

**Board of Selectmen  
1 December 2008  
Minutes**

**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 in attendance were members of the Year-Round Library Committee and many residents supporting the library.

After attendance everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Year-Round Library Committee** – John Dickey explained that a couple of weeks ago the Board of Selectmen did a site visit to the Year-Round Library with members of the library committee. At that time, the Selectmen were informed that the committee was going to ask the Selectmen to back a warrant article for \$75,000 for operating expenses for the Year-Round Library. Mr. Dickey said the Selectmen had asked them to attend a Selectmen's meeting to make a formal presentation. He added that they had said they would like to see some supporters of the library; that is why there were so many people here tonight.

Mr. Dickey said the reason they are here is to ask for the Selectmen's support for a \$75,000 warrant article for operating expenses for 2009. He said they realize it is a tough time to ask taxpayers for money, but with the economy in the shape it is, and people struggling, the committee felt it is even more important to have a library open that people can use and access the Internet and check out books for free. He said that is why they are pushing to open the library this year. John said there is a little bit of work left to do on the building and on the site, but it is all within reach, and they are basically at the point of opening; the only thing lacking is the funds for operating expenses. He said they are still actively pursuing a major endowment that would provide them with income that would allow them to pay yearly operating expenses, and they would continue with that effort.

Liz Bedard gave a brief history of how the committee arrived at the point they are at today beginning in 1998 when a group of people realized that Gilmanton was one of only two towns in New Hampshire without a year-round library. She said they discussed the importance of a library to a community and had met with a representative from the State Library who had given them good counsel, and had asked them what the other townspeople felt about a year-round library. In 1999 they had done a survey, and out of three hundred surveys that were returned, 90% of the people were supportive of the

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library. Liz said 60 people volunteered to move forward with the project, and they formed a 501-C Nonprofit, and they searched for land for the library. Liz continued that in 2000 they found the land across from the school, did a mailing to townspeople, and were able to raise the money to purchase the land in four months. They hired a library architect, discussed their needs and the architect had come up with a design for a one-story brick building, for which the committee ultimately decided they would probably not be able to raise the funds to build, and they were also concerned that the building would not be appropriate in that field, so they had stepped back for a while. Liz said Carolyn Dickey had seen an article about a library in a barn that was set in a field. She went on to explain how they had decided upon the barn, the search for the barn, all the hard work and fundraisers they have held to pay for the library as it has been progressing. Liz said they have continued to hold fundraisers, and the library was built step-by-step, paying as they went along; the library is debt free. She said they have tried to make the building as “green” as possible; radiant heat in the floor, recycled carpet and green lighting. She said they still need to spend about \$25,000 to be a “turnkey” library, which means you put the key in it, open the door and it is ready to go.

Selectman Abbott asked what the \$25,000 they still need is for.

Stan Bean said it is for light work inside, such as odds and ends in the rest room, finishing the local computer network, and the wireless connections for the computer. They also need to put a handicap ramp on the outside of the building and erect a flagpole. He felt they would have the money within the next month or two.

John Dickey stated that they had bought the land, and completed the facility, which has an approximate value of 1.2 million dollars, through volunteer labor, donations, grants and fundraisers. He said they have raised over \$675,000 in cash, \$457,000 from individuals and businesses, \$162,000 from foundations and grants, \$58,000 from fundraisers. He said they have had many “in kind” donations from business that have donated time and material. He said the well system and pump, insulation, computers and flat screen monitors, interior paint and interior design services and some of the site work had been donated, and many of the trades people had worked at reduced rates. People have also donated about 8,000 books. John said they had recently received 2,500 books from a Lakes Region Book dealer who was closing her business.

Stan Bean noted that people outside of Gilmanton had also donated. He said the local people who have been involved with the project are Bill Booth, Mickey Daigle, Dixie Concrete, Brian Forst, Buzzy French, Joe Gibeau, Shapiro Electric, KG Earthworks, Pete Mulcahey, Ogni Electric, Parsonage Day Lilies, Potter Family, Premier Pump and Supply and Van Designs.

John Dickey felt this showed the measure of support for the library, and that it has been a community effort. He said a library provides free life-long learning to all people in a community; it provides access to books, newspapers and periodicals, video materials and

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access to Internet for those without computers, and programs for children. Mr. Dickey felt it is important to Gilmanton because the building can function as a community meeting and gathering place. He explained that the \$75,000 they are requesting would be mostly to staff the library and also for subscriptions to books and magazines and to pay utilities.

Mr. Dickey said the tax impact to residents would be \$16 per \$100,000 evaluation, and based on a home with an assessed value of \$250,000, it would add \$40 a year to their taxes. He said the yearly cost for a library card in Laconia is \$30, and although we can now use the Gilford library free, it is his understanding that when current cards expire, there will be a fee of \$30 for two years.

Chairman Guarino asked if asking the Town for money for the operating costs meant the building would become a gift to the Town, or would the Town be giving money to a non-profit organization? He didn't feel we (the Town) did that. Don was told we do that now because the Iron Works Library is non-profit. John Dickey said it is a fairly common practice in New Hampshire to have municipal funding for libraries. Stan Bean added that if the library gets public funding, the Town would elect three trustees to help with the administration of the building.

Chairman Guarino stated that the Selectmen had asked the Department Heads to level fund their budgets this year, and asked if the Committee had any projection for what they would request for funding in the future, if the town should fund the operating expenses. Mr. Dickey replied that other than inflation, he didn't feel there would be much variance.

People expressing support for the year-round library were:

Janie Benson who felt the Selectmen should not lose sight of the fact that the committee is continuing to look for donors, and that we are continuing to get donations to go towards operating costs, so even though they are coming to the Town for money this year, it doesn't mean they would have to every year. John Dickey said the library project had received nation publicity within the last two months in the Yankee Magazine, The New York Times and The Boston Globe. He said if a major donor should come forth in 2009, they would be able to invest that money and earn interest to offset the operating cost, and it would be the full intent to use whatever money they could generate, and return the remainder of any money from the Town that hadn't been used back to the Town.

Chairman Guarino asked if the Committee was insuring the structure, and if it covered when the building is utilized. They do carry insurance. Chairman Guarino noted that if the Selectmen should decide not to bring the article forward, the Year-Round Library Committee could bring it forth as a petition article.

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Carolyn Baldwin said she was speaking for her son and daughter-in-law, who couldn't be there, but were very supportive of the library.

Mary Nagle felt we should think of it as growth; people will see the benefit of the library, and parents, as well as children would recognize the importance of the library.

Bill Foster had an article from Connecticut that was in Boston Globe stating that libraries are seeing an uptake during the down turn (economy). Libraries are seeing an increase in usage for job-hunting help, and there are more people signing up for library cards, participating in library activities, and people are waiting to use public computers. He felt there is a large need for the library.

Peter Baldwin stated that as a university professor, they are always looking for children whose curiosity can be kindled and encouraged throughout the year from childhood throughout the grammar school, which is when these children and their families should be nurtured.

Roger Boucher, clergyman and part-time professor, said he was very much behind the library being a gift to the children, no matter how it is presented, and felt it is a wonderful opportunity. He felt the committee would not stop working no matter how the library is funded, and it would be a growing thing.

Jackie Heath, library director for another town, said she has worked in libraries for many years, and is familiar with State statistics for New Hampshire. She said in communities approximately the size of Gilmanton, there has been a 20 to 40% increase in the library services requested in the last two years, so felt the trend is for more library use, and felt Gilmanton should try to offer that.

Ann Kirby said, on behalf of the kids at the school, even though they have a school library, the students are looking forward for the library to open.

Nancy Stearns said that it is not unusual for towns to support their libraries. Nancy added that many people leave money in their wills for support of libraries; she feels that might happen in the future in Gilmanton. Nancy said one of her children is the head librarian at Franklin Pierce College, and all four of her children worked in libraries while growing up, and had learned so much. She felt it is important to be able to offer that exposure to people.

One resident spoke against the library.

Lois Kapplain felt libraries are becoming obsolete, and she couldn't back taxpayers' dollars going for this project. She orders her books on line or they are given to her, and when she is done with the books, she gives them away to other people. Mrs. Kapplain added that neither she nor any of her family would be using the library. She does not

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want the building to be gifted to the Town, as it would become a tax burden, and she would not vote for it on a warrant article. She reiterated that libraries are becoming obsolete; information that people used to get at the library is being gotten from computers, and she doesn't feel people should have the additional tax burden.

Selectmen Abbott read two letters (copies attached) into the record supporting the library. One was from Betty Mitchell and the other an email from Patrick and April Hackley. Another letter (not read into the minutes, but copy attached) from Chris Schlegel was passed to Tim Warren at the end of the meeting also expressed support for the project.

### **6:55 p.m. – Enter into Non-Public Session as per RSA 91-A:3, II(a)**

Selectman Abbott 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 Hatch seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The Selectmen briefly discussed a Recycling Facility personnel issue.

### **7:02 p.m. – Out of Non-Public Session**

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

### **7:04 p.m. - Enter into Non-Public Session as per RSA 91-A:3, II(a)**

Selectman Abbott 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 Hatch seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The Selectmen discussed a Recycling Facility personnel issue with employees of the recycling facility.

### **7:07 p.m. – Out of Non-Public Session**

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

Chairman Guarino stated that the Selectmen had promoted Justin Leavitt to the position of Recycling Facility Manager with a probationary period of three months, after which time they will review his performance, and if the review is satisfactory, Justin will become full-time manager of the facility.

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**Public Input**

**Recycling Facility Updates**

**Glass Crusher** – Justin informed the Selectmen that the new motor for the glass crusher had been installed, and it is ready to use. He said he would also cover the machine with a tarp.

**Hazardous Material** – Justin explained that they have been holding a container of, what they think is pest control, at the recycling center for a couple of years. They haven't been able to get rid of it because no one is sure what it is; the label is not on the container. He asked to borrow the camera from Tim to take photos of the container to email to DES. Justin said they are trying to determine what is actually in the container, and if they can't, then he would have to call Safety Clean or Clean Harbor. Tom Teague said it is in compressed gas form. He said someone had put the container in with the propane tanks.

**Gate to Metal Pile** – Chairman Guarino stated that the employees have been having trouble with residents going down to the metal pile, and dropping off things that shouldn't be there, so they had discussed the possibility of putting a gate at the top of the hill to the metal pile.

**Safety Jackets** – Tim said Justin had spoken with him about getting the lime green safety jackets with the reflective stripes like Chief Lockwood just got. He said in the winter when the employees have to wear their heavy jackets, their vests won't fit over them. Justin is waiting to get a price for the jackets from Chief Lockwood.

**Early Closing – Christmas Eve** – Justin asked if it would possible to close the Recycling Center early the day before Christmas, so the employees could spend the time with their families. The Selectmen agreed that the recycling center could close at noon on Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. A notice will be posted.

**Historic District Approval** – Realtor Bob Williams said he had a potential buyer for a house at 541 Meeting House Road. He said the buyer had asked about obtaining a permit to build a 40' X 60" barn to store heavy equipment from December through May; the rest of the year, the equipment would be on job sites. Mr. Williams was told that the first step should be to speak with the HDC and Planning Clerks.

**Conservation Commission – Review of Water & Wildlife Maps** – When reviewing the draft Class VI Road Policy that had been drafted by the Class VI Road Committee, the Selectmen were concerned about the phrase “not unreasonably impact” that had been used several times in the “Conditions” section of the policy. They felt the wording was too vague, and left it too open for interpretation for whomever might be on the Selectboard when an application to build on a Class VI Road was received. Most of the items with this wording were in regards to wildlife habitats and ground and surface

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waters, and referenced maps by the NH Fish & Game Dept for Wildlife Action Plan, and conservation focus areas on the same maps.

The Selectmen asked Conservation Chair Nanci Mitchell to attend a Selectmen's meeting to explain the maps to them in hopes that this would help them in finalizing wording in the policy.

Conservation Chair Nanci Mitchell and Conservation Commission members Sue and Dick deSeve reviewed the maps with the Selectmen explaining the coding on the various maps which would allow the Selectmen to understand how to determine which areas would have the greatest impact on wildlife and ground water should that road, or a portion of a particular road be allowed to be developed.

After careful review and explanation of the maps, the Selectmen feel they know what to look for, and what maps to consult when deciding whether to allow development of a Class VI Road. With this information the Selectmen feel they will be able to come up with wording for the Class VI Road Policy that is more specific, and will not be open for interpretation. The Selectmen will hold a workshop to discuss the wording of the Class VI Road Policy on Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

**Large Water Extractions** – Chairman Guarino said there is a group in Barnstead concerned about the Suncook aquifer, and Don felt he had passed a copy of Barnstead's water policy to the Conservation Commission. He said Barnstead is concerned because we also border Suncook, and Gilmanton doesn't have anything in place addressing large water extraction. Both Nanci Mitchell and Dick deSeve said they had brought it to the Planning Board last year, and the first version was too simple, and the second version was too complicated, so Dick said he had asked why the Planning Board didn't come up with a policy, but they (planning board) had given up on it. The Selectmen felt they should get copies of the ground water policies from other towns, so we can come up with something.

### **8:26 p.m. - Enter into Non-Public Session as per RSA 91-A:3, II(c)**

Selectman Abbott 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 Hatch seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Lois Kapplain brought a fire department issue before the Selectmen.

### **8:32 p.m. – Out of Non-Public Session**

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

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**FYI's & Other Business**

**Highway Block Grant** – Tim informed the Selectmen that we had received the new Highway Block Grant from the State for 2009. It increased \$4,000; the amount of the grant is \$132,122.

**Town Report Bids** – Tim reported that we had received six bids to print the Town Report. He opened the bids; they were as follows:

R C Bradshaw & Co, Warner, NH	\$3,585.00
Kase Printing, Hudson, NH	3,520.00
Commonwealth Printing, Newburyport, MA	3,282.10
Country Press, Middleboro, MA	2,045.86
Town & Country Reprographics, Concord, NH	3,825.00
Wallace Press Reprographics, Concord, NH	4,134.00

The Selectmen did not award the project tonight. Tim will research the prices before a decision is made.

**Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid** – Tim had a copy of a letter from the Belknap County Commissioners to the Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid regarding their 2009 budget recommendation not to fund the Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid. The letter stated that in accordance with feedback, the Commission would restore the full department request for the year 2009, but that 2009 would be a transition year, and the last year that they would run the costs through county taxes.

**Tax Abatement** – Tim informed the Selectmen that there is a property on the Gilmanton/Belmont town line that has recently been deeded to Belmont. He said the previous owners had paid their portion of the tax for the property for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the year, but there was a balance of 7.56 due after the transfer of the deed. He asked if we should just abate the \$7.56, Town of Belmont's share of the tax, because municipalities are nontaxable. The Selectmen agreed to abate the tax.

**Budget** – Tim reviewed the Capital and Non-Capital Reserve and Capital Outlay Accounts for 2009 with the Selectmen. During review of the accounts, new accounts were added as follows: A new capital outlay account was added for Assessing Update. A new capital reserve account was added for Repairs to the Old Town Hall, and a new non-capital reserve account was added for Academy Building Maintenance.

**Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Budget** – Deb Cornett presented the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's budget to the Selectmen. Deb kept her budget in line with the request to level fund budgets for 2009. This did not include a COLA increase for employees. There was discussion as to whether this increase was to have been included in the level funding, which would mean taking the money from other budget items. The Selectmen will



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decide whether the increase should be incorporated into department budgets, or if they will be an addition to the budget.

**Level Funding Budget** - The Selectmen briefly discussed whether the department budgets should include the COLA increase, or if it should be added on after. It was decided, for the time being, that the department heads should level fund their operational budget, and they would decide on the COLA later.

**Evaluation Reviews** – The Selectmen reviewed and signed two personnel evaluation reviews.

### **10:05 p.m. - Enter into Non-Public Session as per RSA 91-A:3, II(e)**

Selectman Hatch moved to Enter into Non-Public Session as per RSA 91-A:3, II(e) - Discussion of pending or threatened (in writing) litigation against the Town or Town Officials, Board Members or Employees. Selectman Abbott seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The Selectmen discussed a legal issue.

### **10:07 p.m. – Out of Non-Public Session**

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

**Year-Round Library Warrant Article** – The Selectmen discussed the Year-Round Library Committee's request for the Selectmen to support a warrant article for \$75,000 for operating expenses for the library for 2009. The Selectmen decided that they could not ask department heads to level fund their budgets for 2009, and then support an article that would add \$75,000 to the budget. They agreed that the Committee would have to submit a petition article to have a warrant article for Town Meeting.

**Lighting – Upstairs – Academy Building** – Selectman Abbott said that in a conversation she had with Robbie Roberts, Robbie had told her that she had read in the Selectmen's minutes that they were considering sconces that reflect the light down from the ceiling for upstairs in the Academy Building. She said Robbie told her that years ago Will Dockham of Giguere Electric had said he had inspected the dropped school house lights, and there is some "gizmo" that could be inserted in them that would allow you to use brighter light bulbs. Selectman Abbott added that Robbie said Mr. Dockham had presented that idea to the Selectmen years ago, but the Selectmen were not interested in spending the money to have it done. Selectman Abbott said she was very interested, and she had called Mr. Dockham and talked to him about it. Mr. Dockham told her that was years ago, and he wasn't sure it was possible to get them any more, but asked if Betty Ann would like him to investigate to see if it is still possible. Betty Ann said she had told him to go ahead.

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**Energy Commission** – Tim informed the Selectmen that members of the Energy Committee and Assessor George Hildum would be in attendance at the meeting next week to discuss the Energy Committee's warrant article and George would also give them an update on the Town revaluation.

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

**MOTION – Selectman Abbott moved to accept the minutes of November 24, 2008 as amended.**

**10:20 p.m. – MOTION – Selectman Abbott moved to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Hatch seconded. Motion passed 3-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Dionne  
Recording Clerk