

**Board of Selectmen
5 January 2009
Minutes**

5:30 Non-public Personnel Session cancelled.

6:00 p.m. - Chairman Don Guarino called the meeting to order. Present were Chairman Guarino, Selectmen Rachel Hatch and Betty Ann Abbott, Town Administrator Tim Warren and Clerk Lois Dionne. Also present was Fire Chief K G Lockwood.

After attendance everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Fire Department

Budget – Fire Chief Lockwood reviewed his budget with the Selectmen. His budget was level funded as requested.

There was an increase in the salaries line, but a decrease in benefits line due to changes from family plans to single person plans in health insurance. One factor in the increase in the salaries line is that the Chief is asking the full-timers to attend the twice-monthly meetings at the station.

There was an increase in the vehicles repair line due to a fire engine recall that the Town has to pay for the replacement part.

Staffing Corners Fire Station – Chief Lockwood informed the Selectmen that starting this past Saturday he started staffing the Corners fire station three days a week. The Corners station will be staffed on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Approval of Minutes – The Selectmen reviewed the minutes of last week's meeting.

MOTION – Selectman Hatch moved to accept the minutes of December 29, 2008 as amended. Selectman Abbott seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Public Input – No one was present for public input.

Since no one was present for public input, and Mary McKenna was in attendance, the Selectmen heard her request for funds to fight milfoil in Rocky Pond.

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Mrs. McKenna and Julie O'Hare, members of Rocky Pond Association requested that the Selectmen put forth a warrant article to help with the expense of harvesting milfoil from Rocky Pond. Gilmanton, along with Loudon and Canterbury, has contributed to the Rocky Pond Association for the past two years to help fight the milfoil. So far, Rocky Pond is the only water body in Gilmanton that has milfoil.

Mrs. McKenna explained that in 2008 a hand-harvesting company had harvested 1,280 gallons of milfoil at the northern end of the pond, which is in Gilmanton. The cost of the harvesting is \$100 per hour, and they paid for 40 hours of harvesting. She said they have contracted the same company to harvest in 2009, and hope to be able to do 70 hours of harvesting this year. Mrs. McKenna said the State has rules for milfoil removal, and the association is following all the rules. She said the State is allotting a flat rate of \$2,100 to anyone who is requesting funds this year, if they follow the guidelines. They are rated on a point system, and one of the things required is to get a warrant article. Mrs. McKenna said that each of the association members contribute \$150 per year toward fighting milfoil.

Following further discussion, Chairman Guarino told Mrs. McKenna that the Selectmen would take the matter under advisement.

Town Report – Tim reminded the Selectmen that it is time to decide on a picture for the cover for the Town Report, and to whom the report should be dedicated.

There were several residents the selectmen felt should be considered for the dedication; the Selectmen will make a decision in the next few weeks.

Ruts – Hammond Brown Property – At a previous meeting, a letter from Hammond Brown regarding the ruts on his lawn caused by the contractor sealing the Old Town Hall against bats was discussed. Mr. Brown is dissatisfied with the way the contractor had filled in the ruts. Chairman Guarino was to contact Mr. Brown regarding the situation. Tim asked if Don had spoken with Mr. Brown. Don replied he has not done it yet, but would do it.

7:37 p.m. – Break

7:44 p.m. – Back in session

Warrant Articles – There was a brief discussion of the warrant articles to be presented at Town Meeting. Selectman Abbott stated that she and Tim would be attending a Warrant Article Workshop tomorrow morning.

General Assistance – Selectman Hatch asked Tim, if given the number of people who had come in today for assistance, he felt there had been a big enough increase in the line

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item for general assistance. After a brief discussion, it was agreed to increase the general assistance/welfare line by \$25,000.

Free Room - Recycling Center – Justin Leavitt asked to address the Board of Selectmen about the free room at the recycling center. Justin asked for the Selectmen's permission to close the free room at the recycling center for an indefinite period of time to make people aware of the abuses residents have been making of the room. He said items get thrown all around, boxes are rummaged through, and items get broken. Justin said people don't let them know if they break things, and so the recycling employees, when cleaning the room, often find broken glass and other things in the boxes, and on the floor; trash is also thrown in there. He said the employees have to go in that room on an average of, at least, twice a week to clean it up. Justin was concerned that it is a safety issue; children go in there and play with toys, and they could get cut. Justin said he would post a notice stating why the free room is being closed.

When asked if he thought there was a value in having the room, Justin replied that he felt there is. He just felt that people should realize it is a privilege, and shouldn't abuse it. The Selectmen gave permission for Justin to close the free room.

Budget Over Expenditure Request – Tim had a copy of the request to the budget committee to over expend the budget for 2008. It had been approved and signed by over half of the budget committee. Tim said some money had been found because some bills had been paid, but not charged against some purchase orders; after applying the payments to the purchase orders, if the budget were not over expended, we would still go into 2009 with a \$41,000 deficit. He asked if the Selectmen still wanted to proceed with the over expenditure request. After a brief discussion, it was decided to submit the request to over expend the budget to the State.

8:10 p.m. - Enter into Non-Public Session as per RSA 91-A:3, II(d)

Selectman Abbott moved to Enter into Non-Public Session as per RSA 91-A:3, II(d) - Consideration of the purchase, sale or lease of real or personal property which if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community. Selectman Hatch seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The Selectmen discussed the possible purchase of a parcel of property.

8:45 p.m. – Out of Non-Public Session

Selectman Hatch moved to come Out of Non-Public Session. Selectman Abbott seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

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

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8:50 p.m. – MOTION – Selectman Hatch moved to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Abbott seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Dionne
Recording Clerk