

Gilsum Board of Selectmens Meeting
July 19, 2021 6:00pm
Board present Bart Cushing, Vicki Ayer and Clem Louder

6:02 pm Cushing calls meeting to order

7/12/21 Minutes-

Louder motions to approve minutes as amended

Cushing 2nds

vote Cushing-yes, Ayer-yes, Louder-yes

Motion passed

Checklist-

Ayer motions to approve 7/12/21 checklist

Cushing 2nds

vote Cushing-yes, Ayer-yes, Louder-yes

Motion passed

Invoices –

Cushing- Maguire Trucking invoice received for Hammond Hollow culvert rebuild and trucking

Louder- is this for the culverts discussed?

Maguire- no, put stones to rebuild culvert on Hammond Hollow

Ayer- We previously discussed that RSA 95-1 requires competitive bidding over \$200, is there a reason for Maguire Trucking invoice without using competitive bidding?

Louder- thought the law stated \$1000

Ayer- current law is \$200 per job, new bill is on the Governors desk for approval increasing to \$1000 annually.

Cushing- I just saw this invoice, Maguire can you tell us what the charges are for? Were these emergency jobs?

Maguire- not emergency jobs one was to pick up wood. Thought daily backhoe competitive prices were established with Cushing

Cushing- yes

Maguire- told to charge per day, assumed it was alright. If the board does not want to pay it say so.

Cushing- the boards not at that point, asking questions right now. Comments from board?

Ayer- Competitive bidding process is not calling around for prices it is...

Maguire tears up Maguire Trucking invoice

Dump Maintenance-

Maguire- The board can find someone else to rent equipment from and someone else to drive the truck to do the Dump project. Cushing and I gathered all the rates and made sure Maguire Trucking rate was lowest and you still dont want to accept it you can stick it up your ass.

Ayer- Its not that I am not accepting it, it needs to be done correctly, I am sorry you were misled

Maguire leaves meeting

Ayer- Would like record to reflect when Dump project began I asked why the Highway Dept was involved as we did not budget this project under highway and prior years it was intentionally a separate budget line. When Maguire Trucking wanted to bid the job I said RSA 95-1 requires competitive bidding when an official wants to bid on a job. Competitive bidding has its own set of rules, the board received confirmation of RSA 95-1 competitive bidding is required. The legislative body has not voted to place the dump maintenance under the Highway Dept duties. Now we are back to square one. The only thing I have ever advocated is that we follow the laws. Last week Cushing asked what my course of action would be if two selectmen voted the other way. My response was that I hope two selectmen would not vote to violate the laws. I stand by that today, I stood by that last week I am not going to vote to violate the laws, the board spent an hour last week discussing whether or not to follow the laws, neither of you have motioned to award Maguire Trucking the job

Cushing- Ayer I think what you did there was a bit course, could have explored that a different way than you reciting

the law again for us, I did come up with rates now its a moot point.

Ayer- thats were the confusion for Maguire happened, calling around for rates is not competitive bidding I am not saying it was intentional but it was misleading as that is not the competitive bidding process.

Cushing- the actions Ayer is following through on are not productive, I hope that Ayer can come up with an RFP because now we do not have someone to do the job and may lose the Road Agent

Ayer- We do not need an RFP we can simply hire someone, the only reason we needed one is because a public official wanted to bid

Louder- Ayer you potentially more than doubled the cost, Maguire left the meeting because of how Ayer presented herself. Hope we do not lose a Road Agent because of it.

Cushing- Ayer dont you take any responsibility for that

Ayer- for adhering to the law? So be it.

Cushing- Ayer how you presented that you take no responsibility for that?

Ayer- No I have presented 95-1 for so long, I advocate following the law, Maguire Trucking no longer wants to bid on the job then we simply rent equipt and get quotes. Is the Highway Dept not going to do the job now that Maguire Trucking is not bidding?

Cushing- Maguire is done with the whole thing.

Ayer- Now we are back to when the letter was received in 2019 to find someone for the job

Cushing- I hope you can find someone

Ayer- Its the boards job

Cushing- Its not my job

Ayer- you are a selectman

Cushing- my job is not to follow you, you are not the order giver

Ayer- we need to do the Dump job correct?

Cushing- Spoke with Zaperri, arranged tree removal, got quotes, made bid forms, now we dont have someone to do the job.

Ayer- you have done the leg work we can use the quotes you gathered.

Cushing- Doesn't matter we do not have an operator now.

Louder- The quotes were only equipment rental not a driver and you just sent him out the door.

Ayer- I did not send him out the door. This has never been under the Highway Dept duties

Monadnock Disposal Services-

Matt of MDS- rates have not increased since 2013. Currently \$1750 per month will increase to \$2000 per month with new contract, currently out of contract now. Miscellaneous disposal fees set by MDS, agreed by selectmen, fees for miscellaneous items will be adjusted beginning August 01, 2021. Brush Pile is Gilsums responsibility.

Dump sticker -discussions of pros and cons no action taken

Louder- would like to see contracts presented to the budget committee.

Matt will draft new contract for review and email Ayer new miscellaneous disposal fees to post on town website.

Dump project / Budget Committee-

Jason Ballou Budget Committee Chair- The Budget Committee cannot meet and comment mid year on an existing budgets. This project is not in the towns budget. How did the project come into the budget mid year?

Cushing- The new board is addressing a 2019 need for maintenance the prior boards did not act on.

Ballou- not certain how the board will fund the project, options are emergency funds through DRA or special town meeting that requires 50% of registered voters attend.

Cushing- are you familiar with the process of using trust fund left for town needs

Ayer- Marion Hall \$25,000 trust for general town needs, selectmen are named as agents.

Cushing- unspent funds at the end of year go into the general fund and cannot be used.

Louder- can be used by selectmen to lower tax rates.

Betsy Cushing- Can the budget committee put the funds in a high yielding account?

Ballou- No, only the legislative body can vote on use at town meeting.

Ayer- the general funds are invested by the treasurer according to an investment policy approved by the selectmen and are currently invested in checking & savings account

Cushing- we currently retain more funds than DRA recommends

Louder- DRA recommends 5% minimum 17% maximum retention

Ayer- At town meeting we were at approximately 17.83%. When the rate exceeds DRA recommendation the questions of over taxing begin. The board can insert a warrant article to use money from the general fund to pay for the dump project

Betsy Cushing- you can replenish trust funds used for project this year by a warrant article

Ballou- Cannot exceed the budget, can transfer funds between departments

Louder- cannot spend more than the legislative body voted on

Ayer- do you have suggestions for the board in regards to preparing the next budget

Ballou- should begin reviewing the budget by Nov 1st

Ayer- are there vacancies on the Committee?

Ballou- the school board representative position is the only vacancy.

Ayer- the school rep explained to me the school is presenting a bond warrant article which is 20 years, if the bond passes and Gilsum leaves the school district we are still responsible for the 20 years.

Discussions of Gilsum Community Center began, Cushing suggests discussing at future meeting

2019 Abatement Tax Map 407-139-

Avitar assessed at \$135,100 property owner estimates value at \$86,260.

Avitar & Cushing visited the property with a realtor on June 23, 2021

Cushing to call Avitar for updated recommendation.

No action taken

Treasurer Lombara- emailed Cushing a request to appoint Lenoir Law as deputy treasurer

Ayer- I would vote yes to appoint Law but do not believe we can appoint a non resident as deputy to an elected position.

Cushing- the position of appointed deputy treasurer is not an elected position.

Ayer- can we table this until next week and I will ask DRA for clarification.

Ayer will seek clarification

Bookkeeper Law-

Caitlin Crawford at MRI saved 2019 QB backup. Confirmed with Plodzik & Sanderson it was the file they requested. MRI is able to send file directly to P&S if needed Law will wait for board instruction.

Audit-

Ayer- P&S is beginning the forensic audit and asked if I am still lead person as they only want one person contacting them. I would like to confirm I am still lead person.

Louder- yes

Cushing- agree, keep board informed

Cushing read Letter from Betsy Cushing Clerk, Jane Wing Collector, Lenoir Law Selectmens Bookkeeper and Angy Lombara Treasurer-see attached

Tax Collector Conference October- \$698 Wing & Betsy would like to attend

Louder motions to approve expenditure

Cushing 2nds

vote Cushing-yes, Ayer-yes, Louder-yes

Motion passed

Town Clerk Conference September- \$698 Betsy & Wing would like to attend

Cushing motions to approve expenditure

Louder- how is it paid for?

Betsy- Budget has \$700

Louder- just want to keep an eye on the budget

Louder 2nds

vote Cushing-yes, Ayer-yes, Louder-yes

Motion passed

Tax Collector Lien-

Cushing- when will the board receive the taxes due list from you?

Wing- planning to run letters August 6. Lien deadline date is September30. Will deliver list to selectmen for vote of lien or not lien per property.

Timber / Excavation Tax-

Cushing- attach envelope to forms received so postmark date can be noted. Form is used to determine taxes due, selectmen approve and forward total taxes due to collector.

Wing- does assessing change anything?

Cushing- no, the form is filled out and handed to the collector

Ayer- is there anything that needs to be entered into assessing program so a warrant can be created for the collector?

Cushing- no it goes threw DRA with their forms and the collector sends the form to the individual.

Cushing read Ayers email to the board see attached.

Selectmens Assistant application- Ayer to ask applicant to attend a board meeting to discuss position.

Louder- should make list of proposed duties

Avitar- address need to be updated after sales. Plan 18011 and settlement agreement for map 409-13 (Ayer recused self as owner of property) to be forwarded for tax map corrections.

Howard Bridge- Cement is sinking and detaching from I beam.

Louder- should post it, will go look at it

Louder motions to adjourn

Cushing 2nds

Meeting adjourned 9:47 pm

Minutes submitted by Vicki Ayer

Minutes approved

Signature

Date

Bart Cushing

Vicki Ayer

Clem Louder