

Town of Gilmanton Town Meeting Minutes March 15, 2008

To the inhabitants of the Town of Gilmanton in the county of Belknap in said state, qualified to vote in Town Affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Gilmanton Academy in said Gilmanton on Tuesday, the Eleventh day of March 2008, next at 7:00 of the clock in the forenoon, to act upon the following subjects:

ARTICLE #1: To choose all necessary Town Officers for the year ensuing. Polls are open from 7a.m. to 7p.m. (*See Results of Annual Town Election*)

ARTICLE #2: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #1 as proposed by the Gilmanton Planning Board for the town Zoning Ordinance as follows? To amend Zoning Ordinance Article VII, "Non-Conforming Uses, Lots and Structures" by clarifying provisions relating to (i) the increase or enlargement of a non-conforming use or structure; (ii) the repair, rebuilding or replacement of a non-conforming structure that is destroyed by fire or rendered unusable by an act of nature, and; (iii) the building of structures on non-conforming lots. (The Planning Board recommends adoption of this amendment.)

Yes – 222* No – 115 Article #2 Passes.

Action will be taken on the remaining articles at the Business Meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 15, 2008 at the Gilmanton School, 1386 NH Route 140.

Prior to the start of Town Meeting, the oath of office was administered to Marion McIntyre, Cemetery Trustee; Paul Levesque, Trustee of the Trust Fund; Mark Sisti, Moderator for Town and School and Debra Cornett, Town Clerk/Tax Collector.

Moderator Sisti called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. The body was asked to stand by Mr. Sisti and asked our outgoing Selectman, Brian Forst, to lead the body in the Pledge of Allegiance. It was asked that all remain standing for a moment of silence to remember those who have passed in the last year.

The first order of business was the swearing to the Oath of Office by the newly elected officers. Present were: Thomas Farley and Brian Forst, Budget Committee; Elizabeth Abbott, Selectman 3yr; Rachel Frechette Hatch, Selectman 2yr.; Nancy Stearns, Supervisor of the Checklist; Harold McArdle, Town Treasurer; John Dickey, Trustee of the Trust Funds; Renee Kordas and Michael Hatch, School Board.

Moderator Sisti stated that the rules would be to make any amendments one at a time. Amendments would be moved, seconded and then moved up or down one at a time. There will be no mixed or multiple amendments at once so that it remains clear what is being voted on.

ARTICLE #3: To see if the municipality will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Million Forty Five Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Six Dollars and Ninety Four Cents (\$3,045,226.94) for the support of Town Government and for the payment of statutory obligations of the Town for the 2008 fiscal year, as stated below, exclusive of all other warrant articles. (Budget Committee recommends \$3,045,226.94; Selectmen recommends \$3,045,226.94)

<u>BUDGET COMMITTEE</u>		<u>SELECTMEN</u>
Selectmen	\$ 892,598.94	\$ 892,598.94
Police Dept.	470,297.00	470,297.00
Fire Dept.	477,586.00	477,586.00
Highway Dept.	909,467.00	909,467.00
Solid Waste	240,054.00	240,054.00
Building Dept.	<u>55,224.00</u>	<u>55,224.00</u>
TOTAL	\$3,045,226.94	\$3,045,226.94

Stan Bean **moved** (\$3,045,226.94) Article #3; **seconded** by Elena Ball.

Being there were no questions or discussion, the Moderator called the article to a vote.

ARTICLE #3 PASSES AS MOVED (\$3,045.226.94) BY VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE #4: To see if the Town will vote to establish a New Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund and to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) to be deposited in such fund. And to appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend from that fund. (Budget Committee does not recommend; Selectmen recommends \$20,000.00).

Brian Forst **moved** (\$20,000) Article #4; **seconded** by Elena Ball.

Article #4: Voice vote too close to call; Moderator calls for hand count.

Hand Count: Yes – 71* No – 37

ARTICLE #4 PASSES AS MOVED (\$20,000) BY HAND COUNT.

ARTICLE #5: To see if the Town will vote to establish a New Non-Capital Reserve Fire Dept. Plant Maintenance Fund and to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00) to be deposited in such fund. And to appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend from that fund. (Budget Committee recommends \$3,000.00; Selectmen recommends \$3,000.00).

Stan Bean **moved** (\$3,000) Article #5; **seconded** by Michael Hatch.

ARTICLE #5 PASSES AS MOVED (\$3,000) BY VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE #6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Sixty Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Four Dollars (\$360,354.00) to be deposited in the following Capital Reserve Accounts. (Budget Committee recommends \$460,354.00; Selectmen recommends \$360,354.00).

	<u>BUDGET COMMITTEE</u>	<u>SELECTMEN</u>
Cap. Res. Bridges	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Cap Res. Amb. Replacement	26,667.00	26,667.00
Cap. Res. Replace Forestry 1	4,167.00	4,167.00
Cap. Res. Reval/Assessing Update	24,000.00	24,000.00

Cap. Res. Fire Eng Rep	72,570.00	72,570.00
Cap. Res. Hwy Salt/Sand Shed	000.00	50,000.00
Cap. Res. Town Septic Systems	2,000.00	2,000.00
Cap. Res. Town Parking Lots/Drive	2,750.00	2,750.00
Cap. Res. Town Roofs	4,000.00	4,000.00
Cap. Res. Salt/Sand Covers	1,000.00	1,000.00
Cap. Res. Hwy Equipment	60,833.00	60,833.00
Cap. Res. Recycling Equip.	5,867.00	5,867.00
Cap. Res. Fire Command Vehicle	4,000.00	4,000.00
Cap. Res. Public Safety Bldg. Const.	<u>250,000.00</u>	<u>100,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$460,354.00	\$360,354.00

Brian Forst **moved** (\$360,354) Article #6; **seconded** by Michael Hatch.

Amendment #1: Stan Bean made a **motion to amend** Article #6 to increase the Cap. Res. Public Safety Bldg. Const. by \$100,000 to the Budget Committee's recommendation of \$460,354; **seconded** by Cindy Houghton.

Discussion by the body ensued. John Funk spoke to the pros and cons of Capital Reserve vs. Municipal Bonds. Thomas Scribner, Elena Ball, Joe Hempel III spoke in favor of Capital Reserve over Bonding.

The Moderator called the motion to amend to increase the Cap. Res. Public Safety Bldg. Const. by \$100,000 to a vote.

AMENDMENT #1 FAILED BY VOICE VOTE.

Amendment #2: Stephen Goddard made a **motion to amend** Article #6 to eliminate \$50,000 from the Cap. Res. Hwy Salt/Sand Shed to \$0 and add \$50,000 to the Cap. Res. Public Safety Bldg. Const. to keep the bottom line of \$360,354; **seconded** by Cindy Houghton.

AMENDMENT #2 FAILED BY VOICE VOTE.

Amendment #3: Steven Latici made a **motion to amend** Article #6 to reduce the Cap. Res. Hwy Salt/Sand Shed to \$0 and to decrease the bottom line amount to \$310,354; **seconded** by Frank Bosiak.

AMENDMENT #3 PASSES BY VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE #6 PASSES AS AMENDED *to reduce the amount of the Cap. Res. Hwy Salt/Sand Shed to \$0 and to reduce the total bottom line to \$310,354* BY VOICE VOTE.

Moderator Sisti called for a 30 minute break at 11:15 a.m. The Meeting is to be called to order at 11:45.

Moderator Sisti called the Meeting to order at 11:45 a.m.

ARTICLE #7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighty Four Thousand Dollars (\$84,000.00) to be deposited into the following Non-Capital Reserve Accounts. (Budget Committee recommends \$84,000.00; Selectmen recommends \$84,000.00).

	<u>BUDGET COMMITTEE</u>	<u>SELECTMEN</u>
Non-Cap. Res. Office Equip.	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Non-Cap. Res. Insurance Deductible	1,000.00	1,000.00
Non-Cap. Res. Title/Survey Fees	3,000.00	3,000.00
Non-Cap Res. Court Cases	25,000.00	25,000.00
Non-Cap. Res. Hydrants	2,500.00	2,500.00
Non-Cap. Res. Welfare/Gen'l Aide	<u>50,000.00</u>	<u>50,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 84,000.00	\$ 84,000.00

Rachel Frechette Hatch **moved** (\$84,000) Article #7; **seconded** by Stan Bean.

ARTICLE #7 PASSES AS MOVED (\$84,000) BY VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE #8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Eight Hundred Twelve Dollars and Eight Cents (\$15,812.08) for the purpose of purchasing two new stretchers and two new stair chairs for the Town's two ambulances. This new equipment is rated for higher weight capacities. (Budget Committee does not recommend; Selectmen recommends \$15,812.08).

Elena Ball **moved** (\$15,812.08) Article #8; **seconded** by Joe Hempel.

Laurie Sanborn **moved to amend** to reduce the amount to \$7,906.04; **seconded** by Judith Williams.

AMENDMENT FAILS BY VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE #8 PASSES AS MOVED (\$15,812.08) BY VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE #9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00) for Highway Safety Grants listed below. These grants are for salaries for the following details and will be reimbursed at 100% from the State of New Hampshire. These Funds will not be expended unless the funds are received. (Budget Committee recommends \$3,000.00; Selectmen recommends \$3,000.00).

Speed Detail	\$1,500.00
DWI Detail	<u>1,500.00</u>
TOTAL	\$3,000.00

Stan Bean **moved** (\$3,000) Article #9; **seconded** by Frank Bosiak.

ARTICLE #9 PASSES (\$3,000) BY VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE #10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$2,250.00) for OHRV Enforcement Grant. These grants are for salaries for officers doing OHRV enforcement and will be reimbursed at 100% from the State of New Hampshire. These funds will not be expended unless funds are received. (Budget Committee recommends \$2,250.00; Selectmen recommends \$2,250.00).

Frank Bosiak **moved** (\$2,250) Article #10; **seconded** by Brian Forst.

ARTICLE #10 PASSES (\$2,250) BY VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE #11: To see if the Town will vote to change the purpose of the existing Landfill Closure Capital Reserve to the Recycling/Transfer Facility Improvement Capital Reserve fund. And to appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend from that fund. **2/3 votes required.**

The Moderator addresses the body calling Article #11 to a hand count being that it must pass by a 2/3 majority.

Stan Bean **moved** Article #11; **seconded** by Frank Bosiak

Being that the hand count was a unanimous count in the affirmative, Moderator Sisti stated that it was an obvious 2/3 majority passage.

ARTICLE #11 PASSES BY A UNANIMOUS HAND COUNT.

ARTICLE #12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00) for the preparation and paving of the Recycling/Transfer Facility with said funds to come from the Recycling/Transfer Facility Improvement Capital Reserve Fund. (Budget Committee recommends \$40,000.00; Selectmen recommends \$40,000.00).

Frank Bosiak **moved** (\$40,000) Article #12; **seconded** by Elena Ball.

ARTICLE #12 PASSES (\$40,000) BY VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE #13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) for the replacement of the septic system at the Old Town Hall. (Budget Committee recommends \$20,000.00; Selectmen recommends \$20,000.00).

Steven Latici asks the Moderator to go to Art #14 first to see if it passes for the Feasibility Study. Moderator Sisti asks the body if there were any objections to addressing Article #14 first, there being an objection by Thomas Scribner, the Moderator asks for a motion on article 13.

Michael Hatch **moved** (\$20,000) Article #13; **seconded** by Stan Bean.

It was established that the current septic is currently in failure and in need of immediate attention.

ARTICLE #13 PASSES (\$20,000) BY VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE #14: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) for a feasibility study on renovating the Old Town Hall into office space for the Police Dept. (Budget Committee recommends \$20,000.00; Selectmen recommends \$20,000.00).

Michael Hatch **moved** (\$20,000) Article #13; **seconded** by Frank Bosiak.

Thomas Scribner **moves to amend** Article #13 to read: *“To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 for a feasibility study for safety services buildings and sites, including as part of the works study at least two public hearings to be held; one at the Corners and one at the Iron Works on renovating the Old Town Hall into office space for the Police Department.”* The Moderator determined that the amendment cannot be allowed as it changes the purpose of the article. **No Second.** Back to original article.

ARTICLE #14 PASSES (\$20,000) BY VOICE VOTE.

Article #15: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) to fund milfoil treatment for lakes in Gilmanton. (Budget Committee does not recommend; Selectmen recommends \$2,500.00).

Frank Bosiak **moved** (\$2,500) Article #15; **seconded** by Israel Willard.

ARTICLE #15 PASSES (\$2,500) BY VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE #16: To see if the Town will vote to discontinue as a public road Lougee Road from Griffin Road for a distance of approximately Eight Hundred Seventy Seven (877') feet.

Michael Hatch **moved** Article #16; **seconded** by Richard De Seve.

Amendment: George Roberts **moves to amend** Article #16 to read: *“To see if the Town will vote to discontinue Lougee Road subject to gates and bars.”* **seconded** by Cindy Houghton.

Amendment: Voice Vote too close to call. Moderator Sisti calls for hand count.

Handcount: Yes – 59* No – 35

AMENDMENT PASSES BY HANDCOUNT.

Article #16 called to a vote, “To see if the Town will vote to discontinue Lougee Rd. subject to gates and bars.” As amended.

ARTICLE #16 PASSES AS AMENDED BY VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE #17: To see if the Town will vote to appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend funds from the Non Capital Reserve Police Dept. Overtime and the Non Capital Reserve Fire Dept. Call Pay. This wording was removed from the article when voted on in 2006, as it was not in the original language presented at the public hearing before that Town meeting. This is an administrative correction. (Budget Committee recommend; Selectmen recommend).

Frank Bosiak **moved** Article #17; **seconded** by Stan Bean.

ARTICLE #17 PASSES BY VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE #18: To see if the Town, pursuant to RSA 80:52-c, will authorize the Town's Treasurer or Town Clerk/Tax Collector to accept online electronic payment of local taxes, charges generated by the sale of utility services, or other fees, by the use of credit card; and further to authorize the Town to add to the amount due, in addition to any penalties and interest payable, a service charge to be charged to the user for the acceptance of the card.

Stan Bean **moved** Article #18; **seconded** by Cindy Houghton.

Brian Forst **moved to amend** to correct Article #18 by striking the word "online". The Moderator interjects calling this a "scrivener's error" and strikes the word "online". The body agrees.

ARTICLE #18 PASSES BY VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE #19: Submitted by Petition; To see if the Town will vote to instruct the Board of Selectmen to require any logging of Town Forest to be logged using hand cutting and horses instead of shears and skidders: in an effort to keep damage of Town Forests to a minimum and to continue to manage the Town Forests in an environmentally friendly fashion.

Israel Willard **moved** Article #19; **seconded** by Cindy Houghton

Amendment: Nanci Mitchell **moves to amend** Article #19 to strike the word "require" and replace with the word "consider"; **seconded** by Nancy Girard.

AMENDMENT PASSES BY VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE #19 PASSES AS AMENDED BY VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE #20: Submitted by Petition; We the undersigned, hereby petition the Town of Gilmanston, NH to accept Edwards Drive as a Town Road.

Frank Bosiak **moved** Article #20; **seconded** by Richard Bushnell.

ARTICLE #20 FAILS BY VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE #21: To hear the reports of any Committees chosen and pass any votes relative thereto.

Selectman Guarino asks the body to recognize Brian Forst's last year and the wonderful job he's done and to thank him for all his hard work and dedication in his time of service as Selectmen and presented him with a "...two headed nickel..." as a souvenir of his term. Mr. Forst received a standing ovation from the body. Brian thanks the body and states that it has been an honor to serve and wishes he had the time to commit more time. He stated that he is, "...stepping down and wishes the incoming board a lot of luck ... they will find a lot of days very challenging and if any of them need to borrow his nickel, he'll be happy to bring it up..."

Jane Sisti brings to the body's attention the Community Food Pantry located at the church in the Iron Works and expresses the dire need for food and monetary donations. She asked that if anyone knew of someone that was in need of assistance to contact herself or the Iron Works Church. Jane stated that the Pantry is open the second and fourth Saturday of each month. They are seeking the help of any volunteers in the community.

Brian Forst was asked by Virginia Stanley who could not be here today and wanted to make sure that we acknowledge Candace Daigle for all of her hard work and dedication concerning the Easement on Mary Butler Lane.

The Town Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra A. Cornett
Town Clerk/Tax Collector