doesn't have a higher level of human resources that he's got to deal with, those are harder every day for the town. Budgets, presentations to town meeting, presentations to the public, when you are trying to present a budget you hope that they substantiate and approve. Those are just some comments from the outside. I think that, I hope that the town is ready for that and hope that they will support it because I think it's the only way we're ever going to solve the ups and downs that we see with an elected Road Agent. You are asking a man to do a job that he didn't sign up for and doesn't have the skills for.

Mark Sisti: Any other comments or concerns? We're talking about Article 19. Seeing nobody approaching the mic..

Article will appear on ballot as written.

OUTSIDE AGENCIES

Article # 20: By Petition-Support the Gilmanton Year-Round Library

Est. tax impact \$0.083

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty-Seven Thousand, One-Hundred Dollars (\$47,100.00) for partial funding of operating expenses of the Gilmanton Year-Round Library for Fiscal Year 2024. This amount to come from taxation. (Majority vote required).

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes

Recommended by the Budget Committee: Yes

637 **Discussion:**

638 **No Discussion**

639 **Article will appear on ballot as written.**

640 **Article # 21: Support the Gilmanton 4TH of July Association**

641 **Est. tax impact \$0.011**

642 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$6,500.00) to
643 support the Gilmanton 4th of July Association, a community organization, for the continuation of Gilmanton’s 4th of July
644 Parade, Fireworks, and other events. This amount to come from taxation. (Majority vote required).

645 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes**

646 **Recommended by the Budget Committee: Yes**

647 **Discussion:**

648 **No Discussion**

649 **Article will appear on ballot as written.**

650 **Article # 22: Support the Gilmanton Youth Organization**

651 **Est. tax impact \$0.010**

652 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$5,500.00) for the
653 purpose of supporting the Gilmanton Youth Organization (GYO), a recognized 501C(3) charitable organization that is
654 operated for the express purpose of organizing and administering high-quality sports programs for the school-aged
655 children of the Town of Gilmanton, as well as the continued operation, maintenance, and development of GYO Park.
656 This amount to come from taxation. (Majority vote required).

657 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes**

658 **Recommended by the Budget Committee: Yes**

659 **Discussion:**

660 **No Discussion**

661 **Article will appear on ballot as written.**

662 **Article # 23: Support the Gilmanton Snowmobile Association**

663 **Est. tax impact \$0.007**

664 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000.00) for the purpose of
665 supporting the Gilmanton Snowmobile Association for the purpose of maintaining trails that are open to the public in a
666 safe condition for use by snowmobilers, hikers, cross-country skiers, and equestrians in the Town of Gilmanton. This
667 amount to come from taxation. (Majority vote required).

668 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes**

669 **Recommended by the Budget Committee: Yes**

670 **Discussion:**

671 **No Discussion**

672 **Article will appear on ballot as written.**

673 **Article # 24: Support the Gilmanton Iron Works Private Library**

674 **Est. tax impact \$0.002**

675 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for the purpose of
676 supporting the Gilmanton Iron Works Library, a recognized 501(c)(3) charitable organization. This amount to come from
677 taxation. (Majority vote required).

678 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes**

679 **Recommended by the Budget Committee: Yes**

680 **Discussion:**

681 **No Discussion**

682 **Article will appear on ballot as written.**

683 **Article # 25: Support the New Beginnings Without Violence & Abuse**

684 **Est. tax impact \$0.002**

685 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for the purpose of
686 supporting New Beginnings Without Violence & Abuse, which provides 24-hour crisis support, operates a shelter, and
687 provides counseling for domestic/sexual assault victims. This amount to come from taxation. (Majority vote required).

688 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes**

689 **Recommended by the Budget Committee: Yes**

690 **Discussion:**

691 **No Discussion**

692 **Article will appear on ballot as written.**

693 **Article # 26: Support the Community Action Program**

694 **Est. tax impact \$0.009**

695 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for the continuation
696 of services to the low-income residents of Gilmanton through the Laconia Area Center of Community Action Program
697 Belknap-Merrimack Counties, Inc. This amount to come from taxation. (Majority vote required).

698 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes**

699 **Recommended by the Budget Committee: Yes**

700 **Discussion:**

701 **No Discussion**

702 **Article will appear on ballot as written.**

703 **Article # 27: Support the Lakes Region Mental Health Center**

704 **Est. tax impact \$0.013**

705 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500.00) to
706 support the Lakes Region Mental Health Center (LRMHC), formerly known as Genesis, which provides integrated mental
707 and physical health care to area residents with mental illness. This amount to come from taxation. (Majority vote
708 required).

709 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes**

710 **Recommended by the Budget Committee: Yes**

711 **Discussion:**

712 **No Discussion**

713 **Article will appear on ballot as written.**

714 **Article # 28: Support the Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of NH**

715 **Est. tax impact \$0.002**

716 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) for the purpose of
717 supporting the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of NH which provides, recruits, trains, and supervises
718 volunteers to serve as advocates for abused and neglected children in the New Hampshire court system.

719 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes**

720 **Recommended by the Budget Committee: Yes**

721 **Discussion:**

722 **No Discussion**

Article will appear on ballot as written.

723 **Mark Sisti:** I ask only one other question. Is there any other information that the town should know? Anything that the
724 body wishes to bring to the attention of the others here?

725 **Mark Warren, BOS:** Mr. Moderator.

726 **Mark Sisti:** Yep.

727 **Mark Warren:** Mark Warren, Selectmen. I just want to encourage residents to look at page 26. This is the Equalization
728 Ratio, and I think sometimes when we are looking at our tax dollars or looking at our tax rates we forget that that tax
729 rate is calculated by the ER. And why town evaluations are important to continuing to be looked at. But, currently in
730 2022, you'll notice that our ER is at 61%. So, basically properties are assessed at 61% of their true and actual values. And
731 so when you look at your tax rate compared to other towns, you do need to look at where they stand with their ER. The
732 only reason I bring that up is because, this town works really hard to keep the expenses of the town as efficient as
733 possible while maintaining the services that the people, the residents of the town are looking for. I think sometimes
734 when comparing to other towns, we only look at tax rates. And it's important to understand ER. So just as a way that I
735 was educated, as I was being brought into this role, and understanding how to understand some of those things, I just
736 think that's helpful for our residents to appreciate why we will be looking at revaluations in the coming years. But it is
737 important to note that when you are comparing to other towns you have to look ER as well. I do want to say, thank you
738 to the residents for coming out. I also want to say thank you to our Department Heads and administration – from my
739 point, which is you have elected me to represent you, that, from my point of view, the Budget Committee, other
740 committees, our Department Heads, the employees of our town are working hard on your behalf, and you can take
741 confidence to know that everybody's working very diligently to continue to keep costs in a reasonable way, while
742 allowing us to address the needs of our community. So, thank you.

743 **[applause]**

744 **Mark Sisti:** Anything else? Hey just, as an aside, anybody got any information on this 300th anniversary thing?

745 **Adam Mini:** Yes. That's what I'm coming for.

746 **Mark Sisti:** Yeah! As an aside.

747 **Adam Mini:** I was going to say the same. I just wanted to draw thanks for the opportunity. [inaudible] Just a reminder,
748 2027 we will be celebrating 300-year anniversary of Gilmanton. There is a Committee, BOS Baiocchetti, myself, and
749 Paula Gilman, [inaudible] we got a few people in the group that are working on planning. I know we are early but the
750 website is gilmanton300.com, we have a Facebook page. And that's – just start following the page for any updates in
751 content as we go or as you all plan or think of more things to do so. Just wanted to point that out. And behalf of 4th of
752 July Committee, we're going to be taking nominations for the Grand Marshall. Just to think about the people that you
753 will want to see as Grand Marshall.

754 **[applause]**

755 **Mark Sisti:** I just wanna [inaudible] and have a big party. Thanks a lot, okay we are recess to March 12th at 7AM that's
756 where the voting will begin at the Academy building. Thank you.

757

758 *Town Deliberative session adjourned at 11:12 am*