



APPROVED

Board of Selectmen Town of Gilmanton, New Hampshire

Meeting

December 18, 2017

6:01pm. – Gilmanton Academy

Present: Chairman Stephen McWhinnie, Selectman Marshall Bishop, Town Administrator Heidi Duval and Heather Carpenter- Assistant Town Administrator.

Absent: Selectman Michael Jean

Also present please see attached sign in sheet.

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

Consent Agenda/Signature File

Move to open the consent agenda for discussion

The following items were signed and approved by the SelectBoard

- **2018 Utilities Valuation & Consulting Contract and Purchase Order:** 2018 Annual Contract with George E. Sansoucy, PE, LLC for the valuation and engineering consulting services for Utility values, \$5,000.00, 01-4152-312 (fee has not increased)
- **Intent to Cut:** Intent to Cut for Map 413 Lot 01
- **Intent to Cut:** Intent to Cut for Map 408 Lot 21
- **Purchase Order:** Interware Development, \$3,078.00, 01-4151-370 Town Clerk's Annual Contract: Clerkworks User License

MOTION: On a Motion by Chairman McWhinnie, and seconded by Selectman Bishop it was voted to approve the consent agenda. (2-0 Voice Vote – Chairman McWhinnie-yes, and Selectman Bishop – yes).

New Business

- **Land Use, Currier Hill Rd - Bob & Becky Ronstadt:**

Mr. and Mrs. Ronstadt are owners of the Temperance Tavern, 506 Province Rd. They are interested in leasing the former sand/ salt lot across from the Tavern/ next to the SAU. The Ronstadt's intentions for their establishment are listed below;

- The plan is to open a Pub
- They have the ability for 23 spots for parking
- Plans for seating is between 0-24 seat
- Currently looking into acquiring the Corner Slice, if all goes well it will take place as of January 1st and use it as a satellite kitchen for the Tavern, as they do not want to place a commercial kitchen within the historic tavern.
- Working with DES (Department of Environmental Services) on the Septic

The Board would like to take the request to legal, reach out to insurance in order to see if it is a possibility.

The Town Administrator has spoken to the Road Agent, the land is used occasionally and it was brought to her attention that wetlands maybe a factor on that property but it is something she needs to look into.

Old Business

Wilson/ Sapiro Warrant Article Request

Graham Wilson & Virginia Sapiro have asked the Selectmen to include their deed request warrant article as part of the Warrant, versus by petition, as they feel this will show more support.

The board has been directed by legal against placing it on as a Warrant, it has been advised to have it placed as a Petition Warrant Article.

The Town Administrator will look into the possibility if there can be a recommendation placed by the Board with the petition warrant article.

Discussion that Mr. Wilson and Ms. Sapiro believe that they have not been told about legal advising against placement as a Warrant Article, that this request is slightly different than the previous request brought up and feel that they weren't prepared to answer to the response given tonight.

Chairman McWhinnie would like a copy of the minutes from the last meeting with Mr. Wilson and Ms. Sapiro to review.

Mr. Tom Howe requested to speak in support of Mr. Wilson and Ms. Sapiro and the efforts to create a permanent conservation easement and suggests that the Selectmen do whatever they can to show support.

Snow shoveling/ light maintenance

Discussion tabled for tonight's meeting

Malouin Land Donation

This land has been donated, closing process are currently moving forward, the second issue tax bill has not been currently paid, legal is advising an abatement of the 2nd issue bill.

MOTION: On a motion by Chairman McWhinnie and seconded by Selectman Bishop it was voted to abate the 2nd issue tax bill for Map 418/ Lot 001, in the amount of \$255.00. (2-0 Chairman McWhinnie-yes and Selectman Bishop-yes).

Wetlands Application- Topic tabled

SelectBoard Items

2018 Town Holidays

Historically the Board has removed a holiday in order to give Christmas Eve off when falling on a weekday, this year the suggestion is to remove Civil Rights Day to provide Christmas Eve to the employees.

The consensus of the Board is to take Civil Rights Day off the holiday schedule in order to give the employees Christmas Eve.

○ Fuel

Currently the Town has not locked in fuel rates from mid-2018 through 2019. The Assistant Town Administrator has requested the board give direction in order to lock in the rate for the 2018-19 season.

The Select board suggested that they will stay with the current vendor and has given the go ahead for a locked in rate with the understanding that the pricing that had been given approximately four weeks ago, may or may not be available.

Selectman Bishop asked if it was possible to get the price that had been given to the school. The Assistant Town Administrator will reach out to Huckleberry to see if that pricing is available.

○ Meeting Schedule for Board of Selectmen-

Due to the New Year's holiday the regular schedule for meetings will have to be altered. The Town Administrator has suggested the following meeting dates; December 28th, January 8th and January 22nd.

The Board agrees to December 28th meeting and will review the other dates, Chairman McWhinnie stated there may be a need to go to every week meeting schedule.

Public Comment open at 6:37 p.m.

Mr. Brett Currier spoke to the following concerns;

- The cell phone and scanner for the Chairman of the Board, the scanner for the Town Administrator and micromanagement
- Pay raise for the Chairman

Mr. Mike Wilson spoke to the following concerns;

- The process of voting for the Chairman's raise and if the Town votes for that
- Raise for Matt Currier last year
- Video for board meetings and a Facebook live option
- Would like more details on the recent lawsuit that the Town got sued for \$30,000.00.

Mrs. Brenda Currier-

See attached for Mrs. Curriers statements made at this meeting.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in the attached statement read during public comment are those of the authors and do not reflect the opinion of the Town of Gilmanton.

Public Comment closed at 6:58 p.m.

(1) Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3, II (a)

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 (a). (2-0 Voice Vote – Chairman McWhinnie-yes, and Selectman Bishop – yes).

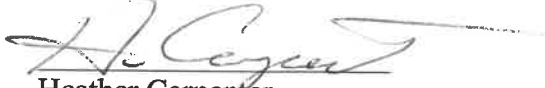
MOTION: On a Motion by Chairman McWhinnie, and seconded by Selectman Bishop it was voted unanimously to come out of Non-Public Session. (2-0 Voice Vote – Chairman McWhinnie-yes, and Selectman Bishop – yes).

The Town Administrator would like to reschedule the work session that was scheduled for tonight's meeting on Wednesday of this week, time to be determined.

The Board will adjourn and go into a non-meeting with legal counsel and Chief Currier.


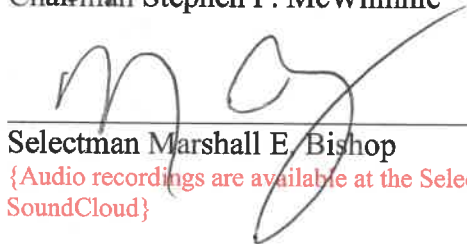
Adjournment: On a Motion by Chairman McWhinnie and seconded by Selectman Bishop it was voted to adjourn, (2-0) time approximately 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Heather Carpenter
Assistant Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen


Chairman Stephen P. McWhinnie

Selectman Marshall E. Bishop

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



SELECTMEN'S OFFICE TOWN OF GILMANTON

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ATTENDANCE SIGN-IN

PRINT NAME

SIGNATURE & DATE

December 18, 2017

Brenda Currier + Brett Currier	Brenda Currier	Dec 18 2017
Bill Mahoney	Bill Mahoney	Dec 18 2017
Mike Wiles	Mike Wiles	Dec 18 - 17
Bill Booth	Bill Booth	DEC 18-17
Becky Ronsstadt	Rebecca Ronsstadt	12-18-17
Robert Ronsstadt	Robert Ronsstadt	12-18-17
Barbara Swanson	Barbara E. Swanson	12/18/17
Leonard Swanson	Leonard Swanson	12/18/17
Graham Wilson	Graham Wilson	12/18/17
Anna Cole	Anna Cole	12/18/2017

I would like to ask this Board about what I perceive to be misuse of taxpayer dollars and over reach by Steve McWhinnie, Chairman of the Board.

1. Is it true that this Board voted and purchased a police/fire scanner for ^{\$400+} for Steve McWhinnie's personal use? It's my understanding that he had an antenna and scanner installed at his home, for his personal use at the expense of taxpayers. I say personal use, because when Chairman McWhinnie is at home he is not an acting Selectman but instead a private resident just like the rest of us. He can't act alone and is only Chairman of the Board when he is in a meeting with a quorum of at least one other Selectman. The Chairman of the Board's only role is to run a meeting in an orderly fashion. Otherwise, his role is no different than the other members as he CANNOT ACT ALONE. I don't believe he is a member of the fire department, police department, road crew, nor is he the FEMA director. So please tell me why did this Board spent taxpayer dollars on a scanner for a private resident? Is it yet another mechanism to micromanage the Police Department, Fire Department and Road Agent? This is a blatant misuse of taxpayer dollars from a rogue board of Selectman.

A second scanner was purchased and placed in the Town Administrator's office. Again, what purpose does it serve for the Town Administrator to monitor the goings on of our Police, Fire and Road crew. We have department heads with decades of experience with their departments, yet apparently the Selectman feel they need to monitor them, or should I say micromanage them.

I don't feel this is a legal expenditure of Town Monies.

2. Another perceived misuse of taxpayer dollars was the purchase of a cell phone for Chairman of the Board McWhinnie. According to the minutes, McWhinnie has a personal cell phone yet wanted the Town to buy him another one. He raised the question during a meeting and he and Selectman Bishop approved the purchase. I see this as an illegal vote of the Board, as McWhinnie should have recused himself from the vote, but instead he seconded the motion and voted on the purchase of his own cell phone. Seems rather unethical to me. Again, why would McWhinnie need a Town purchased cell phone when he could easily be reached in an emergency situation on his personal phone? Stipends are given for this purpose. I don't know any other Selectman who has needed a cell phone purchased for them when they already had one. McWhinnie is not an acting Selectman alone, he must be in a meeting situation with a quorum. He shouldn't be making calls and texting Heidi giving orders to do this and that on his own, as it would be illegal to make decisions and act without a vote from the board. The only time he can "give orders" is during a Board meeting after a vote. However, it is my understanding that he is constantly calling and texting Heidi, giving her orders about all kinds of things. It is said that Chairman McWhinnie frequently shows up in the office barking

orders at everyone. He needs to be reminded that he is not the Mayor of Gilmanton, and that he cannot direct Heidi or anyone else without a vote from the Board as a whole. It sounds to me like there is bullying going on in this Selectman's office. If the women in this office are being bullied by Chairman McWhinnie they need to speak up so it can be stopped. Isn't the Town already being sued on a bullying charge by a former employee?

3. Apparently, the Selectman feel the Chairman of the Board isn't making enough money. They are requesting the Chairman receive an increase, going from \$3,300 to \$4,411 per year. The increase is over 20%. Our employees are lucky if they get a 2% raise, yet the Board feels the Chairman should get 10 times the raise that our full time employees get. Please explain the rationale in this. Last year they took away the Police Chief's raise and put it in their own operating budget, yet they feel entitled to a 20% raise. Again, the only role of the Chairman is to maintain order and flow of a meeting. He is no more or less important than the other two Selectman in what his duties are. McWhinnie as current Chairman, should not have voted on this raise, but he did. It seems like the Chairman's nest has been feathered pretty heavily in recent weeks.
4. Is it true that this Board voted to over expend line 01-4130-271 by an amount of \$900 in order to buy gift cards for members of the Planning Board, Zoning Board, Budget Committee, etc. Each one of the Selectman is seated as a member of these Boards. Does this mean that the Selectman are also recipients of these gift cards? Did you vote to buy yourselves gift cards at the taxpayers' expense? Some people in this Town are still struggling to pay their tax bills, yet it appears you are irresponsibly using their tax dollars for personal gain. Have you/or are you Selectmen going to be receiving some of these gift cards?
5. I would like to ask Chairman McWhinnie why he was at the Town Hall on Thanksgiving Day, when the offices were clearly closed. Why was he seen removing items from the Town Hall on a day it was closed to business? He clearly must have been in a hurry as he didn't even take time to change out of his plaid pajamas. Steve, can you please tell us what you were removing from the building when nobody else was there?
6. During the past, around this time of year, the Selectman often freeze department budgets as funds are running short. Were department heads asked to freeze their budgets this year, and if so, what date was that request made? I am asking this because it seems as if this Board has been spending very irresponsibly, our tax dollars, for the personal benefit of themselves, specifically Chairman McWhinnie- with the purchase of a scanner, cell phone, potential 20% raise and possible gift cards. This is outrageous. I have never seen a more self-serving Board of Selectman when it comes to spending for the benefit of one of their own.

You three were elected to serve the people of this community, NOT yourselves. I've never seen a sitting Selectman sue the community he represents, receiving \$30,000. I am requesting to know if the Town's insurer, Primex, paid the settlement, as I was told they refused to pay. If that is the case, where did the money come from and who voted to approve the expenditure of \$30,000.

7. Is the Town currently paying a consulting/Paul Branscombe?
8. Lastly, where did money come from for the new compactor and work done in recent months at the dump and what line did it come from including total expenditure.

I will be following up these questions with Right to Know requests, RSA-91A. To include the following;

1. To receive a copy of minutes surrounding the vote on purchasing scanners for McWhinnie and the Town Administrator. I have looked online but have been unable to find proof of the vote.
2. Receipts for gift card purchases with Town funds and who ALL of the recipients of the cards were.
3. What items Selectman McWhinnie was seen removing from the Town Hall on Thanksgiving Day?
4. When/if the department heads were asked to freeze their budgets and documents requesting said freeze.
5. Documentation providing proof as to how \$30,000 settlement was paid to the Gilmanton Winery. If Primex did not pay, provide documentation as to vote by Selectman to expend money and what line it was taken from.
6. How much has been spent on legal fees from January 1, 2017 to Present. Also, what law firm/lawyer have been paid and for what reasons. Please provide copy of invoices for charges for legal fees from all parties.
7. Documentation regarding expenditures for new compactor and work done on new dumping station including all invoices from contractors.
8. All documentation involving consulting from Paul Branscombe's consulting firm, including invoices and charges, as well as requests for consulting.