



**SELECTMEN'S OFFICE  
TOWN OF GILMANTON**

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**APPROVED**

**Board of Selectmen Meeting**

**August 31, 2023 - Academy Building – 4:30 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**Present:** Chairman Mark Warren, Vice-Chairman Vincent Baiocchetti, Selectmen Evan Collins, Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector Elise Smith

**Public:** Marilyn Nelson, Susan Ward, Sarah Pirotta-Benoit, Bettyann Abbott, Colleen Farnum, Susan Farrell, Kevin Farrell

**Town Clerk/Tax Collector – Interviews**

- Marilyn Nelson – Interview process began at 4:30 p.m. and ended at 5:00 p.m.
- Elise Smith – Interview process began at 5:10 p.m. and ended at 5:42 p.m.

Deliberation 5:43 p.m. – The Selectboard deliberated and unanimously decided to proceed with appointing Elise Smith as Town Clerk/Tax Collector until the March 2024 election.

**Motion:** On a motion by Chairman Warren and seconded by Selectman Collins it was voted to appoint Elise Smith as the Town Clerk/Tax Collector until the 2024 election takes place in March. (3-0)

**Motion:** On a motion by Chairman Warren and seconded by Vice Chairman Baiocchetti it was voted to take a recess at 5:47 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. (3-0)

**Motion:** On a motion by Chairman Warren and seconded by Selectman Collins it was voted to come out of recess at 5:57 p.m. (3-0)

The Selectboard notified Elise Smith that she was appointed at the Town Clerk/Tax Collector until the March election in 2024. They expressed gratitude for her work and training, and continuing to assist the residents.

**Public Hearing – 6:00 p.m.**

The Board of Selectmen held a Public Hearing to accept and expend Unanticipated money received from Belknap County, an unused portion of the County's ARPA Funds in the amount of \$20,000. The allowed use is intended for public service. The intention of the Board is to discuss the use of the funds to be used for the upgrades at the Transfer Station.

**Motion:** On a motion by Vice Chairman Baiocchetti and seconded by Selectman Collins it was voted to accept and expend money received from Belknap County, an unused portion of the county's ARPA Funds in the amount of \$20,000. (3-0)

Public Hearing open for public comment and discussion:

- Bettyann Abbott wanted to know what the plans were for the Transfer Station. Chairman Warren stated that there are a couple projects needed, but one of the unanticipated costs was the removal of hazardous wastes. Clean Harbors was contracted to remove the waste. Alex DeCoste, Foreman, stated there were over 50, 55-gallon drums of mixed oil, antifreeze, chemicals, acids, and batteries. These items are not recyclable because the liquids were not separated. This was built up over time and not disposed of properly or timely. This was one item that caused the Transfer Station to be out of compliance. A mobile lab and chemists were required to come in to test the material for proper disposal.
- Susan Ward wanted to follow up on the material that had built up and wanted to know if there was maintenance for that and why it was allowed to build up. Chairman Warren clarified the Public Hearing is to receive the funds and it is an appropriate question to understand usage. He reiterated that there was mismanagement of materials that they didn't know existed until they went through the clean up process.

Chairman Warren stated where the recyclable glass was held, the lean to are, if they residents have noticed it's been cleaned up around it, but the lean to is not attached properly and the lean to will need to be rebuilt and once rebuilt the idea is to put the recyclables underneath the lean to. The hope was to be able to use some of the funds for the compactor, but they are unsure if there is sufficient funding because the Clean Harbors bill came in higher then anticipated. The Selectboard has heard from the residents how quickly the recycling fills up and their frustration with that. So, they have been looking at getting a compactor for under the lean to in order to be able to compact the recyclables. However, they are unsure that they will be able to fund that project this year. They are trying to manage bringing the facility up to DES compliance and then addressing the resident's concerns.

- Bettyann Abbott asked it was appropriate to ask if the Selectboard has plans on how to use the funds for the Transfer Station. Chairman Warren stated they are trying to manage the unexpected needs. What was found was an additional amount of waste so the bill for Clean Harbors was higher then anticipated. They did want to utilize some of the ARPA funds for the compactor, but they are not sure there is enough for that. The lean to does need to be reconstructed because it is not safe as it sits currently. Chairman Warren stated that the funds could have been used for other public uses, but they felt the Transfer Station was one area there was not a sufficient budget for based on what was found during clean up. They want to bring this up to standard and bring a level of efficiency as well. They are going to work funds into the budget for next year to try and get fully operational.
- Susan Farrell asked if the funds were a grant. Chairman Warren stated that the funds come from the county that were distributed Federally.

Public Hearing is closed for public discussion.

#### Transfer Station – Discussion September 27th

Alex DeCoste, Transfer Station Foreman, stated that there is a plan to do a soft opening on September 27<sup>th</sup> for scrap metal and demolition so the Transfer Station can slowly start moving to open. He is still working on some other items for storage of bales, batteries, TVs, refrigerators, and he just finished building a bunk for tires. Intaking tires will start later, and the 27<sup>th</sup> will just be opened for scrap metal and demolition. Chairman Warren asked in order to better communicate to the residents, when it is stated "no large loads", what does that define? Alex stated that anything on a 10 ft trailer or less is acceptable, but nothing larger. With not knowing how much residents have been holding onto he just wants to be sure everyone is ability to use it before it fills up so they can assess how many dumpsters they will need.

Selectman Collins stated he would like a clear statement what defines the load sizes so there is no confusion.

Vice Chairman Baiocchetti stated a lot can be put on a 10 ft. trailer, defining what can be taken, what cannot be taken, how will it be monitored, and stickers will be enforced. He asked if the plan will be in place and presented to the Selectboard at the September 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Alex stated, yes. Vice Chairman Baiocchetti asked what would stop someone from bringing multiple loads. Alex stated that when they take payment, they will take down license plates at least until they are fully open. One load a day will be allowed. There will be payment required to dispose of the items, and he is working on the fee schedule and has reached out to vendors for pricing. The current fee schedule is active, but he will be readdressing it.

Taking tires will be determined at a later date.

Selectman Collins inquired about recycling and was looking for an update on a potential additional container.

Alex stated that CSNH will be coming the following week to begin work on the lean to. He is unsure about the timeline from start to finish for that project, but once completed, they already have a container underneath the lean to. And the idea is that container should be able to handle the overflow of recycling. Once the lean to is completed, a 40 yd container should be able to fit under it. They will be using a Town owned container to start that is 30 yd. and if a larger container is needed then they can address that.

Chairman Warren due to some issues with volume of waste brought in and the timing when the containers are scheduled to be emptied, it was discussed suspending the light commercial haulers. Chairman Warren asked if

another was another solution. Alex stated, unfortunately no, and the only solution is for the light commercial haulers to bring their loads to Casella. There is no way to weigh the loads at the Transfer Station or to know if they are bringing in waste from Gilmanton residents and this is a liability to continue allowing it. Selectman Collins asked if there were any thoughts if there were any light commercial haulers bringing residents waste to the Transfer Station. Alex stated yes, he knew of one, but he's unsure of how many are in town. Chairman Warren stated there is a permitting process for light commercial haulers and it might be beneficial to have the Town Administrator check to see who currently has an active permit so that if the decision is made to temporarily suspend light commercial haulers to make sure they are notified. Chairman Warren stated that September 27<sup>th</sup> will be a soft opening for demolition debris and metal. Alex is going to check on any costs associated with disposal of these items. Tires will not be accepted at this time. No waste oil, no antifreeze, no brush, no compost, and no yard waste will be accepted at this time. Some of these items may not be accepted once the facility is fully operational. The Fire Chief has given his recommendation and concerns regarding the acceptance of brush and compost and whether there was adequate space for that. Dirt Doctor's in Pembroke does take brush at no cost. Further discussed were light commercial haulers and how to move forward temporarily suspending acceptance and review the ordinance and consider whether they should continue and charge light commercial haulers. Vice Chairman Baiocchi stated if accepting the light commercial haulers is causing more issues for the residents due to closure that they should follow the recommendation of the Foreman. Chairman Warren asked if there was a timeframe, or notice. Vice Chairman Baiocchi suggested September 9<sup>th</sup> to end allowing commercial haulers to dispose at the Transfer Station. Selectman Collins suggested going with September 9<sup>th</sup> or one week later to give them time. And anyone performing in Town as a light commercial hauler should be registered with the office so they can be contacted and make them aware of changes. Alex stated he would work with the Town Administrator and NRRA to come up with a good price to charge them per load and agrees with giving them a two week notice to end acceptance of the light commercial haulers as of September 17<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Warren asked about having the light commercial haulers dispose on a certain day and asked how that would affect the pick ups for the Transfer Station. Alex discussed the pickup schedule and stated they might be okay with one day a week for light commercial haulers to bring their loads in. He doesn't believe it would be a problem on Wednesday, but the loads would have to be dropped by 3:00 p.m. or earlier in the morning so they could stay ahead of it. This would give them enough time to see if the box was going to fill. Chairman Warren asked if they set a timeframe on Wednesday between 7:00 a.m. and noon could be available for light commercial haulers. Alex stated he believes that would work. Chairman Warren stated that he has to look at the policy to try and better manage that. But that this might work instead of fully closing them off to Transfer Station usage. Alex stated that was not his intention and doesn't want to close the light commercial haulers off from the facility. He just wants to be sure everyone is able to use the facility. Vice Chairman Baiocchi stated that instead of suspending them, they could take them on Wednesday mornings before noon, and Alex agreed and then that would give him enough time to evaluate if an additional pick up was needed before the weekend.

**Motion:** On a motion by Chairman Warren and seconded by Vice Chairman Baiocchi it was voted to create a schedule for light commercial haulers for Wednesday's only from open at 7:00 a.m. until noon. (3-0)

- ☐ **Action Item:** For the Selectmen's Office to get the information to the Transfer Station foreman to contact the light commercial haulers and inform them of the new schedule.

**Motion:** On a motion by Chairman Warren and seconded by Vice Chairman Baiocchi it was voted to adjourn.

**Adjourned** 6:36 p.m.

141 Respectfully Submitted,

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143 Amanda Davis, Administrative Assistant

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145 **Approved by the Board of Selectmen**

146 Mark Warren V. A. Baiocchetti

147 Chairman Mark E. Warren Vice-Chair Vincent A. Baiocchetti

Evan Collins

Selectmen Evan Collins