



APPROVED

Board of Selectmen Town of Gilmanton, New Hampshire

Meeting
January 11, 2016
6:00 p.m. – Gilmanton Academy

Present: Chairman Rachel Frechette Hatch, Selectman Donald Guarino, Selectman Michael Jean, Town Administrator Paul Branscombe and Administrative Assistant Stephanie Fogg. Also present please see attached sign in sheet.

6:00 p.m. Chairman Hatch opened the meeting, took attendance of those present and voting (Selectman Jean, Chairman Hatch and Selectman Guarino) and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

MOTION: On a Motion by Selectman Jean, and seconded by Selectmen Guarino it was voted unanimously to go into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A: 3, II (c). (3-0 Voice Vote – Chairman Hatch-yes, Selectman Guarino– yes, Selectman Jean– yes).

The meeting room was closed to the public. Present during the Non-Public Session were Chairman Hatch, Selectman Guarino, Selectman Jean., Town Administrator Paul Branscombe, and Recording Secretary Heather Carpenter.

The Selectmen interview for the position for the Finance Officer.

MOTION: On a Motion by Chairman Hatch and seconded by Selectman Jean it was voted unanimously to come out of Non-Public Session. (3-0 Voice Vote- Chairman Hatch- yes, Selectman Guarino- yes, Selectmen Jean- yes).

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

Approval of Minutes – There are four sets of Minutes to approve as listed- December 14, December 16, December 28, December 30

MOTION: On a Motion by Selectman Jean, and seconded by Selectman Guarino it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of December 14, 2015 as amended. (3-0 Voice Vote – Chairman Hatch-yes, Selectman Guarino-yes, Selectman Jean– yes).

MOTION: On a Motion by Selectman Jean, and seconded by Selectman Guarino it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of December 16, 2015 as written. (3-0 Voice Vote – Chairman Hatch-yes, Selectman Guarino-yes, Selectman Jean– yes).

MOTION: On a Motion by Selectman Jean, and seconded by Selectman Guarino it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of December 28, 2015 as written. (3-0 Voice Vote – Chairman Hatch-yes, Selectman Guarino-yes, Selectman Jean– yes).

MOTION: On a Motion by Selectman Jean, and seconded by Selectman Guarino it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of December 30, 2015 as amended. (3-0 Voice Vote – Chairman Hatch-yes, Selectman Guarino-yes, Selectman Jean– yes)

Award Bridge Engineering Services-

Chairman Hatch- It is my understanding, Don, that you called Paul this afternoon. The question you had was, what the cost on the bridge on Elm St is.

Selectmen Guarino- No, I wanted to know the actual bridge on Elm Street cost, because I know there was a state aid bridge but I'm guessing that it's at least ten years ago. I figured that the state would have it and I wanted to know what the actual estimate was from the State of New Hampshire was on the three bridges. The bridge at Crystal Lake, Nighthawk Hollow, Stage Road. Then I actually called him about the legality of the Bridge Funding just as Paul wrote it here, where it was raised at Public Hearing here. I see that the actual funding issue has been addressed.

Chairman Hatch- Three members of the Budget Committee came to us last Monday night, two days before Public Hearing. They basically asked that we give them a cost, a: they did not want us to be agents to expend on the Bridge Fund, they wanted the Town's people to have say. As a result, we had a meeting that was posted and we decide to recommend that we do bridge engineering studies at the two bridges knowing that we could save fifty thousand dollars if we did that.

Selectman Jean- On Stage Road.

Chairman Hatch- Yes, and so Michael being the Budget Committee Rep brought that forward Wednesday night so that it would be warned to the people.

Selectmen Guarino- Right

Chairman Hatch- I guess my question is now is, how do we proceed forward because the public was warned initial of the cost request. Do we need another Public Hearing?

Selectmen Guarino- My understanding is that public wasn't told what the cost was?

Chairman Hatch- They were not.

Selectmen Jean- There wasn't a dollar note tied to it.

Selectmen Guarino- So the question from the meeting was is that a proper warning of the public.

Chairman Hatch- That's a good question.

Selectmen Guarino- Well, you got the answer.

Chairman Hatch- So we have to have another Public Hearing. Let's get our calendars out. So Paul, who drives the Public Hearing, we do or the Budget Committee?

Paul Branscombe- First of all, the Board of Selectmen have to agree to move this forward. It's been recommended that I quickly contact the Budget Committee Chair and ask him by RSA and by the dates of the statutes. The last day for any Public Hearing is Tuesday, January 20th for the Budget Committee. They could not do it on Wednesday night, we have to post it seven days before.

Discussion by the Board for date and time to set the Public Hearing. Conclusion is Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at 7:00 p.m., upstairs at the Academy Building, to warn the public on the Bridge Fund article.

Selectmen Guarino- May I continue the bridge conversation?

Chairman Hatch- You certainly may.

Selectmen Guarino- I was trying to get the information for the bridge aid program, I was curious about the total cost of the bridge on Elm Street Bridge, which is Stage Road. These questions in actuality, aren't necessarily that important at this moment. I was thinking technically about the bridges and the fact that the Select list of firms that we are choosing from. I started thinking about the bridges themselves and how the engineering and the approach and how they are going to do the bridges. This makes a big difference how much a bridge costs, how expensive a bridge is. I thought if we were going to make a decision on the engineering firm based off our work sheets. There is a lot of technical things that are important in awarding an engineering contract at this stage and the approach of will be the actual who's going to be chosen to be a consulting firm and who's going to be the engineering firm. I called one of the three bridge firms and I asked them general questions. How the bridges are designed is a really important consideration in choosing the engineering firm. They said that it was unusual that our board had just gone with the requests for qualifications because most bridge firms that are in this business are qualified and that it's not unusual to have a request for qualifications and a technical proposal in the same package. So they recommend, prior to the final step which the actual picking of the firm, getting the fee and a schedule. We should get from our select list their technical proposals which will give us their project approach and give us more information to actually make the decision and it's free.

Chairman Hatch- What does it mean, technical proposal?

Selectman Guarino- When we are looking at the bridges the engineering firms will tell us how they are approaching the bridge. These technical proposals can make a difference in the cost and I would ask that we request them from the firms on our select list.

Chairman Hatch- We have three finalist

Selectman Guarino- I would like a technical proposal from all three.

Selectman Jean- I don't have a problem with that. Is that for all three bridges?

Selectman Guarino- It's for all three. Since we are in the process of making an educated decision this is what we should ask for.

Selectmen Jean- Do we need a motion or a consensus?

Paul Branscombe- You need a consensus.

Consensus that the Board will request from all three firms, technical proposals for the three bridges.

New Business-

The adoption of the Fund Balance Policy.

Selectman Guarino- It's my understanding that it's basically the policy most towns utilize and I agree with them.

Selectman Jean- I agree. I think we need something official to go by.

Chairman Hatch- I want to make a comment for the record. I am not happy that our auditor did not pick up on this and we did not have one.

MOTION: to adopt this Fund Balance Policy by Selectmen Jean and seconded by Selectmen Guarino it was voted unanimously to adopt this policy. (3-0 Voice Vote- Chairman Hatch- yes, Selectman Guarino- yes, Selectman Jean- yes.

Chairman Hatch- We received a letter from the Joint Loss Committee, date December 9th. The Joint Loss Committee inspected the Transfer Station. As a result of their one page letter to the Board of Selectmen, we as a board visited the Transfer Station and we toured the facility. We have not discussed our findings until now. I am going to read pieces of the letter which is up for

public dissemination if anyone is interested. “The Joint Loss Committee found disorganization, overcrowding, disorder. Staff is holding on to a large amount of discarded goods”, the term “hoarder” and “packrat” are used. “The building was cluttered with large amounts of household goods, used electronics and discarded auto batteries. All these items pose trip hazards, added to the disorganization of the facility, discarded propane tanks were found in numerous areas. Debris bins are overflowing. Discarded furniture and bedding to up a large area of the lot. There appears to be a significant amount of recyclables in storage and waiting for transport. Several trailers worth of bailed cans in storage taking up significant amount of space. Discarded tires were stored in various locations, a large pile adjacent to the building, if a fire ever occurred would pose a large threat to our facility. It appears that management has been waiting for various metal markets to change before hauling waste off so the Town would see the best revenue.” Their recommendation was for us to visit the facility, which we did. They are recommending us that we work with them to come up with a plan to get the facility back to an organized friendly facility.

Chairman Hatch- opens it up for discussion

Discussion of what needs to go immediately ensues between Selectmen Guarino and Selectmen Jean.

Chairman Hatch- You both have recommended that we meet with Joint Loss Committee, and you both have recommend that immediately the tires need to go. The propane tank and the bail material and scrap metal needs to go.

Board agrees that the Town Administrator contacts Ed immediately about the tires and propane tanks, it is an immediate issue. Also, we need Ed to come up with a removal schedule and when it will be done by.

New Hampshire Public Works Mutual Aid Program-

Chairman Hatch-The Highway Department is not a part of this. Initial the Road Agent was supportive of it but he has done some thinking about it. He emailed the Town Administrator and he said” Morning Paul, I was thinking over the weekend about the mutual aid, because we have a small crew as it is and we would be obligated to help other towns. In the past we handled floods, windstorms etc. on our own. There are contractors in the past that have helped with the disasters that we had. With that being said I don’t think we should join the mutual aid.”

Discussion between the board members ensues. Consensus of the Board is not to sign up with New Hampshire Public Works.

General Assistance Amendment-

The new Welfare Assistance Administrator, Suzie McCormick. She currently is the Welfare Service Director in Laconia, her goal is to work in several towns part time. She emailed Paul with a request for the Board of Selectmen with concerning allowance for a car payment, which right now is \$400 for Gilmanton, she feels as though it should be lowered to \$200 which is on par with surrounding towns.

Chairman Hatch- I do want to add that she is already accessing different agencies to help our residents, thereby minimizing what we have had to pay in the past.

MOTION: On a Motion by Selectmen Jean and seconded by Selectmen Guarino, it was voted to accept the recommendation of \$200 for the car payment allowance. (3-0 Voice Vote- Chairman Hatch- yes, Selectman Guarino- yes, Selectman Jean- yes)

Review of Town Auction Policy-

Chairman Hatch- We received a letter from a concerned resident, Patrick Hackley. He lives over at Sawyer Lake. To sum up his concerns, this letter is for public dissemination by the way, he has expressed concerns that in the past the town would allow lot abutters to purchase lots and he is under the understanding that since then that has been taken away. Now it's open to anyone willing to bid on the lots and the preface is that we wouldn't have more revenue. His concern is the lots other people are purchasing become storage lots, storing boats, trailers and general debris.

I went back and looked at the minutes from the March 2011 meeting, Article #36. I think the intent at the time March 2011 was that if the abutters to the property at the time of the auction were not interested in buying it, then the amendment to the policy, at that same auction the public would have a right to bid on it. That really doesn't match what his letter is saying. So, I want to open it up for discussion.

Selectmen Jean- I believe the last auction was an absolute auction where they can't restrict abutters. I'm not sure what happened last year.

Chairman Hatch- I think Mr. Hackley's concern is that it wasn't offered to the abutters first. His take on it is, the new absolute auction policy benefitting the interest of the Town or Gilmanton residents and preventing overcrowding in the residential Lake District, protecting ground water, and quality of life for those residents, expecting the town to enforce good planning and zoning regulations.

He is asking the Selectmen to reinstate the abutter's first policy on auctioning non-conforming town owned lots in the residential Lake Districts. He also said he would be happy to come in and talk to us about it.

Selectmen Guarino- So this is the way the auctions have been handled the last two years. "See if the town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to sell the following properties in the Town of Gilmanton to be sold at public auction.", then it lists the properties. I believe that when it's offered to abutters first that there is no competition. I think the absolute auction is much fairer this way. A great example is the lot on South Road, if it was offered to abutters first it would have never sold at \$30,000.

Chairman Hatch- So, it's a revenue issue.

Selectmen Jean- It's a fairness issue too, if you want the property bid on it. Consensus of the Board is for it to stay as is.

New Hampshire Electric Co-op-

Paul Branscombe Town Administrator speak to the email. It points out that the New Hampshire Electric Co-op does a number of rebate programs for energy efficiency in Municipal Buildings, lighting and weatherization. What they are offering for free is if there are any other additional building you would like them to walk through and see if we want to spend some money and get a 50% rebate having L.E.D lights, which is a cost savings over a period of time.

Selectmen Guarino- it looks like you can make a change on your electric bill by using the LED lights. It might be worthwhile for the Highway Dept. to look into it, and it's a free service.

Selectmen Jean- I think it's an excellent idea.

Consensus of the Board is yes to the free energy audit.

Select Board Items-

Chairman Hatch-I received a note via email from Nancy LaFrance to Deb Cornett. From Nancy to Deb Cornett- "My thanks and appreciation Debra for your gracious and helpful spirit which you serve the Gilmanton Town Clerk/ Tax Collector office. We indeed blessed by you and your staff. Sincere thanks, Nancy LaFrance."

I just wanted that in the Minutes.

Michael Jean is our rep for the Budget Committee we had a meeting on Saturday that we attended. We spent eight hours talking about our budget. I wanted Michael to share a recap of what came from it.

Selectman Jean- They went through each budget, they lowered a few of them.

Finance- it was a tie vote and Brian broke the tie on the pay for the finance person that we put in for.

It was a pretty good meeting. We went over the Bridge item. One thing that we are going to put out there, if it's approved, is we are going to spend all the money this year and then we get the money back next year. Next year we will have to put out a warrant article to put back the 80% back into the bridge fund. I believe that's the way we have to do it.

Chairman Hatch- The Fire Dept.-reduced by \$7,700, \$1700 was from the gas line and \$6,000 from the vehicles repairs line.

Highway Dept. - reduced by \$6,000 diesel fuel because of the current cost of fuel.

Finance Office- cut \$7,280 all from the salary line.

Legal- was cut \$5,000 and they did that thinking there is a Non-Capital Legal Fund.

Welfare cut \$12,000 because we do have a Non- Capital Reserve fund that we can access.

Parks and Rec- cut \$1,000 for Labor Day fireworks. They netted their Selectmen's request for \$805 because they did want to foster a pay raise for the Parks and Rec groundskeeper.

Police- they added \$21,000 for police detail but they did cut the revenues for police detail by \$15,000.

They cut the budget by \$17,785. It is still higher than the Default budget but it's more in line with the Default Budget. The reason I bring this up is because I think as a board we need to come up with a recommendation or not. I have to say the Budget Committee was very user friendly when they were talking about cuts. They did talk to Michael and I to see if we could work with it. As your Chair I would like to recommend that the Selectmen go with the bottom line of \$3,576,702 which represents a \$17,785 decrease from what the Selectmen brought forward. I recommend that we support it.

Discussion between the board members takes place pertaining to the information that Chairman Hatch listed.

MOTION: to support the Budget Committee recommendation at \$3,576,702. Board votes unanimously to support the recommendation. (3-0 Voice Vote- Chairman Hatch- yes, Selectman Guarino- yes, Selectmen Jean- yes.)

Selectmen Jean- Paul are we getting the voters' guide out to the Public?

Paul Branscombe- We will be getting one out after the Deliberative Session and they will have good explanation of what each article is.

Chairman Hatch- Mr. Gelatt made a suggestion of bringing information on the Lucas Devise to Deliberative Session. Chief Hempel is bringing the device with him to the Deliberative Session. Mr. Gelatt also suggested that we put picks of the 6 Wheel Dump Truck that is fully equipped on the Town web site as well so that people can see what it is.

So, the down side to the Budget Committee meeting on Saturday, the Budget Committee was handed a revenue sheet. Unbeknownst to me the December Revenues were not posted. That caused a little bit of unhappiness. Michael and I were asked to have the person that posts the revenues post those for tomorrow and we have amended revenue sheet to give the Budget Committee Wednesday night, which will show January to December revenues and it will show 2014 and 2013 revenues. Budget Committee wants to review if our revenues are going up or down. Had a subsequent conversation with Paul and directed him to tighten up procedures in the office and the Finance Department.

Selectman Guarino- I have a Select Board item. I would like the consideration to move Public Input back to 7:00 p.m.

Board agrees to move Public Input back to 7:00 p.m. and have it noted on the Agenda.

Chairman Hatch- Asked about the Officer of the Year Award and did anyone else know about it. She would have liked to have known about it because she likes to recognize a job well done. Selectman Guarino and Selectman Jean were not aware of the event or the award.

7:45 P.M. - Public Input

Chairman Hatch- Three weeks ago the Petition Warrant Article that Ralph submitted to reinstate Don as Chair came before the Board. Ralph wasn't here, you (Selectmen Jean) recommend that we wait until he was here. He came in last week and you weren't here, he was and he basically said that he doesn't need to be here to discuss Petition Warrant Article. I am resurrecting it tonight. Ralph submitted a Petition Warrant Article to reinstate Don as board Chair. I am going to defer to you since you are the one that made the motion that night, unbeknownst to me.

Selectman Jean- We got the petition, and reviewed it. Did you want to discuss it?

Ralph Lavin- I didn't want to discuss it, I am just one signatures out of a bunch of people. I don't know why I had to be present for this. I felt comfortable handing it to the board and I voiced my opinion on why I supported it. If you have any questions on why I support it, ask them and I will be glad to answer.

Selectman Jean- For now it's going to be as it sits. I don't see any reason to change it.

Ralph Lavin- Before that one I made another petition and about giving a man a multi- year contract after you've been here just four weeks and that wasn't discussed either. I don't care now more guys!

Selectman Jean- We are moving ahead as we sit.

Ralph Lavin- When I came back in December and it's been four or five meeting now and it's never been discussed. The first one I brought it in was not discussed at all the same day I brought the petition in. The same day I brought the petition in, you folks made the agreement to enter.

Selectman Jean- That was the day we were upstairs doing Paul's contract.

Ralph Lavin- Yes, which is fine.

Selectman Jean- I believe the Town Moderator read it that day and was confused with the way it was written.

Ralph Lavin- I did draft that one and the reason I wrote it that way, I know from sitting in that chair, that if too much information is given it's got to go into Non-Public. I know everyone one of you has spoken against Non-Publics, including Mr. Branscombe. So I wrote it in a way that you would understand what I was talking about, so that you didn't have to go into Non-Public. It was more a courtesy to the Board.

Selectman Jean- We entered into the contract with Paul.

Ralph Lavin- Yes you did without even discussing the petition, which is ok, it's what you do. The only reason we are here tonight is to discuss the Petition of removing Mr. Guarino from the Chair. I didn't understand why. I listened to the tape word for word.

Selectman Jean- There were other times before that we talked to Don. You know by sitting on the Board that the Board decides who its Chair is. It is up to the Board to decide and it can be changed at any time.

Ralph Lavin- I heard through rumors that something was being discussed amongst three people about doing just what had been done.

Selectman Jean- I decided that night to make that motion. I think I shocked everyone in the room.

Chairman Hatch- I thought you were going to choose the third option, the Town Pound.

Ralph Lavin- I thought it was interesting that you kept saying if Rachel was here I would make a motion because Rachel stormed out of the room because Don was out of order.

Ralph Lavin- Listen to the tape.

Selectman Guarino- Ralph, listen. Michael said that he's not going to change his position on it. So it doesn't help.

Ralph Lavin- To end then, I would appreciate it moving to 7:00 because I've been sitting here for two hours listening and I don't care about any of this stuff.

Brett Currier- Who is in charge of putting information on the Town's website? The reason I ask is because there is a letter on there trying to explain the reason the taxes have gone up and it's kind of inaccurate. It says, and correct me if I'm wrong because I could be. It does say that the Town's assessed value in 2014 went down, I believe that's correct. However, that has nothing to do with the tax rate of 2015. In 2015, according to the Budget Committee the assessed value in this Town of Gilmanton went up not down. Which in that article says, when the towns assessed value goes down, the tax rate goes up. The opposite is obviously true. When the assessed value of the town goes up, which I was told in 2015 went up almost two and half to three million dollars. The town portion of that should come down. So that is a fabrication is what that it is.

That is trying to explain away something that really is not true. Our tax rate went up on the Town side about 50, something like that. So, whoever put that in there, that's not accurate is that Paul?

Paul Branscombe- I would have to look at it but it that's what it says that wouldn't be accurate.

Brett Currier- It also goes on to say that you can only use your Undesignated Fund Balance so much and you're going to have a spike and this is the year for the spike. That's also in accurate because if the revenues that we get in this town were placed in accurately and this information was accurate our tax rate would never on the Town side gone up a penny. Especially, if you were brought it down like the previous Board of Selectmen had. So, I just want the narrative to be that the past Board of Selectmen is at fault for this happening, because in no way are they and that's what that's trying to show. So realistically when you look at the 2014 Board of Selectmen the assessed value did go down in the Town of Gilmanton. Also, the Town portion of your tax bill went down as well. That's a pretty good deal isn't it? I just want that out there. Just explain it to the people how it really was, don't go make things up. Whoever wrote that article, don't make them up, cause that's not fair to the people. The taxes are up, you guys own it and that's all there is too it. Don't blame it on somebody else when it's not true. I will take any blame being a Selectman or of anything that I did as a Selectman. I will own it good or bad but don't lie. Somebody fabricated that to say what it really isn't. That's all I know. I would really like you to look into that, rather than it streaming why the tax rate of Gilmanton went up.

The other thing I hear out of this Budget Committee Meeting that you guys had, Super Saturday that you guys had, that there is \$292,000 in a Comstar Account? Anybody know anything about that?

Selectman Jean- That's the Fire Department Comstar account which they deposit into and it's also a part of the General Fund.

Brett Currier- How can that be if nobody knows that's it's there.

Selectman Jean- That's when I found out about it. I thought it just went into the General Fund.

Chairman Hatch- Mr. Bakos brought that up. I knew that we had a Comstar account where when people make a payment but I assumed, and you know what happens. That money from Comstar at the end of the year gets put into the Fund Balance. I assumed incorrectly.

Brett Currier- I did too as well, I'll give you that. Because I had no idea about this account... (He didn't finish the thought)

Selectman Jean- This has been going on for years.

Chairman Hatch- The question was asked to Marie, as it should be, how can this be? She said that she was not sure of the history of why Comstar money stayed in the Comstar account not transferred to the Fund Balance. Her understanding is that the Comstar account money is part of the Fund Balance. So, one of my follow ups this week actually, it's on my to do list, is to follow up with Marie and Paul and find out why is that money sitting in there. Shouldn't it, at least to the end of the year, be transferred to the Fund Balance and that account can be built up again? That, you and I both know, that money is not to go back to the Fire Department. It is revenue and is considered revenue for the Town. So, I can't answer your question but it's on my to do list to follow up this week.

Brett Currier- The big question and the reason I'm asking this question is because if we didn't know there was \$292,000 in there, how does anybody show the revenue? If the revenue doesn't show up on that side.

Chairman Hatch- I am not disagreeing with you Brett.

Selectman Jean- We found out Saturday that revenues weren't put in for December.

Brett Currier- It just seems like, whether a Department Head needs to do it, whether it's the guy at the Transfer Station selling aluminum. Somebody's got to know what money is coming into their department.

Chairman Hatch- I agree. I am not disagreeing with you. Just give me some latitude to follow up Brett.

Brett Currier- K, thank you.

Selectman Jean- The Fire Department revenue is about \$75-\$85,000 a year. So this has been going on for three years. I don't know why it was set up that way.

Chairman Hatch- I understand why it was set up that way, that part I understand. When the company gets payments then they deposit it in the account. What I didn't know is that it sits there It should not sit there, it should at least be transferred at the end of the year.

Brett Currier- Right

Selectman Jean- Even quarterly.

Chairman Hatch- No, I think at the end of the year because it gives a true understanding what type of revenue the Fire Department generates.

Brett Currier- But you got to understand that if Paul is sending in the MS- whatever number, and he doesn't have a revenue number. Somebody should know that number constantly what's in that account. It ought to come on a computer screen that there is fifty grand in there as of this date or whatever.

Chairman Hatch- Trust me, I sat through it with the wheels turning on Saturday. I wasn't aware of it.

Brett Currier- I'm not blaming you.

Selectman Jean- Weekly we get a statement from Marie on what is paid out in accounts payable, what's paid out in pay roll and what we have in Fund Balances. We just started get that when we got Marie on before that we had no idea. We are making gains to get this straightened out and make some changes to make sure the revenues input.

Andrew Freeman- It's time for someone to give me a lesson. I moved to this town two years ago with my wife and daughter. Let me understand something, we elect you three?

Chairman Hatch- They are elected, I am appointed.

Andrew Freeman- So they are elected, you are appointed and we hire give (pointing to the Town Administrator)

Chairman Hatch- Yes Sir, the Board hires him

Andrew Freeman- Nobody else, these are the only two elected positions?

Chairman Hatch- There are three elected positions. What happened was one of the elected Selectmen resigned. So the Board of Selectmen received letters of interest to be appointed until March. My position is only valid until March 8th at midnight. There is one re-elect on this position. So, whoever runs for that last year will be elected not appointed. Does that make sense?

Andrew Freeman- Yes. My next question is, recently I got a concealed carry permit and it was signed by a Sargent so and so and it said "acting Police Chief". My question is why don't we have a Police Chief?

Chairman Hatch- We do. He was sworn in I believe a month ago. Our retiring Chief's position was technically in effect until the end of the year. So we swore Sargent/Chief Currier in but he was not getting the salary of Chief. He was getting the salary of a Sargent.

Selectman Jean- The Chief was still on payroll until January 1st.

Andrew Freeman- Makes total sense. My third question is how does a Fire Department generate revenue?

Selectman Jean- The Ambulance.

Chairman Hatch- When we have nonresidents in our Town that need medical... They get in a car accident in the Town of Gilmanton and they are from another town or state, the Gilmanton Fire Department responds and they will bill their insurance company if they don't have insurance then the party that needed medical treatment gets billed. The services aren't free to the residents because you pay for it in your taxes but the Fire Department provides a service.

Brett Currier- But we do bill you insurance if you are a resident but if your insurance company fails to pay, they don't bill you.

Betty Ann- That's the money that goes into the Comstar account?

Chairman Hatch- Yes

Betty Ann- Why is it called that?

Chairman Hatch- That is the company that does the billing.

Ralph Lavin makes a comment pleading to the board to lower taxes due to financial hardships for him and his family and asks the Chairman to speak to her husband.

Chairman Hatch- For those of you who don't know my husband sits on the School Board. I am fortunate that I don't interfere with my husband's service on the School Board. I will not reiterate what was said here to my husband. The School meets every second Tuesday of the month at six o'clock. The School is meeting tomorrow night for Public Hearing. If you have any concerns Mr. Carpenter is on the School Board that serves with my husband.

Robert has placed a letter of interest as Ballot Inspector. His term would expire July 31st, 2016. Can a have a motion to appoint him as Ballot Inspector.

MOTION- on a Motion by Selectman Jean and seconded by Selectman Guarino to appoint Robert Carpenter as Ballot Inspector, term to expire on July 31, 2016. (3-0 Voice Vote- Chairman Hatch- yes, Selectman Guarino- yes, Selectmen Jean- yes).

8:02 p.m. - Close Public Comment by Chairman Hatch and taking a brief recess.

(B) Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A: 3, II (c)

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

The meeting room was closed to the public. Present during the Non-Public Session were Chairman Hatch, Selectman Guarino, Selectman Jean. Town Administrator Paul Branscombe, Recording Secretary Heather Carpenter

The Selectmen discuss the two candidates for the Finance Officer position.

MOTION: On a Motion by Selectman Jean and seconded by Selectman Guarino it was voted unanimously to come out of Non-Public Session at pm. (3-0 Voice Vote – Chairman Hatch, Selectman Guarino -yes, Selectman Jean – 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 Hatch and seconded by Selectman Jean it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:35p.m. (3-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Carpenter
Recording Secretary

Approved by the Board of Selectmen

Chairman Rachel M. Frechette Hatch

Selectman Donald J. Guarino

Selectman Michael J. Jean