

APPROVED

**Board of Selectmen
9 August 2010
Minutes**

6:00 pm - Chairman Betty Ann Abbott read “This meeting of the Selectmen of the Town of Gilmanton is now open, and the matters presented and discussed here shall be for the purpose of managing the prudential affairs of the town and to perform the duties by law prescribed.”

Present were Chairman Abbott, Selectmen Don Guarino and Rachel Hatch, Town Administrator Tim Warren and Clerk Lois Dionne. Also in attendance representing Belknap County Commissioners were Commissioner Ed Philpot, Deb Shackett, Norm O’Neil, James Pilliod and District Representative Dave Russell.

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

Belknap County Commissioners - Mr. Philpot said they had been going out to towns this year having their 2nd round of county conversations. These conversations are based on the Belknap County Commission’s strategic plans. The first part of the plans is programs, then the budget and facilities.

Mr. Philpot explained that several things have come up this year that they wanted to look at; the most public has been the concept that they have been approached by a group who had very accurate information about the Belknap County nursing home, which has lost money the past couple of years. He said the group would like to broker the sale of the nursing home. He said although they (commissioners), weren’t seriously considering selling the nursing home, they had looked at it very carefully, as they felt it is their responsibility to look into something that would save over 10% of their budget.

There was a brief discussion of the nursing home. Mr. Philpot stated that they are trying to manage the County Budget, and that the savings this year have been in the half million dollar range due to the work done by the commissioners office.

Mr. Philpot stated that another topic that came up for discussion this year had been mutual police dispatch, and if it would be feasible and practical for them to dispatch for everybody in the county.

Mr. Philpot said that another item of consideration is a countywide juvenile prosecutor.

Selectman Hatch was against privatizing the nursing home, but said she was in favor of a county juvenile prosecutor. Chairman Abbott was also in favor of a county juvenile prosecutor.

Selectman Guarino was concerned about the possibility of condominiums being built at the Gunstock ski area. Mr. Philpot said the Gunstock Area Commission runs Gunstock Ski Area; the Belknap County Commissioners have no authority over the ski area. There was a law passed recently aimed at enabling Gunstock to long-term lease or sell portions of the property, but not the originally federally granted part of Gunstock. He said the alpine ridge is the piece at risk.

Mr. Pilliod said there is a bill in order that requires any plans for anything at Gunstock to be approved by the Towns, and delegations. There was a brief discussion of Gunstock Ski Area and it being an asset to Belknap County.

7:00 pm - Public Input – Chairman Abbott read “Public input is reserved to allow residents, without prior notice, to bring forward new information on matters of interest to the Town. Existing cases or applications shall not be heard. Residents with existing cases or applications shall use the channels established for appeal or submission of new information in their cases. The Selectmen reserve the right to place time limits on public input. No vote will be taken on any matter brought in through public input unless a dire emergency requires such action.

LCHIP Grant – Selectman Hatch informed the Board that with the help of John Dickey and Steve Bedard the LCHIP Grant application had been completed. The grant application is due August 20th. Selectman Hatch stated that part of the LCHIP Grant requirement is accepting land-trust standards and practices. She asked the Board to make a formal motion tonight to accept the Land Trust Standards and Practices, which means we will be supportive of maintaining our historic buildings, work with the Conservation Commission with easements and be good stewards of our land, which is something Gilmanton has done for years. If we get the grant money, they (LCHIP) would monitor that we are good stewards of the Academy Building for the next five years. We would need to send an annual letter to the LCHIP people telling them what we are doing or need to do to maintain the building.

There was a brief discussion of the Land Trust Standards and Practices, and assurance that there would be no cost to the Town. **MOTION** – Selectman Hatch moved that the Selectmen approve and adopt the Land Trust Standards and Practices published by the Land Trust Alliance in 2004, and we agree that the Land Trust Standards and Practices are the ethical and technical guidelines for the responsible operation of a land trust, which we have been doing for the past three years, and that we adopt the applicable provisions of the Land Trust Standards and Practices as guidelines for the organization’s

operations and commit and continually commit to making progress toward the implementation of these practices. Selectman Guarino seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

All the necessary paperwork for the grant application was signed and notarized and will be delivered this week.

Donation – Selectman Hatch asked Steve Bedard to inform the Board of his donation in regards to the LCHIP Grant. Steve said they needed \$500 for some baseline documentation on the structure; he donated the \$500 for the report.

Selectman Hatch expressed her thanks for the great job that Steve Bedard and John Dickey had done in getting all the information together to enable us to apply for this grant.

7:26 pm – Selectman Hatch moved to Enter into Non-Public Session as 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 Guarino seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The Selectmen discussed a personnel issue.

8:00 pm – Selectman Hatch moved to come Out of Non-Public Session – Selectman Guarino seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

MOTION – Selectman Hatch moved to permanently seal the minutes of the above non-public session. Selectman Guarino seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

8:05 pm – Selectman Hatch moved to Enter into Non-Public Session as 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 Guarino seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The Selectmen discussed a personnel issue.

9:45 pm – Selectman Hatch moved to come Out of Non-Public Session. Selectman Guarino seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

MOTION – Selectman Hatch moved to permanently seal the minutes of the above non-public session. Selectman Guarino seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Other Business

Invitation – Tim informed the Selectmen that they had received an invitation to the Belknap County Farm Bureau picnic Thursday, August 19 at Moulton Farm in Meredith to learn about issues that affect NH agriculture and to discuss policies that could benefit local farms. There will be a cookout at 6 pm followed by a tour of the farm. Selectman Guarino will attend.

Permit Lower Driveway – Recycling Center – Tim informed the Selectmen that the State had approved a driveway permit for the lower section at the recycling providing the one at the top is closed. Tim said questions had come up as to whether it is a good idea to move the driveway to the lower section because it would be on a hill, and might make it harder to enter during the winter, also the slope from the lower section up to where the trash is disposed of is steep and people would have to walk between cars entering the area.

Don felt this is something the recycling committee could discuss.

Logger – Tim had a letter from logger Jeff Hawkins requesting to fill in small holes and cover sharp rocks in the section of Old Meeting House Road between John Hall's house and Don Guarino's property to allow access of a logging truck; he would like to start logging in early August.

There was a brief discussion.

MOTION – Selectman Hatch moved to grant the request of Jeff Hawkins in his letter dated July 28th to fill in pot holes on Old Meeting House Road to allow logging. Chairman Abbott seconded. Motion passed 2-0. Selectman Guarino recused himself from the vote.

Perambulation – Tim had a letter from the Barnstead Selectmen wanting to set a date to do the perambulation of the town line between Gilmanton and Barnstead. He will forward the letter to Dave Nagel who has been perambulating Gilmanton town lines.

Stockwell Hill Rd. – Tim had a letter from Graham Wilson about the sand that had washed from Stockwell Hill Road into his field. Mr. Wilson stated that the measures that had been taken to try to prevent the sand from washing into his field had not been adequate, and wants the Town to accept the responsibility to clean up his field.

After discussion of Mr. Wilson's letter, it was decided to send a copy of the letter to Paul Perkins and have him contact Mr. Wilson. Don will call LGC to see if the town has any liability.

Gate - Tim informed the Board that a gentleman, whose son owns property on Pine Hill Road, had come in because fifteen to twenty computers had been dumped on his son's property on Pine Hill Road, which is a Class VI road. He asked permission to erect a Gate to prevent people from going in and dumping on the property. The gentleman said he would open the gate in winter to allow snowmobilers access to the road.

There was a brief discussion during which it was stated that the police should be notified of the illegal dumping, and that Good Will would take computers at no charge. Don will ask LGC if we can allow the road to be gated.

Sludge Ordinance – Tim reported that the signatures had been verified on the petition that had been presented to the Selectmen asking for a special town meeting to issue a moratorium on the spreading of sludge. He said he had spoken with Town Counsel asking what had to be done with the petition. Tim said he had been told that the only way to enact an ordinance by petition was through regular Town Meeting. He said Walter would check into it further.

Mosaic Parcel Map – Tim had a letter from the State of New Hampshire informing us that the State would be doing a mosaic map of the whole state. These will be contour maps at 1' intervals. In order for Gilmanton to participate, the State will require a digital format of our maps and accessing records. Tim said he had George Hildum talk to DRA (Dept. Revenue Administration), and George feels we should start to do it as long as it doesn't cost any money. Tim said the only cost he could see would be the CD to put the information on.

There was a brief discussion during which Tim explained that the maps would be beneficial to the Planning Board because it shows steepness of slope and the Conservation Commission because it shows contours. The Selectmen agreed to proceed as long as there would be no cost other than the CD.

Tax Abatement Request – Tim informed the Selectmen that Jean Martin of Crystal Lake Road has asked to meet with the Selectmen regarding the tax abatement request she had filed. He said George Hildum had gone out and verified measurements and made some changes, but she says they are still incorrect. Ms. Martin received a refund of \$19.51. Tim said Ms. Martin has until September 1st to file with the Board of Tax and Land Appeals, but she would like to meet with the Selectmen to try to come to an agreement rather than have to go to the Board of Tax and Land Appeals.

The Selectmen had a brief discussion, and it was the consensus of the Board that they would back George's assessment, and Ms. Martin would have to file paperwork with the Board of Tax and Land Appeals.

Class Reimbursement – Tim said there had been questions and discussion regarding training at the fire department, and why required courses are not being reimbursed.

Tim said we have paid for some courses for EMT classes, but was unsure what courses are required. There are some courses that have been taken but have not been reimbursed.

After a brief discussion, it was agreed to ask Chief Lockwood come in and review the policy to find out what courses are and aren't reimbursed to the employees.

Interviews Recycling Attendant – Tim informed the Selectmen that we had received fifteen applications for the position of recycling attendant. They need to set a date and time for interviews.

Landfill Post-Closure Report – Tim said we had received a letter from DES stating that they had reviewed the post-closure report submitted by Provan & Lorber for the landfill, and it satisfies the Town's reporting requirements for 2009. DES said there is vegetation blocking the drainage swale that should be removed and the two leachate seeps should be monitored as well.

Waste-Oil Furnace Grant - Chairman Abbott asked about the Waste-Oil Furnace Grant. Tim said the grant did specify a used furnace. He said the furnace we had initially been interested in is still available, and the owner will do any upgrades necessary, but we would have to pick it up.

CPR Courses – Chairman Abbott asked where we stood with CPR courses. Tim said Lt. Beaudoin would teach the course; we just need to set up a date. He was asked to get it scheduled.

Safety Building – Chairman Abbott stated that the insulation had been put in last week, and they will be putting wallboard up this week.

Chairman Abbott will meet with the CIP Building Committee on Wednesday to go through the safety building to assess future expenses we would have to plan for such as roof replacement, paving, etc.

Energy Committee – Chairman Abbott asked Tim if he had heard anything on the lighting audit. Tim replied that there was no update on that, but today a gentleman from MEAPS (Municipal Energy Audit) had toured the building, had looked at the audit reports that had been done. He needs more information on the utilities. He is trying to determine which of the five buildings lighting audits had been done on would be the most beneficial for us to receive funds toward energy, not lighting.

NIMS – Chairman Abbott thanked Tim and Lois and everyone involved in getting the NIMS application completed and delivered. She asked Tim how things had gone. Tim reported that he had delivered the application to Steve Finnegan; he quickly reviewed it, said everything looked good. Mr. Finnegan is going to be gone for a week, but when he

returned he would look at and finalize it, and hoped to have a grant agreement for us to sign the week of August 16th, as there is plenty of money to give away.

Chairman Abbott stated that they had a discussion with John Ricci about the radio tower, and John is going to handle getting bids for the tower.

Approval of Minutes – The Selectmen reviewed the minutes of the last two meetings.

MOTION - Selectman Hatch moved to approve the minutes of July 26, 2010 as amended. Selectman Guarino seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

MOTION – Selectman Hatch moved to approve the minutes of July 29, 2010 as drafted. Selectman Guarino seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

10:50 pm – Selectman Hatch moved to Enter into Non-Public Session as 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 Guarino seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The Selectmen discussed a tax issue.

10:57 pm – Selectman Hatch moved to come Out of Non-Public Session. Selectman Guarino seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

10:58 pm – Selectman Hatch moved to Enter into Non-Public Session as 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 Guarino seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The Selectmen discussed a personnel issue.

11:02 pm – Selectman Hatch moved to come Out of Non-Public Session. Selectman Guarino seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

11:03 – MOTION – Selectman Hatch moved to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Guarino seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Dionne
Recording Clerk

