



APPROVED ON 10-15-18

## Board of Selectmen Town of Gilmanton, New Hampshire

Meeting

October 01, 2018

6:01 pm. – Gilmanton Academy

**Present:** Chairman Stephen McWhinnie, Selectman Michael Wilson, Selectman Marshall Bishop, and Assistant Town Administrator-Heather Carpenter  
Also present please see attached sign in sheet.

**6:01 pm** Chairman McWhinnie opened the meeting, took attendance of those present and voting (Chairman McWhinnie, Selectman Wilson and Selectman Bishop) and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Public Hearing-**

Chief Hempel-In 2017 we applied for a FEMA / AFC grant and requested the grant be used for a new breathing air compressor. A few years ago, the Town voted to replace our air packs, along with that we needed a system to fill our air packs. The system we currently have didn't meet NFP regulations. We were awarded the grant based on our needs, the grant request is for total of \$50,000.00, approximately \$47,000 for the request and a contribution from the Town in the amount of \$2,375.00. The grant was awarded and the public hearing tonight is being held to accept that grant.

**MOTION:** On a motion by Chairman McWhinnie and seconded by Selectman Bishop it was voted to accept unanticipated moneys received from FEMA on behalf of Homeland Security for the Assistance to the Firefighters Grant in the amount of \$47,620.00 with the town contribution of \$2,375.00 for the total amount of \$49,995.00(3-0 Voice Vote – Chairman McWhinnie-yes, Selectman Wilson -yes, Selectman Bishop – yes).

Close Public Hearing- 6:04 p.m.

### **Selectmen's Meeting**

Chairman opens public input-6:05 p.m.

### **Public Input-**

*\*Comments made by the public do not reflect the opinion of the town, elected officials or its staff.*

Mrs. Lynn O'Connor-\*see attachment

- Buzzer at the Academy Building vs the Safety of the Police department in regards to understaffing
- Insufficient staffing at the Police Department
- Officer Mott resignation letter and complaint against Selectman Bishop

Mrs. Amy Brown-

- Current budget is for five police officers
- Fully staffed vs understaffing in the Police Department
- Monies from the police budget went into the legal budget and not in the school budget
- Outside details
- Warrant Article to utilize funds for outside detail was fixed at deliberative

47  
48 Assistant Town Administrator -gives clarification on statements made by the public;

- 49 • Hours of coverage that the Police Department has historically covered is 112
- 50 • It is the Board of Selectmen's prevue to allow outside detail or discontinue it
- 51 • The Town should be first priority in the coverage given by the Police Department,
- 52 outside detail is extra and secondary
- 53 • It is important to have good information going out, instead of speculation

54  
55 Mr. Larry Driscoll-

- 56 • Police Department and staffing
- 57 • Plan for the safety of the citizens of the Town
- 58 • Hours of coverage and scheduling

59  
60 Mrs. Roberta Driscoll-

- 61 • Formula for figuring out how many Police Officers are needed for our size town
- 62 • Providing enough Officers to ensure safety of the residents and our Officers

63  
64 Mr. Brett Currier-

- 65 • Tax payers voted for five police officers
- 66 • Possibility of Officers get harmed or killed in the line of duty because of a vendetta
- 67 • Fire Department staffing
- 68 • Executive Office hiring more staff
- 69 • Minutes not current on the website

70  
71 Assistant Town Administrator Clarification-

- 72 • The Police Officers who are currently covering the Town; there are three full-time
- 73 Officers at 40 hours per week which equals 120 hours' worth of coverage
- 74 • There are 2 part-time officers, one part-time who is currently actively working for the
- 75 department who can be placed on a shift but that is scheduling which is the Chief prevue
- 76 • Minutes are current, and available in the Executive Office for public viewing which
- 77 meets RSA standard. The website is not mandatory and is a convenience, updates have
- 78 been slowed due to issues with the website and the absence of the T.A. position.

79  
80 Mr. Mike Teunessen-

- 81 • Current scheduling and how it is affecting our officers, vacation time or sick time
- 82 • What is the plan?

83 Mr. Bob Burton-

- 84 • Selectmen's vendetta against the Police Department
- 85 • What happened with the candidate for hire
- 86 • Current litigation and the Police Department Directives
- 87 • Brother-in-law is David Perkins Belknap Sheriff's Department- texted no other Town in
- 88 Belknap County has these directives

89  
90 Chairman McWhinnie-

- 91 • The legal situation with the Police Department is not based in a vendetta, the Board is
- 92 voting on what they feel is right

- 93 • Directives are not telling the Police Department what to do, they are telling them to tell
- 94 us what they are doing
- 95 • The Board is being sued by the Police Department because of these directives
- 96 • The Board wants to be fully aware of who they are hiring
- 97

98 Selectman Bishop-

- 99 • Bob do you have employees or have you ever had employees?
- 100 • If you are hiring wouldn't you want to see everything and know who you are hiring?
- 101 • I don't want to put my name on a hire if I don't know who I am hiring
- 102 • You need to talk to the Police Chief because he could have solved all of this
- 103

104 Mr. Joe Haas-

- 105 • Unlawful school tax, statement should be placed in the tax bills by the Town Clerk Tax
- 106 Collector
- 107 • Stated RSA to back up the unlawful taxation
- 108

109 Ms. Valerie Cote-" Tocho A'Hagi"

- 110 • Not enough Police coverage in Town
- 111 • No background checks need to be reviewed by the Board
- 112 • Lack of permit by Selectman Bishop
- 113

114 Mr. Bob Burton

- 115 • Directives
- 116

117 Selectman Bishop calls a point of order; this is not a question an answer period but a time for  
118 public comment. Meetings are held for the Selectman to conduct Town business.  
119

120 Assistant Town Administrator clarification-

- 121 • The directives came out of concerns, the Board was not receiving the answerers from the
- 122 Police Department via the Chief
- 123 • Prior to the lawsuit questions were asked with legal counsel and the Chief, additionally
- 124 there was a second meeting with Chairman McWhinnie and Town Administrator. The
- 125 Chairman was given the autonomy by the Board to discuss the directives with the Chief.
- 126 • Chief Currier went to legal counsel instead of resolving and negotiating any of the terms
- 127 • There are other communities that have similar directives, other towns may not have the
- 128 same items, and these are specific to our town.
- 129 • Per legal counsel it is completely the Boards prevue to request what they are asking for.
- 130 • The judge did not make a judgement, he stated an opinion, he could have separated the
- 131 directives but did not. There has been no decision made and that is why it is still in
- 132 litigation, we will be going through meditation and hopefully we can work it out.
- 133 • A decision comes out of a court hearing, we have not had a court hearing
- 134 • We have Town policies in regards to background checks and polygraphs and the Board
- 135 has every right to ask for those items based on their hiring process
- 136

137 Mrs. Janice McWhinnie-

- 138 • Tribute \*see attached
- 139

Mrs. Kristine Laurendeau-

- Directive time frame
- Summer of 2016 when we lost two Officers and the emergency meeting that Chief wasn't consulted
- Trusting your Department Head

Chairman McWhinnie-

- The Board was blindsided with the exit of two good Officers and Chief was consulted
- As far as trust, in a perfect world that would be great.

**Closing Public Input- 6:59 p.m.**

**Approval of Minutes –**

**MOTION:** On a Motion by Chairman McWhinnie, and seconded by Selectman Wilson it was voted to approve the minutes of 09-05-18.

(3-0 Voice Vote – Chairman McWhinnie-yes, Selectman Wilson -yes, Selectman Bishop – yes).

**Consent Agenda/Signature File**

- Purchase Order: Compact Innovations-Voting Booths \$565.00+/-
- Purchase Order: NH Correctional Industries-Order of 500 Annual Reports \$1750.00+/-
- Purchase Order: Power Products Systems, LLC-Emergency Repairs for Engine 3 \$5,885.96+/-
- Purchase Order: Core and Main- Highway Dept.- \$1,970.41+/-
- Purchase Order: Brian Forst- 1300 TNS Winter Sand- Highway Dept.- \$10,075.00+/-
- Purchase Order: Morton Salt- 200 TNS Salt/State Bid-Highway Dept.- \$11,300.00+/-
- Purchase Order: Bergeron Protective Clothing- Gear-Fire Dept \$3,621.44+/-
- Purchase Order: Fire Tech Safety-Unicus III High Pressure Breathing Air Compressor \$2,375.00+/- Town portion grant cost
- Fire Department Instructors Conference: Board Approval needed due to budget freeze

**MOTION:** On a Motion by Chairman McWhinnie, and seconded by Selectman Bishop it was voted to approve the consent agenda. (3-0 Voice Vote – Chairman McWhinnie-yes, Selectman Wilson -yes, Selectman Bishop – yes).

**New Business**

Mr. Kevin Fadden representing Industrial Communications requesting a private road agreement from the Board of Selectmen for the use of a portion of the class VI piece of Howard Rd (total of 900 ft), off of Map/Lot 419-009 property of Paul and Marlene Osborn. Industrial Communication is working on the property to place a cell phone tower. Discussion of additional coverage that the cell phone tower will provide. There are small improvements to the road which need to be approved by the Planning Board first and their recommendation will then be brought to the Select board for final approval.

Steps to take for the private road agreement-Recommendation from the Planning Board, condition of the road and then Board of Selectmen Approval

188  
189  
190 Police Cruiser- Crown Vic.

191 Chief Currier has requested that it go to auction, Board consensus is to reach out to the Highway  
192 Dept. to see if they could utilize it. The Board stated a spending cap for repairs not to exceed  
193 \$1,500.00.  
194

195 Hoyle and Tanner has requested the Board's approval to move forward with the Bridge  
196 Advertisement for November/ with bid opening in December.  
197 Consensus of the Board is to move forward with advertisement process via Hoyle and Tanner.  
198 Administration recommends a meeting with Hoyle and Tanner to discuss the details of the  
199 process moving forward and the details of money within the warrant articles that are needed for  
200 this year. Request Finance to be available for that meeting.  
201

202 St. Jeans Auction-

203 The land auction is generally done every year, the recommendation is to hold off this year and  
204 add to next year. St. Jean's likes to hold auction with at least \$125,000 worth of value.  
205

206 Parks and Rec.- The parks and recreation were voted in as a commission with a certain standard  
207 of members- one Selectman and one Fire Dept. Member, the overall issue even if it is a  
208 committee is that we are not receiving minutes, which means we are not meeting RSA, are the  
209 meetings being publicly posted and are the meetings publicly accessible. The issue does need to  
210 be rectified.  
211

212 Official Town Advertisements-

213 It was brought to our attention that an ad was placed for the Town without Town knowledge or  
214 permission.

215 The issue was that the local newspaper printed what looked like an official ad by the Town, on  
216 face value it looked appropriate but it did have incorrect information. It was submitted to the  
217 paper by resident Amy Brown, who apparently submitted it as a letter to the editor but did not  
218 look like a letter nor was it signed.

219 The overall concern is the integrity of the office, the frustration comes in not being able to  
220 communicate good information to the residents. What we currently have is a lot of bad  
221 information, speculation and rhetoric through Facebook. We talk about Facebook a lot, we  
222 should not be talking about it a lot, it should not be coming here to a Board meeting.

223 Unfortunately, this is where the misinformation is happening. We will be putting something on the  
224 website that basically states that the Town of Gilmanton does not approve/sanction anything on  
225 Facebook. Any information going out through Facebook is not coming through official business.  
226 The office is being constantly bombarded with bad information, when clarification is made  
227 people don't want to hear it.

228 Fact of the matter is the only official business that people should be obtaining their information  
229 from is the Town Office, the staff and the website.

230 Bad information does a disservice to the whole Town.  
231

232 Discussion about the accusation towards the Board members about the directives. The directives  
233 came from a concern from the entire Board and Administration jointly. There are some issues  
234 that need to be handled, we have an employee situation, we have a department that are all  
235 employees of this Town, there is a hierarchy that is in place- Employees answer to the Dept.

Head (Chief of Police), Dept. Head answers to the Town Administrator and then to the Board of Selectmen. This hierarchy needs to be recognized.

Hiring policy and requirements, possibility of trying to speak with the Chief about staffing, going through mediation because we are currently in litigation.

Letters of interest-

Administration recommends being mindful of who is appointed because of the nature of interfacing with the staff and the public.

### **Select Board Items**

Old Town Hall- Safety concerns and serious repairs needed, and an overview of the brief inspection by the Town Building Inspector. Items we can deal with now are emergency lighting/ exit lighting and crash bar on the doors entering the auditorium.

Joint Loss Management Committee will be reviewing the Old Town Hall in December  
Overall cost per year to run the building is roughly \$13,400.00

Consensus of the Board is for the Assistant Town Administrator reach out to Historical Society in regards to the Old Town Hall.

Equipment Operator ad will run until the 5<sup>th</sup> of October, the office has received some interest. The Board, Road Agent and Foreman will all be apart of the interview process.

Video recording of meetings and uploading on YouTube, discussion of all meetings being recording and how it relates to the records retention committee.

Recess- 8:18 p.m.

Reconvene from Recess-8:30 p.m.

### **(1) Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3, II (b)**

**MOTION:** On a Motion by Chairman McWhinnie, and seconded by Selectman Bishop it was voted unanimously to go into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3, II (b). (3-0 Voice Vote – Chairman McWhinnie-yes, Selectman Wilson -yes, Selectman Bishop – yes).

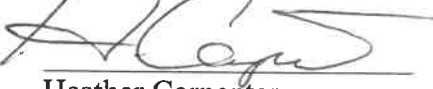
**MOTION:** On a Motion by Chairman McWhinnie, and seconded by Selectman Bishop it was voted unanimously to come out of Non-Public Session. (3-0 Voice Vote – Chairman McWhinnie-yes, Selectman Wilson -yes, Selectman Bishop – yes).

**MOTION:** On a Motion by Chairman McWhinnie, and seconded by Selectman Bishop it was voted unanimously to seal the minutes of Non-Public Session. . (3-0 Voice Vote – Chairman McWhinnie-yes, Selectman Wilson -yes, Selectman Bishop – yes).

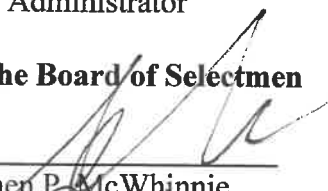
The meeting room was opened to the public. The Board noted the Non-Public Session minutes were sealed.

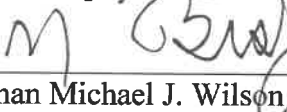
**Adjournment:** On a Motion by Chairman McWhinnie and seconded by Selectman Bishop it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. (3-0).

284 Respectfully Submitted,

285   
286 \_\_\_\_\_  
287 Heather Carpenter  
288 Assistant Town Administrator  
289

290 **Approved by the Board of Selectmen**

291   
292 \_\_\_\_\_  
293 Chairman Stephen P. McWhinnie  
294

295   
296 \_\_\_\_\_  
297 Selectman Michael J. Wilson  
298

299 Selectman Marshall E. Bishop

300 {Audio recordings are available at the Selectmen's Office and for free as a link on the Town website through  
301 SoundCloud}  
302

Attach to minute 10.01.18

**Board of Selectmen Meeting 10/1/2018**

Mr. McWhinnie, since you feel so strongly about the safety of the town's employees by having a buzzer system and the front doors locked at the Academy, why do you have a complete disregard for the safety of the citizens of the town by NOT providing enough staff and support for the Gilmanton Police Department? Why is the safety of the employees in the town hall any more important than any citizen of Gilmanton or individual traveling through? Please explain what seems to be your purposeful acts to prevent the Police Department from being fully staffed?

Mr. Bishop, I would like to ask you why you feel it's ok to make inappropriate statements to Chief Currier and Officer Mott? I am already in awe of how you can sit silent on the Board of Selectmen while your Chairman uses derogatory comments about Special Needs Children, when you yourself have a speech impairment and I am sure you have dealt with derogatory comments over the years yourself. So, when Chief Currier and Officer Mott were looking at books at Old Home Day, what gives you the right to say "I don't know why they are here, they can't read. They only know their ABCs!"? Please try to explain that to me so I can understand your thought process and reasoning.

 10/1/18

Lynn O'Connor

1290 Province Road



*10-01-18*

## TRIBUTES

First I would like to thank and praise our Gilmanton rescue crew and fire chief for their prompt and courteous care recently on our emergency call for my husband, Bob, to go to the hospital. Due to their diligence everything went smoothly and a possible disaster was avoided.

Mostly I would like to thank our chairman, Steve, our son, for his undying daily support and time as a caregiver for my 100% disabled veteran husband, and his dearly loved dad. Without his and his brothers help his dad would indeed not be able to remain at home comfortably with his family. He is also generous in his support of local folks in need with his contributions of his large garden products, venison, neighborly acts, and help at the food pantry. I ask you does this justify misinterpreting a few ill-spoken words taken out of context?

I am not here to grandstand with pictures and witnesses to ask support or sympathy, but I would like to pay a tribute to our family's loving cousin, Paul, a specially challenged needs child. He was brought up at home most of his life with endless love and care, taught manners, sexually assaulted at a young age at a group home, and not allowed to testify for himself, but his parents formed a committee and in a record of nine months in Massachusetts had a law passed so that "special needs" folks could testify in private.

He aged beautifully, loved his trains which he visited every time on visits home, and gained the love and support of many friends and family, attended Mass every week, and amazingly was able to even serve as an altar boy.

Last week we lost Paul after his long battle with cancer, and since we could not attend the services, we wish to say, "REST IN PEACE, PAUL, WE LOVE AND MISS YOU."



# SELECTMEN'S OFFICE TOWN OF GILMANTON

PO Box 550, Gilmanton, NH 03237

Ph: (603) 267-6700 Fax: (603) 267-6701 Website: [www.gilmantonnh.org](http://www.gilmantonnh.org)

## ATTENDANCE SIGN-IN

### PRINT NAME

### SIGNATURE & DATE

October 01, 2018

VAL COTE

Michael Tessier

James Toussaint

CASEY BRENNAN

Jessica VanAlkenburg

Ron O'Connor

Tom O'Connor

Amy Brown

Ale Dalzell

Brett Carrier

Roberta Driscoll

Larry Driscoll

Fritz Hughes

Ch Swaiter

Bill Mahoney

Leonard Swanson

Kenn Fadden - TW

Joseph Haas @ Artumil.com

JANICE McWHIRNIE

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*[Signature]* 10/1/18

FRITZ HUGHES 10/1/18

*[Signature]*

Bill Mahoney

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*[Signature]*

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## **SELECTMEN'S OFFICE**

### **TOWN OF GILMANTON**

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### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Board of Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing  
on **Monday, October 1, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.**

#### **to Accept Unanticipated Moneys**

Received from FEMA on behalf of Homeland Security for the Assistance to  
Firefighters Grant , in the amount of \$47,620.00.

The meeting will be held at the Town Offices, Academy Building  
503 Province Road, Gilmanton, NH 03237

*Pursuant to RSA 31:95-b*