

APPROVED

Board of Selectmen Town of Gilmanton, New Hampshire

Meeting
May 2, 2016,
5:30 pm. – Gilmanton Academy

Present: Chairman Michael Jean, Selectman Steve McWhinnie, Selectman Marshall Bishop, Town Administrator Paul Branscombe, Heidi Jackson-Rhine, and Recording Secretary Heather Carpenter.

Also present please see attached sign in sheet.

5:30 pm Chairman Jean opened the meeting, took attendance of those present and voting (Selectman McWhinnie, Chairman Jean and Selectman Bishop) and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

Property issue

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

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

Property issue

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

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

Property issue

The meeting room was closed to the public. Present during the Non-Public Session were Chairman Jean, Selectman McWhinnie, Selectman Bishop. Town Administrator Paul Branscombe, Heidi Jackson-Rhine, Town Clerk/Tax Collector- Debra Cornett, Recording Secretary- Heather Carpenter.

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

MOTION: On a Motion by Selectman McWhinnie and seconded by Selectman Bishop it was voted unanimously to seal the non-public minutes.(3-0 Voice Vote – Chairman Jean-yes, Selectman McWhinnie -yes, Selectman Bishop – yes).

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

6:56 p.m.-Public Comment

Mr. Brett Currier started out the public comment portion of the meeting with clarification and concerns about an article in the Laconia Citizen and statements made by Mr. Branscombe. He further explains his belief as to the true nature of tax rate in the Town of Gilmanton and why it went up so drastically. He reiterates the statement he made that can be clearly heard on the audio from April 25th Board of Selectman meeting and he speaks to the issue he has with the information in the Town Report on page 30 and that he believes that there is incorrect information being given to people.

Mr. Don Guarino- He feels that the public comment portion of the Board of Selectman meeting should be kept at 7:00 p.m. so that the public has a chance to make it to the meeting. He believes the public would have an issue with a time change to public comment because in the past the time change had been a problem.

Mrs. Brenda Currier had concerns and is offended about what the Town Administrator had to say to The Citizen about her statements made at last week's Board of Selectmen meeting and she would like to know how it could be misconstrued as a "witch-hunt". She believes that she has valid points that had been made during that meeting.

Mrs. Currier reads from her prepared document to re-address her concerns from last week's meeting. Mrs. Currier would also appreciate an explanation of what Mr. Branscombe meant when he was quoted in the paper speaking about a "witch-hunt".

[Details of the document that Mrs. Currier read from are attached to minutes at the Selectmen's Office.]

Mrs. Sandi Guarino speaks to the fact that she is appalled about what she heard from her sister Stephanie Fogg in reference to the Town Administrator Paul Branscombe and this Board. She spoke about the conversation she had with her sister in reference to situations within the office and a conversation with Stephen McWhinnie where Stephanie tried to clear the air and separate herself from the views of her family. She believes that Stephanie is very sick because of the hostile work environment.

Chairman Jean asks if there are any other comments and closes the floor to public comment.

Approval of Minutes –

MOTION: On a Motion by Selectman McWhinnie, and seconded by Selectman Bishop it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of 04-25-16, 04-18-16 and 04-04-16. (3-0 Voice Vote – Chairman Jean-yes, Selectman McWhinnie-yes, Selectman Bishop– yes).

April 25, 2016 Minutes- approved

April 18, 2016 Minutes- re-approved due to amendment

April 4, 2016 Minutes- re-approved due to amendment

Signature File

Chief Currier speaks to the items discussed in a Non-public session that should have been spoken about in a Public Session. The items discussed were as follows; reading of PT failure seemed like it had been done for an embarrassment factor, his medical status being discussed in public

and he didn't feel it was appropriate as public knowledge, discussion about Mr. Branscombe being a liaison between the Department Heads and the Board of Selectmen, discussion about the yearly review process for the Chief and if it would be done properly if the Town Administrator feels that the Chief makes too much money, clarification on purchase order policies, \$38,000 in the Police Department's budget and the speculation surrounding it, discussion on the new electrician and how it effects his budget, discussion of why the Police Department does not release cell phone numbers and schedules due to safety issues for the staff, detail rates- cost vs revenue, discussion on the "tricks" that Chief Collins played with the budget that had been played for years and a law unto themselves, discussion on the Fence for the rear of Police Department for trespassing issues.

Abatement Requests-

Map 406, Lots 51 and 52

Map 113, Lot 29

Map 414, Lot 14

Map 414, Lot 14- The Assessors recommendation is to approve abatement of \$34,600 for the assessed value for 2015, there is a deficit associated with the house.

MOTION: On a Motion by Selectman McWhinnie and seconded by Selectman Bishop it was voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation of approval for the abatement by the Assessor for Map 414, Lot 14 (3-0 Voice Vote – Chairman Jean-yes, Selectman McWhinnie -yes, Selectman Bishop – yes).

Map 113, Lot 29- The Assessors recommendation is to deny the abatement.

MOTION: On a Motion by Selectman McWhinnie and seconded by Selectman Bishop it was voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation of denial from the Assessor for Map 113, Lot 29 (3-0 Voice Vote – Chairman Jean-yes, Selectman McWhinnie -yes, Selectman Bishop – yes).

Map 406, Lots 51 and 52- The recommendation of denial for Lot 51 and the recommendation of approval for Lot 52 to abate at

MOTION: On a Motion by Selectman McWhinnie and seconded by Selectman Bishop it was voted unanimously to adopt the Assessors recommendations of denial for abatement of Map 406, Lot 51 and approve the abatement of \$18,600 for Map 406, Lot 52. (3-0 Voice Vote – Chairman Jean-yes, Selectman McWhinnie -yes, Selectman Bishop – yes).

Board/Commission appointments

Conservation Commission-

MOTION: On a Motion by Selectman McWhinnie and seconded by Selectman Bishop it was voted unanimously to re-appoint Susan Hale de- Seve to the Conservation Commission as an Alternate Member. (3-0 Voice Vote – Chairman Jean-yes, Selectman McWhinnie -yes, Selectman Bishop – yes).

Planning Board Commission-

MOTION: On a Motion by Selectman McWhinnie and seconded by Selectman Bishop it was voted unanimously to re-appoint John Weston to the Planning Board as a Regular Member. (3-0 Voice Vote – Chairman Jean-yes, Selectman McWhinnie -yes, Selectman Bishop – yes).

MOTION: On a Motion by Selectman McWhinnie and seconded by Selectman Bishop it was voted unanimously to re-appoint Roy Buttrick to the Planning Board.(3-0 Voice Vote – Chairman Jean-yes, Selectman McWhinnie -yes, Selectman Bishop – yes).
Chairman Jean speaks to the openings on the different community boards and Selectman Bishop states that his Bio-Solids Committee is full and he hopes to have meetings start in a week or two.

Old Business

Gilmanton Bridges- update on the Engineering Study from Town Administrator.
The Town Administrator speaks to the Engineering Study for the two bridges on Stage Road.
A work shop will be done with the Engineers, Selectmen and Department Heads for the Bridge project for input and information. This work shop will be open to the public and more information will be posted.

New Business

Discussion on the Public Participation policy at the Board of Selectmen meetings per Town Policy adopted in July 2013 and the fact there may be a few amendments to it but the Board of Selectmen would like the policy followed. Public is encouraged to reach out to the Selectmen by e-mail or in writing for comments.

Fire Department Forestry Truck- Discussion on the email from the Fire Chief about the Forestry Truck. The Forestry Truck is out of commission and it will cost between \$7,000-\$8,000 for repairs. Fire Department repairs so far are approximately \$17,000 out of a budget line of \$19,000. There is \$32,000 in the Fire department vehicle maintenance non-capital reserve account. The Fire Chief is requesting that the Board allow him to withdraw from the account for maintenance.

Chairman Jean would like the remainder of the regular budget line to be used and then take out the remainder of the amount from the non-capital reserve account only as needed.

There is a consensus by the Board of Selectmen for the repairs on the Forestry Truck.

Town Office opening on Tuesday- Resident Don Guarino

Mr. Guarino discussed the issue of the Town Academy building not being open on Tuesdays and how the Board of Selectmen that he served on had tried to re-structure the office and the purpose of different positions within the Selectmen's Office was to work towards opening on Tuesday's and he would like to know why it hasn't been done yet.

Chairman Jean spoke to the fact that every time there is effort to open the building on Tuesday's there is a list of concerns from the employees as to why it would not work best for the office. The Board of Selectmen are working on job descriptions, and looking at how everything runs. Chairman Jean would love to see the office open 5 days a week but it is something that is being worked on.

Select Board Items

Final payment was received from PLT in the amount of \$55,161.36. This completes the money owed by the insurance company for flood damage to the Academy Building.

Purchase Order from Police Department for fixing the toilet issues in the booking room. Quote from Don Morin and Associates.

MOTION: On a Motion by Selectman McWhinnie and seconded by Selectman Bishop it was voted unanimously to approve the Police Department purchase order of \$1,585.00. (3-0 Voice Vote – Chairman Jean-yes, Selectman McWhinnie -yes, Selectman Bishop – yes).

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

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

The meeting room was closed to the public. Present during the Non-Public Session were Chairman Jean, Selectman McWhinnie, Selectman Bishop. Town Administrator Paul Branscombe, Heidi Jackson-Rhine, Recording Secretary- Heather Carpenter and Chief Currier.

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

MOTION: On a Motion by Selectman McWhinnie and seconded by Selectman Bishop it was voted unanimously to seal the minutes of Non-Public Session. (3-0 Voice Vote – Chairman Jean-yes, Selectman McWhinnie -yes, Selectman Bishop – yes).

Motion made in public-

MOTION: On a Motion by Selectman McWhinnie, and seconded by Selectman Bishop it was voted unanimously for the Chief of Police to present an offer to hire the new Police Officer. (3-0 Voice Vote – Chairman Jean-yes, Selectman McWhinnie– yes, Selectman Bishop– yes).

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

MOTION: On a Motion by Selectman McWhinnie, and seconded by Selectman Bishop it was voted unanimously to go into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3, II (b). (3-0 Voice Vote – Chairman Jean-yes, Selectman McWhinnie– yes, Selectman Bishop– yes)
Police Department matter of compensation.

The meeting room was closed to the public. Present during the Non-Public Session were Chairman Jean, Selectman McWhinnie, Selectman Bishop. Town Administrator Paul Branscombe, Heidi Jackson-Rhine, Recording Secretary- Heather Carpenter and Chief Currier.

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

Motion made in public-

MOTION: On a Motion by Selectman McWhinnie, and seconded by Selectman Bishop it was voted unanimously to raise the rate of pay to twenty dollars per hour for the Police Department Administrative Assistant-Robin Bonan. (3-0 Voice Vote – Chairman Jean-yes, Selectman McWhinnie– yes, Selectman Bishop– yes).

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

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

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

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

MOTION: On a Motion by Selectman McWhinnie and seconded by Selectman Bishop it was voted unanimously to seal the minutes of Non-Public Session. (3-0 Voice Vote – Chairman Jean-yes, Selectman McWhinnie -yes, Selectman Bishop – yes).

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

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

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

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

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

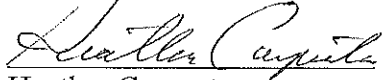
MOTION: On a Motion by Selectman McWhinnie and seconded by Selectman Bishop it was voted unanimously to recognize a Personnel Action Form acknowledging Heidi Jackson-Rhine as Assistant Town Administrator as previously discussed on April 4, 2016. (3-0 Voice Vote – Chairman Jean-yes, Selectman McWhinnie– yes, Selectman Bishop– yes).

Amendment to the motion just made:

MOTION: On a Motion by Selectman McWhinnie and seconded by Selectman Bishop it was voted unanimously to recognize a Personnel Action Form acknowledging Heidi Jackson-Rhine as Assistant Town Administrator as previously discussed. (3-0 Voice Vote – Chairman Jean-yes, Selectman McWhinnie– yes, Selectman Bishop– yes).

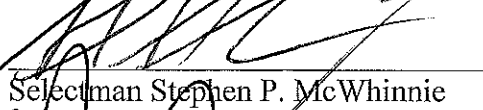

Adjournment: On a Motion by Selectman McWhinnie and seconded by Selectman Bishop it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:51 p.m. (3-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

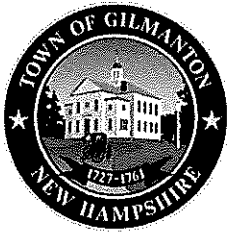


Heather Carpenter
Recording Secretary

Approved by the Board of Selectmen


Chairman Michael J. Jean
Selectman Stephen P. McWhinnie
Selectman Marshall E. Bishop

{Detailed audio for this meeting is available at the Selectmen's office.}



Board of Selectmen
 Town of Gilmanton, New Hampshire
 503 Province Road
 PO BOX 550
 Gilmanton, New Hampshire 03237

Attendance Signature Sheet

Time & Date:

May 2, 2016 5:30pm

Signature

Print name

Time & Date

Glenn S. Bates	Glenn S. Bates	5:30 May 2, 2016
Brett Currier	Brett Currier	6:47 May 2, 2016
Richard Rakus	RICHARD RAKUS	" "
Roland A. Hueber	ROLAND A. HUEBER	6:48 MAY 2, 2016
Don Corlino	Don Corlino	6:50 May 2, 2016
Jane Sisti	Jane Sisti	6:50 May 2, 2016
Ralph Lagan	Ralph Lagan	6:50 May 2, 2016
Tom M'Whinn	Tom M'Whinn	6:50 May 2, 2016
Nicole Spring	Nicole Spring	6:50pm May 2, 2016
Nancy MacArthur	Nancy MacArthur	6:50pm 5-2-2016
Leonard Swanson	Leonard Swanson	6:50 PM 5-2-2016
Glenn Lines	GLENN LINES	6:50 PM 5/2/2016
Jim Clark	Jim Clark - The Citizen	6:50 p.m. 5/2/16
Brenda Currier	Brenda Currier	6:54pm 5/2/16
Daryl B. Hatt	DARYL B HATT	6:55pm 5-2-16
Sendi Currier	Sendi Currier	6:56pm 5-2-16
Mott Currier	Mott Currier	6:56pm
Mike Millette	Mike Millette	6:59

I read the Citizen article regarding last week's meeting. I would like to ask Mr. Branscombe what he meant by a "witch hunt" in reference to my comments last week.

I hope you've all had a chance to listen to yourselves on the audio tape of April 4th. I'm sure by now you all wish you hadn't been caught saying such inflammatory things, but you can't just "un-say them".

Steve, you can't un-say that you wanted to start with a clean slate, then YOU brought forward a motion to cut Stephanie Fogg to part time. You can't just take someone's job away without just cause just because you are grudging against her family.

Marshall you can't un-say that you were trying to protect Stephanie from being put in a compromising position because of who her relatives happen to be and insinuating that you couldn't talk in front of her because her brother-in-law is Don Guarino. By trying to "protect her" (your words) you chose to follow through with Steve McWhinnie's motion to start with a clean slate, thus taking away Stephanie's full time position and benefits. How in the world does that "protect her".

Michael, you can't un-say that Annette is making mistakes and she is over paid, nor can you talk like this about any employees in a public meeting. Mike, you also can't deny that you said a contractor, Mr. McBride, did something illegal. He's a private citizen and what you said could be damaging to his reputation and livelihood. In the newspaper you were quoted as saying, at this time you are "inactive" with the Fire Department. However, you are still on their roster so the increase in pay you that you were campaigning for will actually benefit you. I cannot tell you how inappropriate it is for a Selectman to do that – it's a huge conflict of interest.

Mr. Branscombe, you can't un-say that the former Police Chief, who is still a current employee of this Town, was playing tricks with the Police Department's money. Again, saying something like that insinuates Joe Collins was misusing department funds. Comments like those could be considered slanderous to his good reputation.

All of the above mentioned things were talked about by me in last week's meeting and can be heard on the April 4th audio tape. It wasn't a Witch Hunt as Mr. Branscombe is quoted as saying. It was actually based on words coming out of the mouths of these three Selectmen and Paul Branscombe. So please Mr. Branscombe, I would appreciate an explanation of what you meant by a Witch Hunt?

Unfortunately for this Board and Mr. Branscombe, YOU CAN'T UN-RING THE BELL. What's done is done and this is only just the beginning of the fallout from your actions.

During the April 4th meeting Steve McWhinnie can be heard adamantly attempting to get the Board to approve a 10% reduction to all town budgets. I can only assume Steve has carefully scrutinized every line of the budget and is prepared to make recommendations as to how each department can make a 10% cut. To repeatedly be heard trying to press this issue during your April 4th meeting he must have some solid ideas. I would ask that Steve provide to the public at your next scheduled meeting a copy of his budget cut findings. I'm sure the Budget Committee would welcome those suggestions as how to save 10% across the Board.

Please consider this document my written request for Selectman McWhinnie to provide us with a copy of his recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda Currier". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Brenda Currier