



**SELECTMEN'S OFFICE
TOWN OF GILMANTON**

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APPROVED

Board of Selectmen Meeting

October 17, 2022 - Academy Building – 5:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Present: Chairman Mark Warren, Vice-Chairman Vincent Baiocchetti, Selectmen Evan Collins, Town Administrator Heather Carpenter, Chief Joe Hempel

Public: Andy Gray (*call in*), & Joe Haas

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL

1. 10-03-2022– Public & Non-Public Meeting Minutes

Motion: On a motion by Selectmen Collins and seconded by Chairman Warren it was voted to approve the Public & Non-Public Meeting Minutes from 10-03-2022. (3-0)

CONSENT AGENDA

2. WM Contract – This is a standard 5-year contract based on current pricing. The current contract expires in December.

3. MS-535

4. State of New Hampshire – Poll opening request – Academy Building, the hours will remain the same as the normal polling hours.

5. Auction Deeds – There are 11 Deeds for signature, with Dock Road not moving forward for purchase. TA Carpenter suggested putting the Dock Road property out to a sealed bid and notifying abutters.

6. Tricentennial Committee Oaths – Vincent Baiocchetti, Adam Mini, John Dickey, Greg Downing, and Paula Gilman are appointed for 5 years terms.

☐ **Action Item** – Waste Management Contract will be discussed at a future Board of Selectmen meeting once the contract has been reviewed.

Motion: On a motion by Chairman Warren and seconded by Vice Chairman Baiocchetti it was voted to approve the consent agenda as presented. The Board of Selectmen will review the Waste Management Contract at the next meeting. (3-0)

OLD BUSINESS

7. Gilmanton Energy Committee – 2022 LED Lighting Upgrades – Written recommendation received. Andy Gray called in to discuss the recommendations. Based on the responses received their first priority would be the Iron Works Fire Department and the Public Works Building. After that would be the Safety Building and focusing on the portion of the building that serves the Police Department. Chairman Warren questioned whether Andy had the payback rates for the projects. Andy did not have those present, but he did recall that the simple payback from Affinity was five years for the Fire Station, Public Works, and Public Safety. The LED upgrades are updating and converting the current lighting systems to LED lighting systems and installing occupancy sensors. Andy believes that both companies are reputable and both would do a good job on the projects. Contrivance Electrical came in as the lower bidder and he didn't feel like they would be of disservice to the town if chosen. Selectmen Collins questioned if the \$40,000.00 would only cover Public Works and Iron Works and if they would have enough for the Police Department. Andy stated that the \$40,000.00 would account for most of it and that they can review the rebates and then prioritize the next building after that. The next step would be for Resilient to coordinate with the entity awarded and schedule the installations and simultaneously contact the utility company to secure the rebates. TA Carpenter will contact Nate Abbott who will reach out to Andy.

- 46 **8. Gilmanton Old Town Hall Restoration** – Updates as of 10/10/2022 – Public report received and is
47 currently online.

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49 **NEW BUSINESS**

- 50 **9. HealthTrust- Renewal Rates** – Signature required; these increases will be added to the budget. The
51 Health increase was 11.7% and Dental was 1.5%. The calculations have not been done for the impact on
52 the Budget for this yet. This will be available for the next Select Board meeting and prior to the Budget
53 Committee meeting. Warrant articles will be available at the November 7th meeting, as well as the
54 updated numbers for the budget.

55 **Motion:** On a motion by Vice Chairman Baiocchi and seconded by Selectmen Collins it was voted to approve
56 the Chairman sign Renewal Rates from HealthTrust. (3-0)

- 57
58 **10. Crystal Lake Park** – Pickleball Court Request – Written Request – Volunteers would like to paint a
59 Pickleball court within the pavilion at Crystal Lake Park and have a net that they would store at home for
60 now until they see additional interest. Chairman Warren and Selectmen Collins are not opposed to it,
61 Vice Chairman is not opposed to the use of it, but was opposed to it being painted because it is used for
62 other events as well. TA Carpenter stated the initial donation is free, but what happens over time and
63 the pavilion is used for other things, tables may be dragged across. Her concern is upkeep will that be
64 volunteered also or with this be something the town takes over?
65 Chairman Warren suggested the upkeep of the lines be maintained through the current requestors of
66 the pickleball club if they become organized, Selectmen Collins agrees with this. Vice Chairman
67 Baiocchi does not agree. He is in favor of the court, but not of the painting.

68 **Motion:** On a motion by Chairman Warren and seconded by Selectmen Collins it was voted to accept the
69 request by Richard and Anne Kirby to use the Pavilion for a pickleball court and they would be responsible to
70 paint the lines and would also be required for the ongoing upkeep of such lines. (2-0) *Vice Chairman Baiocchi,*
71 *Abstained.*

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73 **SELECTBOARD ITEMS, FYI & OTHER TOPICS**

- 74 **11. Fire Department** – Rate Comparison Discussion and PAF approval – for call position – These rates are
75 reviewed annually to ensure they're maximizing their billing and what they can collect. All their patients
76 are billed through insurance, but if there are any balances remaining, residents are not obligated to pay
77 them if they can't afford them or they do not have a secondary means to pay them. The rate
78 comparison presented shows their rates are consistent for the region. Chief Hempel did adjust the
79 mileage charge; this is increased to \$24.00 per mile and accounts for the increase in fuel costs.
80 Chairman Warren questioned whether a public hearing was required for the requested rate changes. TA
81 Carpenter stated that when the question of whether PD needed a public hearing for rate changes was
82 brought to legal, they did not feel it needed a public hearing. She believes that this would be the same.
83 Selectmen Collins questioned how many miles they were able to charge for.

- 84 ☐ **Action Item-** Chief Hempel will look into this because this number is part of their annual
85 revenue.

86 **Board Consensus** – Approve the recommendation for the adjusted mileage rate increase.

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88 Chairman Warren requested clarification on the PAF in regards to someone coming in who doesn't have
89 experience, and what are they able to do as a call person. Chief Hempel reminded the Board that the
90 position is probationary, but it allows them to be under the umbrella of the Fire Department and
91 affiliated with the organization and gain experience while they are going through training. This is
92 common practice and gives them a way to develop their personnel while the call person is getting their
93 certifications. Training is not paid for by the Town and is at the expense of the individual. There is a

possibility after they have served a tenure that they may reimburse the cost of additional courses but this is dependent on the candidate.

Motion: On a motion by Vice Chairman Baiocchi and seconded by Chairman Warren it was voted to hire Hannah McWhinnie on a probationary period for the Gilmanton Fire Department at \$13.50 per hour, effective 10/15/22. (3-0)

12. Budget Discussion – Updates – Fact sheet from the Social Security Administration reflecting an 8.7% COLA for 2023. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics from the Northeast Region which is up 7.2% from a year ago. These numbers are always provided for understanding the COLA increase requests and give an understanding of what's happening nationally. The Town's request for COLA is 7%.

☐ **Action Item** – Post Social Security Administration Fact Sheet for the COLA increase and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics from the Northeast Region to Budget Resources webpage.

☐ **Action Item** – TA to find out what the numbers mean for the Social Security Administration fact sheet for Self-Employed, why is there such a difference between employee and self-employee tax rates.

The Warrant Article information for the ambulance will have an approximately \$200,000.00 down payment for a \$401,000.00 unit. This will have to come through raising and appropriating through gross appropriation, but the Town will have the money between two revolving accounts, the revolving fund for the ambulance and the Fire Department's repair and replacement account. It will be a lease-to-purchase warrant article breaking down the yearly payment.

A Petition Warrant Article request came through to the Town Clerk's Office for the Elderly Tax. TA Carpenter stated with the Social Security increase, what they will be receiving needs to be considered. This increase could make individuals ineligible for the exemption if this were to pass. November 9th is the start of budget season with the Budget Committee. There is a Board of Selectmen meeting scheduled on November 7th so it will give time to finalize the changes to the budget prior to the Budget Committee meeting.

13. Department Written update submissions –

Update on Sargent Rd – Most of the trees that needed to be removed have been, but the tree company was still actively working on this. Ditching has begun and the project is moving along.

TA Carpenter stated there was an issue on Sanborn Rd near the Kelly Corner Schoolhouse, the road is subject to gates and bars, but people keep trying to go down it. This area is all grass and there is potential to get stuck. The State has been contacted and Sanborn Rd was indicated as a viable road. Traffic appeals have been contacted and it has been taken care of. The TA was told that Paul Osborne is interested in coming in and potentially proposing a gate. It is understood that roads subject to gates and bars cannot be locked. The Road Agent- Paul Perkins is putting up signage that he has currently and getting more specific signage for them.

Planning Board Update-Chairman Warren: The Planning Board would like to change the ordinance regarding biosolids. There is language that refers to biosolids being unable to be removed due to contractual obligations that have been grandfathered in. The Planning Board would like to request that the Select Board have legal look at what is in their ordinance that would prevent them from making a recommendation and moving forward to ban biosolids. The Planning Board would like to address this but does not know the legal path to do this and believes there may be something written into in the Zoning regulations that would have to be changed by the public to allow this to be reconsidered. They would like to present something on the Warrant for this year. TA Carpenter asked if any changes from the State of New Hampshire had occurred regarding the ban on bio-solids because a large amount of

142 legal counsel was afforded on this topic previously. Vice Chairman Baiocchetti recounted that biosolids
143 were banned with the exception of the farms that were grandfathered in.

- 144 ☐ **Action Item:** TA Carpenter will review the documentation on biosolids and review the legal
145 opinion to see if anything has drastically changed to make the legal opinion and the way the
146 ordinance was written to be null and void.

- 147 ☐ **Action Item:** TA Carpenter request to information from Town legal what the cost would be to
148 reopen and review the previous biosolids case the Town had.

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150 CIP was discussed for roads, but nothing further has been brought forward other than the work the
151 Department Heads have been doing. It was suggested to identify some roads, like Meadow Pond. The
152 Planning Board would take the initiative to look for grants. Vice Chairman Baiocchetti stated that the
153 CIP is required by law and the Town is five years behind. This is something Planning Board is supposed
154 to take care of. Chairman Warren stated he could invite the Chairman of the Planning Board to a Board
155 of Selectmen Meeting. Vice Chairman Baiocchetti's opinion is that Planning is supposed to plan and
156 money is being wasted because their job is to plan and it's not being done. TA Carpenter clarified that
157 currently, the road structure is not on CIP and all infrastructure should be planned. It was further
158 expressed the importance for the Department Heads to make sure their numbers are correct, but not
159 having a relevant CIP it's damaging our abilities to forecast for the future.

- 160 ☐ **Action Item:** Invite Chairman and Vice Chairman from the Planning Board to the Board of
161 Selectmen meeting to discuss CIP.

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163 **Motion:** On a motion by Chairman Warren and seconded by Vice Chairman Baiocchetti it was voted to move
164 into Non-Public RSA 91-A:3, II (c). (3-0)

165 **14. NON-PUBLIC** Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (c) – Transfer station

166 **This meeting was held to receive an update on interpersonal items within the department. No**
167 **determinations were made.**

168 **Motion:** Audio did not pick up coming out of Non-Public - *On a motion by Chairman Warren and seconded by*
169 *Selectmen Collins it was voted to come out of Non-Public RSA 91-A:3, II (c). (3-0)*

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171 **PUBLIC COMMENT – 7:00 p.m.**

- 172 • The public is welcome to submit questions or comments via email to the Town Administrator by Friday
173 before the meeting or attend in public. Time is subject to change per the Board's discretion.

174 **Joe Haas–** He reviewed the agenda in the afternoon and saw that Tax Deeding was going through. He
175 noted that 12 properties were for sale and presumed they were all signed tonight. He noted that the
176 two properties with structures had not been moved and that there were 45 days from the sale to close,
177 then 30 days after that to clean up. He discussed the receipt of lawful money for the properties and
178 feels that lawful money has not been obtained and requested the Board to seek wisdom.

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180 **Motion:** On a motion by Chairman Warren and seconded by Selectmen Collins it was voted to move into Non-
181 Public RSA 91 A-3, II (a). (3-0)

182 **15. NON-PUBLIC** Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) – Fire Department

183 **Motion:** On a motion by Chairman Warren and seconded by Selectmen Collins it was voted to come out of Non-
184 Public RSA 91 A-3, II (a). (3-0)

185 This meeting was held to discuss the potential promotion and the creation of a Captains position within the Fire
186 Department.

187 **Motion:** On a motion by Selectmen Collins and seconded by Chairman Warren it was voted to approve a full-
188 time Captain position for the Fire Department, Chief Hempel has provided a job description for this. (2-0) *Vice*
189 *Chairman Baiocchetti, abstained*

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Motion: On a motion by Chairman Warren and seconded by Vice Chairman Baiocchetti it was voted to move into Non-Public RSA 91 A-3, II (I). (3-0)

16. NON-PUBLIC Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II, (I) – Legal update – Case 1:18-cv-01204-LM Currier et al v. Gilmanton


This meeting was held to discuss the updates given by legal counsel pertaining to the case. No determinations were required.

Motion: Audio did not pick up coming out of Non-Public - *On a motion by Chairman Warren and seconded by Vice Chairman Baiocchetti it was voted to come out of Non-Public RSA 91 A-3, II (I). (3-0)*

Motion: On a motion by Vice Chairman Baiocchetti and seconded by Chairman Warren it was voted to adjourn. (3-0)




Adjourned 7:57 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Amanda Davis, Administrative Assistant

Approved by the Board of Selectmen

		
Chairman Mark E. Warren	Vice-Chair Vincent A. Baiocchetti	Selectmen Evan Collins

