



APPROVED

## Board of Selectmen Town of Gilmanton, New Hampshire

Meeting

January 21, 2014

**7:00 pm.** – Gilmanton Academy

Present: Chairman Ralph Lavin, Selectmen Brett Currier and Donald Guarino, Town Administrator Arthur Capello, Administrative Assistant Stephanie Fogg. Also present were George Roberts and Margaret Roberts.

**7:00 pm** Chairman Lavin opened the meeting, took attendance of those present and voting and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Petition to Reclassify Governor's Road -**

The petition before the Board is to make Governor's Road a Class V Road. At the request of Selectman Guarino, Arthur Capello contacted Walter Mitchell, Town Counsel. This requires a Public Road Hearing which includes notifying abutters to the property on the same road. The reply by Walter Mitchell was given to the Selectmen and to George Roberts. Arthur Capello said that the petitioner will need to get us the information needed for the Public Hearing.

Mr. Roberts said he was unaware of the change in procedure until the beginning of this meeting and it is difficult to follow which decisions should come first. You are unable to build on a Class VI Road and unable to build on a Class V Road unless it is paved. To make a Class V Road, the Selectmen have to lay out the road, given their consideration whether it is with pavement or without pavement. We respectfully request the Planning Board not to take consideration of this until we have an opportunity to petition the appropriate ways of the law. I will be asking the Planning Board not to make a decision subject to the proposal of what we have now before the Selectmen make a decision.

Selectman Currier said just one correction, you can build on a Class V Road if it is dirt, you cannot subdivide on a Class VI, or build on one. If there is an existing Class V Road you can build. Selectmen Currier said he has no problem with asking the Planning Board to hold off.

Mr. Roberts said he was not sure of how to communicate that. Arthur Capello said you would contact Desiree Tumas (Planning Board Administrator) in writing to ask for a continuance. Arthur said he would like to apologize for this being last minute, but he just received the information back minutes before the meeting. Arthur Capello said as soon as you (Mr. Roberts) return the information that the lawyer lays out we will get a public hearing date set.

**Policies-****Payroll Policy and Standardized Time Sheet –**

This Policy will require each individual to fill out their own time sheet. He also set up a standardized time sheet, because there are currently different time sheets for each department.

**MOTION:** On a Motion by Selectman Guarino, and seconded by Selectman Currier it was voted unanimously to approve the new payroll policy and standardized time sheet as amended at 7:14 pm (3-0).

**Road Conditions:** Arthur Capello said he received a complaint about the conditions of the roads. The complaint was that there was no salt or sand down on Sargent Road, the vehicle spun around, landed in the stream, flipped over causing damage to the vehicle and created a situation where the vehicle had to be towed. The request was for the Town to pay for her towing bills.

The Selectmen discussed how difficult it is to keep sand/salt on dirt roads with ice and rain and responded that the roads were being treated. Arthur Capello will send a letter stating that regretfully the Selectmen are unable to grant the request.

**Update on Warrant Articles:** Arthur Capello said that the Board has to make a recommendation on all “money” Warrant Articles.

The Gilmanton Year Round Library is supported by the Budget Committee. The Fire Works for Parks and Recreation, the Budget Committee did not support.

Chairman Lavin said that he recalls that the Board was not in support of the Gilmanton Year Round Library, so he voted that way.

**MOTION:** On a Motion by Selectman Currier, and seconded by Selectman Guarino it was voted unanimously not to recommend the Warrant Article for the Gilmanton Year Round Library at 7:16 pm (3-0).

**MOTION:** On a Motion by Selectman Currier, and seconded by Selectman Guarino it was voted unanimously not to recommend the Warrant Article for the Labor Day Fire Works for Parks and Recreation at 7:18 pm (3-0).

**Update on Budget:** Arthur Capello gave an update on the Public Hearing and Super Saturday. The Budget Committee made one cut, they reduced the Welfare Assistance Line by \$5,000, because we have a \$59,000 Capital Reserve Fund that can be accessed if needed.

**MOTION:** On a Motion by Selectman Guarino, and seconded by Selectman Currier for discussion to support the Budget Committee’s Budget going forward 7:20 pm (3-0).

The Selectmen discussed the Budget information regarding the Welfare line.

Chairman Lavin said there was some discussion regarding the Fire Truck Warrant Article. There is support to acquire a new truck, but they think they would like Chief Hempel to consider

1 looking for a different vehicle. As there are a number of people on the Budget Committee  
2 experienced in heavy equipment and heavy trucks, they felt the truck that was chosen was not the  
3 best for the Town.

4  
5 Motion continued.....

6 **MOTION:** On a Motion by Selectman Guarino, and seconded by Selectman Currier it was  
7 voted unanimously to support the Budget Committee's Budget going forward (3-0).

8  
9 Arthur Capello said the discussion regarding the Fire Truck was not about the need for the truck,  
10 but whether to purchase a "Cadillac" or a conventional truck. The conventional truck would be  
11 better suited to our Town and dirt roads.

12  
13 Selectman Currier stated that the consensus of some of the Budget Committee members was that  
14 they think there could be about \$100,000 savings in a truck that would be better suited for this  
15 Town. The Budget Committee should recommend this to the Fire Chief themselves. Selectmen  
16 Guarino said that they are really experienced truck people looking at the truck suggesting that the  
17 specifications are not necessarily right for the Town of Gilmanton. They are looking at a  
18 conventional cab, not a custom vehicle, they can get parts more readily, and handle great on the  
19 dirt roads.

20  
21 Arthur Capello said there is credence to the idea of having a conventional vehicle for parts  
22 availability, as the Ambulance currently has a wait time to repair because of the wait on parts.  
23 Chairman Lavin said it was a very convincing argument by the Budget Committee members.  
24 Chairman Lavin said the Budget Committee needs to speak to the Fire Chief regarding this  
25 vehicle. Arthur Capello will call Budget Committee Chair Brian Forst regarding  
26 recommendations for a conventional fire truck.

27  
28 **Town Report Cover-** The Selectmen discussed the cover of the Town Report. Selectman  
29 Guarino asked to have John Dickey, Chairman of the Historical Society, to submit historic  
30 pictures for the cover and the Selectmen's review.

31  
32 **Printing of the Town Report:**

33  
34 **MOTION:** On a Motion by Selectman Guarino, and seconded by Selectman Currier it was  
35 voted unanimously to accept the low bid for printing the 2013 Gilmanton Town Report by The  
36 Country Press, Middleboro, MA at 7:38 pm (3-0).

37  
38 The bid for printing the report was sent out to 11 companies, six submitted a bid. The Country  
39 Press printed the 2012 Town Report.

40  
41  
42 **7:45 pm Public-Input Open**

43  
44 **Town Administrator's Report –**

45  
46 **Minutes -** Arthur Capello would like to unseal the sealed minutes of January 3, 2014.  
47 Selectman Guarino said we were discussing a personnel issue. Arthur said there is no reason at

1 this point to keep them sealed and it will help the public make an informed decision when it  
2 comes time to vote.

3  
4 Selectman Currier said when we discuss personnel, we seal minutes to protect the employee.  
5 People have requested these minutes. Arthur Capello said Chief Hempel has requested them  
6 also.

7  
8 Chairman Lavin requested a copy of the unsealed minutes, when they are available.  
9

10 **MOTION:** On a Motion by Selectman Guarino, and seconded by Selectmen Currier it was  
11 voted unanimously to unseal the Board of Selectmen's Non-Public Minutes for January 3, 2014  
12 at 8:00 pm. (3-0)  
13

14 **Warrant Article** – Arthur Capello said this is an informational only Warrant. Decisions will  
15 need to be made sooner than later.  
16

17 Selectman Currier said if the Town's people decide to vote in a majority for the Warrant Article  
18 then we need to go with what the majority vote says. However, I think there is a better approach  
19 to fill those hours. The Fire Department is currently looking to hire a full-time firefighter/EMT.  
20 My belief is that the Selectmen have been hammered with micro-management. If we go with 208  
21 hours it will be more cost effective if we do not hire a full time employee. We are being told that  
22 the reason people are leaving the Gilmanton Fire Department is that the Selectmen are micro-  
23 managing, that is the biggest fairytale I have ever heard. We do not have any say about full-time  
24 people in that Department. Some of the reasons they leave is because they can work 2/24 hour  
25 shifts/week, the are more calls, and there is room for advancement in a bigger Town. I don't  
26 blame them for leaving.  
27

28 As Selectmen, we are here to look at the tax dollars and make a reasonable decision. I know  
29 what the vote was in 2004, it hasn't changed, the shift should be covered by full-time  
30 firefighters. If the vote is for the Warrant Article, a better way financially to fill those shifts  
31 would be for two part-time positions.  
32

33 The money difference comes from the full-time firefighter that just left was at \$77,190.00  
34 without any overtime. If we hired two part-time personnel so they could work a Saturday and a  
35 Sunday, or whatever two days, the cost of those two men would be \$45,579.00, no overtime  
36 would be available. That is a \$31, 611.00 savings to the tax payers of Gilmanton. You do not  
37 have to worry about them leaving for a better offer.  
38

39 If the Warrant Article passes, in order to get the 208 hours and still have savings to the Town  
40 would be to hire two part-time employees.  
41

42 Arthur will set up a meeting with Chief Hempel to discuss this proposal.  
43

44 Selectman Currier said we need to set a policy regarding part-time hires.  
45

46 Chairman Lavin closed **Public-Input**.  
47  
48

1  
2  
3 8:16 pm **Super Saturday for School** - Chairman Lavin reported that he is concerned about a  
4 few items in the default budget for the school. Arthur Capello said there seems to be wage  
5 increases in the default budget without contractual agreement.  
6

7 Chairman Lavin said there may also be a significant conflict of ethical interest within the  
8 contractual agreements looking at Gilmanton and Barnstead School Budgets. Chairman Lavin  
9 brought this before the Board, it was discussed. The Board of Selectman agreed it should be  
10 presented at the School Super Saturday Budget Meeting and Chairman Lavin would represent  
11 the Board with their position.  
12

13 **Dump Stickers-** Selectmen Currier said that people have been disappointed with the  
14 requirements to pick up a dump sticker, ie. Drivers license, map and lot number of property etc.  
15 Arthur will speak with Debra Cornett about the requirements.  
16

17 **Fire Truck** - Selectman Guarino said that John Funk brought forward a great idea on bonding a  
18 big purchase like the Fire Truck. If the Town does not receive a grant for the Fire Truck, the  
19 Town could bond the truck,(and try to include the \$190,000 down payment as well) Also make  
20 certain that there would be no penalty for paying it off.  
21

22 **Highway Department** – Selectman Currier said he heard there are maintenance issues with one  
23 of the Town Trucks, he believes the 6 Wheeler. Arthur Capello will contact Paul Perkins, Road  
24 Agent to find out about it.  
25  
26  
27

#### 28 **Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

29

30 **MOTION:** On a Motion by Selectman Guarino, and seconded by Selectmen Currier it was  
31 voted unanimously to approve the minutes of January 3, 2014 at 8:45 pm (3-0)  
32

33 **MOTION:** On a Motion by Selectman Guarino, and seconded by Selectmen Currier it was  
34 voted unanimously to approve the minutes of January 6, 2014 as amended at 8:49 pm (3-0)  
35  
36  
37

#### 38 **Adjournment:**

39 On a Motion by Selectmen Guarino, seconded by Selectman Currier it was voted unanimously to  
40 adjourn at 8:50 pm (3-0)  
41  
42

43 Respectfully Submitted,  
44  
45  
46

47 \_\_\_\_\_  
48 Stephanie S. Fogg  
Administrative Assistant

**Approved by the Board of Selectmen**

---

Chairman Ralph L. Lavin

---

Selectman Brett A. Currier

---

Selectman Donald J. Guarino