

**APPROVED**

**Board of Selectmen  
15 October 2012  
Minutes**

**6:00 pm** – Chairman Rachel Hatch called the meeting to order. Present were Chairman Hatch, Selectmen Ralph Lavin and Brett Currier, Town Administrator Tim Warren and Clerk Lois Dionne. Also in attendance was Town Clerk Deb Cornett.

After attendance, everyone stood for the “Pledge of Allegiance”.

**Town Clerk/Tax Collector Budget** – The Selectmen reviewed the town clerk/tax collector budget with Town Clerk Deb Cornett.

The salary line, repairs and maintenance, documentation restoration and software contracts were items that were discussed.

**6:22 pm – Selectman Lavin moved to enter into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3, II(a)** - Dismissal, promotion or setting compensation for public employees or the investigation of any charges against him, unless the employee affected has a right to a meeting or requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. Selectman Currier seconded. Motion passed 3-0. – Chairman Hatch-yes, Selectman Lavin-yes, Selectman Currier-yes.

The Selectmen reviewed an employee evaluation.

**6:30 pm – Selectman Lavin moved to come out of Non-Public Session**. Selectman Currier seconded. Motion passed 3-0. – Chairman Hatch-yes, Selectman Lavin-yes, Selectman Hatch-Yes.

**6:35 pm – Selectman Lavin moved to enter into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3, II(c)** - Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person unless such person requests an open meeting; however, this cannot be used to protect a person who is a member of your Board, Committee or Subcommittee. Selectman Currier seconded. Motion passed 3-0. – Chairman Hatch-yes, Selectman Lavin-yes, Selectman Currier-yes.

The Selectmen discussed a tax issue.

**7:07 pm – Selectman Lavin moved to come out of Non-Public Session.** Selectman Currier seconded. Motion passed 3-0. – Chairman Hatch-yes, Selectman Lavin-yes, Selectman Currier-yes.

**Public Input** – No one was present for public input.

**7:08 pm – Break**

**7:13 pm – Back in Session**

**Boots for Employees** – When reviewing budgets it was questioned why the Town pays for boots for highway and recycling employees. Tim Warren said we pay for one pair of boots a year for the employees because they are required to wear steel-toed shoes. Selectman Lavin asked if we were required to provide the boots. Tim didn't know if it was mandatory that the Town pay for the boots. Selectman Lavin did some research and found out there are only certain instances when we would have to pay for the boots, and the majority of the people he talked with said they don't get boots issued to them, but it is tax deductible on their personal income tax. Selectmen Currier and Lavin were opposed to supplying the boots if we don't have to. Chairman Hatch asked Tim to check with the Department of Labor to see if we need to supply the boots.

**Old Corner's Fire Station** – Selectman Currier asked if the firemen were paid for their time while cleaning out the old Corner's fire station. Tim was not sure.

**LGC Surplus** – Chairman Hatch asked if we know how the LGC 20.8 million dollar surplus would assist the Town; we should be getting back some of that money. Tim replied that we don't know yet.

**Fire Dept. Budget** – A couple of weeks ago Fire Chief Hempel had presented his preliminary budget for review, and three warrant articles that he wanted the Selectmen to support. Tonight he was present to present his changes. There were changes in call salary, protective clothing and vehicle repairs.

Selectman Currier stated he had thought the chief was going to be a working chief and work a shift with one man, and then two other men would come in and work in rotation. He asked why that isn't happening. He felt it is costing the town a lot of money because we have to use part-timers and that is causing an increase in the part-time budget. Selectman Currier discussed a schedule that he felt would allow Chief Hempel to work a shift and still allow him time to spend on other duties. Chairman Hatch stated that we had hired Joe as a working chief. Chief Hempel said the discussion had been what constitutes a working chief.

There was a lengthy discussion of whether Chief Hempel should be a working chief, and if his not working a shift provided the town with the coverage and quality of service the

residents are expecting. It was suggested that if the chief isn't a working chief, we should hire a fourth full-time firefighter/EMTI and have a part-time chief so there could always be two EMTIs on an ambulance call. Sometimes they have one EMTI and a first responder. The chief felt the current schedule works well and they offer the town "fine" service. There was also discussion of the salary lines in his budget including part-time, overtime, call and vacation time.

The required training for firefighters was also discussed. Currently our requirement for full-time employees of the fire department is that they have to be EMT certified and become an EMTI within a year of hire.

**8:28 pm – Selectman Currier moved to enter into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3, II(a)** - Dismissal, promotion or setting compensation for public employees or the investigation of any charges against him, unless the employee affected has a right to a meeting or requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. Selectman Lavin seconded. Motion passed 3-0. – Chairman Hatch-yes, Selectman Lavin-yes, Selectman Currier-yes.

The Selectmen discussed a personnel issue.

**8:37 pm – Selectman Lavin moved to come out of Non-Public Session**. Selectman Currier seconded. Motion passed 3-0. – Chairman Hatch-yes, Selectman Lavin-yes, Selectman Currier-yes.

The Selectmen resumed discussion of the fire department budget.

Chief Hempel noted that this is the third year in a row that he has brought in a budget lower than the past year's, and he feels they have provided good service.

Selectman Currier stated that he feels the department does provide good service, but he thinks things have to be tweaked.

Chairman Hatch said she has always had a hard time with the balancing act of being a selectman and not micromanaging a department head. She felt there have to be further conversations about issues discussed tonight.

Selectman Lavin agreed there had to be further discussion.

The review of the operating budget was completed.

**Warrant Articles** – The Selectmen discussed the warrant articles Chief Hempel had proposed and had asked for their support.

Selectman Currier said he would not support any of the three warrant articles that the chief was proposing. He would also not support putting money away for it; we need a break. Selectman Currier stated that the townspeople have been very generous to all departments with their apparatus, including fire trucks, ambulances, graders, police cruisers, etc., and now they need a break.

**Warrant Articles**

**Fire Truck** - After discussion, the Selectmen did not support the warrant article proposed for a new fire engine; Chief Hempel will withdraw the warrant.

**Hose Replacement** – The Chief had asked for funds to replace worn and retired hose and to purchase hose to back up inventory on hand. After discussion, Chairman Hatch and Selectman Lavin said they would support the replacement of hoses that need to be replaced, but no additional hose, so would approve a warrant article for \$7,500, which would be half of the requested amount. The chief will rewrite the warrant.

**Forestry Vehicle** – The Selectmen did not support the purchase of a forestry vehicle this year. The chief will withdraw the warrant.

**Capital and Non-Capital Reserve** items were discussed.

**Kudos – Fire & Police Depts.** – Tim Warren read a letter, copy attached, from June Garen expressing her gratitude for the kindness and aid her parents had received from both the fire and police departments.

**Cleaning Old Corner's Fire Station** – Chairman Hatch asked Chief Hempel if the staff had been paid for cleaning out the old fire station. Chief Hempel replied that they had not; it was a volunteer effort by the firemen's association.

**Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION – Selectman Lavin moved to approve the minutes of October 1, 2012 as written. Selectman Currier seconded. Motion passed 3-0. – Chairman Hatch-yes, Selectman Lavin-yes, Selectman Currier-yes.**

**9:30 pm** – Selectman Lavin asked to be excused from the meeting.

**Academy Building – Corner Post** – Tim showed the Selectmen pictures of one of the corner posts at the Academy Building taken today by the painter. When the painter was scraping paint, he had come across some rotted trim and pulled it. When he pulled the trim, he discovered that sixty percent of the bottom twenty feet of the post has been eaten by carpenter ants.

**10-15-12 BOS**

**APPROVED**

After review of the pictures and a brief discussion, Tim was asked to get estimates to get the post replaced.

**Hazard Mitigation Plan** – Tim informed the board that they had to make a formal motion to accept the Hazard Mitigation Plan that LRPC had helped to update.

**MOTION - Selectman Currier moved to accept the updated Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Town of Gilmanton. Chairman Hatch seconded. Motion passed 2-0. – Chairman Hatch-yes, Selectman Currier-yes. Selectman Lavin was not present.**

**Operation Safe Commute** – Tim reported that the application they had signed for Chief Collins for Operation Safe Commute grant had been approved.

**Bob Cat Training** – Tim said LGC does not offer skid steer or Bob Cat training, but Bob Cat does; you can get it directly from them. This information has been given to the Recycling Manager.

**Rocky Pond Association** – Tim said the vice president of the Rocky Pond Association had been in. They are trying to move forward with developing their own district, and he had some questions. Tim said they would also be requesting the other \$500 for milfoil control. They will be doing some picking on the north end of the pond.

**Cable Consortium** will be meeting in Gilford on November 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:00. They will be reviewing the contract with counsel, and then they will meet with MetroCast and all the Towns in the consortium on December 6<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup>.

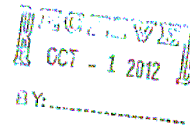
**GAT** – Tim informed the Selectmen that the tonnage sent to Penacook year-to-date is down 30 tons.

**9:50 pm – MOTION – Selectman Currier moved to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Hatch seconded. Motion passed 2-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Dionne  
Recording Clerk

PO Box 402  
Gilmanton, NH 03237  
September 19, 2012



Gilmanton Board of Selectmen  
Gilmanton, NH 03237

Dear Board of Selectmen:

I am writing to you, albeit belatedly, to express my gratitude for the kindness shown to my parents, James and Johanna Zanes, by the first responders in our community. Growing old is not an easy part of a person's life, but when it is further complicated by health issues it often becomes insurmountable. Fortunately, my folks have had the benefit of the support of the Gilmanton Fire and Police Departments.

Over the past few years, I believe that every single paid employee, as well as all the volunteers of the Gilmanton Fire Department has had to respond at some point to aid my parents. No matter what time of the day or how busy these folks were, my mother and father were always treated with the utmost respect, professionalism, and kindness. Let me say again, we are very grateful.

The Gilmanton Police Department also provided aid and support in keeping my parents safe at home until other arrangements were made. Again, every single member of the department has had to help them out at some point, and often, these calls were not only time consuming, but also must have required a great deal of patience on the part of the officer on duty! My family is particularly grateful to Officer Stacie Fiske for her help, support, and guidance during this difficult time. Officer Fiske has repeatedly demonstrated her skills in problem solving and defusing unsafe situations when my mother was struggling at home and declining due to dementia. I believe Officer Fiske not only has professionalism and integrity, but has also clearly shown a commitment to community policing and we hope that she will continue in her role here for years to come. Once again, we are very grateful.

Please communicate our thanks to the members of the Police and Fire Departments for all that they have done and continue to do to keep us all safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "June Garen". The signature is fluid and cursive.

June Garen