

**THE TOWN OF GILSUM**  
**Town Meeting Minutes & Election of Town Officials**  
**March 14, 2023**  
**March 17, 2023**

Moderator Dauphin opened the polls at the Gilsum Community Center at 1:00pm on Tuesday, March 14, 2023. For the purpose of electing Town Officers. The Monadnock School District Elections were held concurrently. There were not any Zoning Amendments this year. There were 26 Absentee Ballots cast. At 7:00pm Moderator David Dauphin announced the closing of the polls and at 7:00pm the counting of Ballots began and finished at 8:30pm.

1. To choose all the necessary Town Officers for the year ensuing.

People and Positions that declared their candidacy before the February 3rd deadline and won the ballot:

<b>Selectman</b>	<b>3 years</b>	<b>Sally Struble</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>1 year</b>	<b>Angela Lombara</b>
<b>Town Clerk</b>	<b>1 year</b>	<b>Debra Reilly</b>
<b>Budget Committee</b>	<b>3 years</b>	<b>Steve Ackerman</b>
<b>Library Trustee</b>	<b>3 Years</b>	<b>Thomas Hastings</b>

**Library Trustee                      3 Years                      Kathryn Karnecki**

**Library Trustee                      3 Years                      Bruce Murphy**

**People and Positions that won as write-in candidates on the ballot at Tuesday, March 14ths polls and accepted the positions:**

**Trustee of Trust Funds 3 years                      Emily Hall Warren  
(Won the vote but has not yet accepted the position)**

**“Are you in favor of changing the term of the Town Clerk from 1 to 3 years, beginning with the term of the Town Clerk to be elected at next year’s regular Town Meeting?” RSA 656:13 YES 56/NO 29**

**March 17, 2023 at 6:45 pm Debra Reilly who is an elected Town official was appointed to take the annual minutes of the Town Meeting by Moderator David Dauphin.**

**The business meeting was called to order in the Community Center at 7:00pm to act on the following subjects:**

**A moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.**

**Moderator Dauphin asked for the attendance of any guests, and there was one, Trisha Nail of the Keene Sentinel, and the Moderator asked if as is typical, the waiving of the reading of the 2022 Town Meeting Minutes would be moved to the floor.**

**The waiving was moved by Brian Bazarnicki and seconded by Dee Denehy. There being no discussion, the readings of the Minutes were waived by a unanimous card vote.**

**Moderator Dauphin stated that there were a total of 85 votes cast this year compared to 97 in 2022.**

**Town Meeting  
March 17, 2023  
Minutes**

**Old Business: Motion to Wave the Reading of the Minutes from the March, 2022 Town Meeting. Brian Bazarnicki brought motion to the floor. Barbara Ware seconded. Motion passed.**

**Selectman Cushing: “On the book you will see the Board of Selectmen will be forwarding an Addendum of the 2023 Annual Report following tonight’s meeting. The Addendum will be made up of the following: In the book the 2022 Warrants with town votes and responses were not recorded on page 62-65 and the signed Warrants while submitted to the DRA were not properly put into this book that you see in front of you. Also note there was one Warrant Article that the wording was wrong but there is no substantial difference but the Moderator will state that. I did want you to know this book we all did sign it and it has been submitted to the Secretary of State and DRA and we will be filing an amendment so in the years to come if you want to go okay, what did we do, how did we vote, that will be recorded I just want to make sure you know that.”**

***Article 1 Operating Budget***

***To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the budget committees recommended sum of \$708,834 for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual***

*articles addressed separately. The Budget Committee recommended this appropriation (Majority vote required.)*

Bill White moved to floor

Barbara Ware seconded

Discussion: Eddie Wilbur states that it is going to jack our taxes up to high and we have to something about it. He stated that \$134,000 for road work is too high.

Bart Cushing said that the Selectmen met with the Department head and the Budget Committee they had two meetings this year instead of one. He stated if you will notice in the prior year on the amounts appropriated versus the amounts expended and the concern they have to put enough in the budget, that if we have a big storm event like we just got done with and if there was flooding we need to have enough money in the budget to be able cover expenses. The Budget, particularly in the Highway Department, was gone through in detail. He stated there has to be money in the account because as a town we cannot spend negatively. In previous years if you remember we were working on borrowed money and thankfully the stewards of this, and again I am on the tail end of this thing, in the last decade we have not had to borrow a dime and we don't have interest payments that is why we have it in there. The amount has been negotiated pretty extensively but again this is a Town if you guys want to make cuts go to it.

Eddie Wilbur made a motion to not vote on Article 1 until the end when all the other warrant articles had been discussed. Vicki Ayer seconded the motion. No discussion. Votes for moving on to Article 2 without a vote on Article 1 are 7. Votes on Article 1 before moving on to Article 2 are 18. Motion passes to not move on to Article 2 without finishing Article 1.

Other discussion: Barbara Bryce asked if there was a reserve from last year that we added to the budget. Selectman Cushing said yes there is and they did apply some of the funds of overage this year to the tax rates for this year. What comes to my mind is \$50,000 from a tax sale that we had and also some old equipment was sold. He said Yes we have reserve funds and we have been using those to reduce taxes.

Selectmen Ayer stated that two Warrant Articles were using those funds. Repaving of Town Roads and Vessel Rock. About \$75,000 of the surplus is going to be potentially assigned to Vessel Rock Road. Selectmen Lounder stated that we took surplus that we had this year and applied it to Warrant Articles.

Reread Article 1. All in favor was 30. Opposed 3. Article 1 passes.

## *Article 2 Defibrillator*

*To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,000 to be added to the Defibrillator Capital Reserve Fund previously established.*

*(2004) The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend the appropriation. (Majority vote required).*

Steve Ackerman brought to floor

Brian Bazarnicki seconded

Discussion: Brian Peniuk stated that the current defibrillator needs to be replaced in 2029. Estimated cost will be about \$40,000.

Article 2 passes.

### *Article 3 Fire Department Vehicle Expendable Trust*

*To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$60,000 to be added to the Fire Department Vehicle Expendable Trust Fund previously established. (2002) The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required).*

Karen Hastings brought to floor

Barbara Ware seconded

No Discussion

Article 3 passes

#### *Article 4 Breathing Apparatus*

*To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,000 to be added to the Breathing Apparatus Replacement Expendable Trust Fund previously established. (2016) The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required).*

Chip Chapman brought to floor  
Gabe Jones seconded

No Discussion

Article 4 Passes

#### *Article 5 Emergency Management Fund*

*To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 to be added to the Emergency Management Expendable Trust Fund previously established. (2015) The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required).*

Barbara Bryce brought to floor  
Steve Ackerman seconded

No Discussion.

Article 5 Passes.



## ***Article 6 Replacement Turn Out Gear***

***To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,000 to be added to the Replacement of Turn Out Gear for the Fire Department Expendable Trust Fund previously established (2018). The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required).***

**Gary Wheeler brought to floor  
Emily Sodders Seconded**

**Discussion: Brian Peniuk stated NFPA rating on turnout gear is approximately 10 years. The last turnout gear was purchased in 2013 through a grant. Turn Out Gear per fireman is now roughly \$5,000-\$6,000.**

**Article 6 Passes.**

## ***Article 7 Minitors***

***To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 to be added to the Minitors Expendable Trust Fund previously established (2009). The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required).***

**Brian Bazarnicki brought to floor  
Gary Wheeler seconded.**

Discussion: Brian Bazarnicki asked what are Minitors. Chief Denehy stated that they are the pagers that the firefighters use.

Article 7 passes.

### *Article 8 Fire Department Equipment Replacement Fund*

*To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to be added to the Fire Department Equipment Replacement Expendable Trust Fund previously established (2014). The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required).*

Bill Whyte brought to floor.  
Vinny Soddors seconded.

Discussion: Selectmen Cushing stated that Steve Ackerman has a complete list of equipment, when it was purchased, when it needs to be replaced. He stated that Steve has worked hard to get grants to help with equipment costs. Funds need to be put away to help replace equipment. In October a \$500,000 fire truck will be arriving in Gilsum. This is a base model truck. He reiterated that the Fire Department has done a good job thoroughly going through the very well thought out list.

Article 8 Passes.

### *Article 9 Legal Fund*

*To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to be added to the Legal Expendable Trust Fund previously established (2004). The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required).*

Barbara Ware brought to floor.  
Dee Denehy seconded.

No Discussion.

Article 9 Passes.

#### *Article 10 Office Equipment Replacement*

*To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to be added to the Office Equipment Replacement Expendable Trust Fund previously established (2012). The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required).*

Gabe Jones brought to floor.  
Alex Bazarnicki seconded.

Discussion: Selectman Cushing stated that last year there was a significant purchase of a server for the town offices. The money is to be put into a fund for the need in purchasing office equipment.

Article 10 passes.

## ***Article 11 Revaluation of Town***

***To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$11,000 to be added to the Expendable Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2011). The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required).***

**Dee Denehy brought to floor.**

**Barbara Bryce seconded.**

**Discussion: Ben Stephens asked what the purpose of this revaluation?**

**Selectman Cushing said that by State mandate the Town has to reevaluate the town. Our contract with Avitar, who is our assessor, has a set amount of money. We have to set aside 1/5th of what we need to bring evaluation to current standards by that time. That is also a State mandated thing we have to do and we can't have properties being taxed at 1980's value in 2023 so that is our contractual obligation and we need to have money set aside for that in the Expendable Trust Fund.**

**Article 11 passes.**

## ***Article 12 Vessel Rock Road Culverts***

*To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000 to be added to the Vessel Rock Road Culverts Expendable Trust Fund previously established (2019). Funds to come from the unassigned fund balance. The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required).*

Chip Chapman brought to floor.  
Ben Stephens seconded.

Discussion: Bill Whyte asked what the total cost will be.

Selectman Louder stated that total cost is unknown but estimate is around \$400,000. We have an engineer started and we are hoping a grant comes along. We can't get a grant unless we get this thing started. The reason why we are doing this is so we have some money in the account in case a grant comes along we can take advantage of. We are going to have 5 years after the engineers get their proper permits to get this project done. I am trying to divide it out into a 5 year process.

Eddie Wilbur asked if the Town already had \$40,000 in the account. Selectman Louder stated that we do but that it is going to take \$400,000 to do the project. Eddie Wilbur asked whose estimate that was. Selectman Louder stated it is just a projected estimate and the Town won't know until they get their estimates. Eddie asked if that was a Brazen Brothers estimate. Selectman Louder stated that we are trying to get the State to work with us, the Public Service has to work to move poles, it's a big deal.

Selectman Cushing added that just to put it in reference the Mack Road project which was a much smaller culvert, will be pretty darn close to \$95,000 when we are done and the road gets paved. It took about 7 months to get the permits in place and get a fast track on it. Because this is a much bigger street it is expected to take 1 ½ years to get the permits. It's not only the permits but wetlands, you have to go through the Ashuelot River Counsel, you have to go through the Army Corps. Of Engineering, shoreline impact and there is one more I forgot. The State has changed their rules, again, and they are worried about the siltation going into the Ashuelot River for good reason. But the other thing they want is for reptiles, fish, etc to be able to migrate up these streams. It is very costly. He added that he expects that just the permit alone will be \$12,000. As a side note, for the people that live on Mack Road when the culvert came in it was not circular it looked like it had been dropped. It is called a "squashed culvert" and it is to allow for amphibians to go up and down that culvert. It is expensive. I think it would be wise to set aside approaching half a million dollars for this project.

Barbara asked what it means "Unassigned Fund Balance." Selectman Cushing stated that those were the monies that were under budget so that money goes into an Unassigned Fund. Those monies go back into Capital Projects. Some went to reducing the tax rate. Selectman Cushing stated that the State said that they believe that in 2023 there will be 80/20 funds for storm mitigation, bridges, culverts but that in order to get those funds you have to have permits in hand. He

stated that we already applied for permits for Mack Road, they had 38 applications, 4 were selected. This year 11 came through they said they think they will have a higher percentage selected. If we have a permit in hand we will be able to take advantage of those things. There is no promise that we are going to get it but we are going for the money and it looks like there are some other grants we will be able to receive.

Article 12 passes.

***Article 13 Church Street and Mack Road Bridges/Culverts***

***To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$9,000 to be added to the Church Street and Mack Road Bridges/Culverts Expendable Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2017). The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required).***

Karen Hastings brought to floor.  
Bruce Murphy seconded.

Discussion: Brian Peniuk asked how much is in the Trust Fund now for Church Street? The \$70,000 that was in there the bills came in after. The \$9,000 will finish the project.

Article 13 passes.



## ***Article 14 Highway Truck***

***To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be added to the Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2009). The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required).***

Carol Ballou brought to floor.  
April Frazier seconded.

Discussion: Someone asked what kind of truck? Selectman Cushing said that traditionally it is a utility plow truck but that they will take into account what the road agent recommends. It also depends on what we have for talent to be able to drive said truck. CDL B's are required on over a certain level of truck. We will talk to the Road Agent about what he needs. Just those trucks that we are running now are over \$100,000. If we get a serious 6 wheeler it will be in the \$200,000 area, if we want to get a 10 wheeler it is going to be in the \$280,000 range.

Article 14 passes.

## ***Article 15 Highway Heavy Equipment***

***To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be added to the Highway Department Heavy Equipment Expendable Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2016). The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required).***



Ben Stephens brought to floor.  
Alex Bazarnicki seconded.

No Discussion.

Article 15 passes.

### *Article 16 Repaving of Town Roads*

*To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be added to the Repaving of Town Roads Expendable Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2011). The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required).*

Sarah Jones brought to floor.  
Gabe Jones seconded.

Brian Bazarnicki asked "What Roads?" Selectman Cushing stated Mack Road, Sullivan Road and Town Office. Chief Denehy stated that we have shortchanged ourselves over the years and now we need to play catchup. Selectman Lounder said he has had people come to him and complain about holes in the roads. He said Vessel Rock Road is an old cow path. We tried tarring it years ago but with no good foundation it didn't hold up. The parking area at the town hall is breaking up. When we plowed it this year we plowed it up 4 feet of tar. He stated that all we do is band aid the roads, put a little patch on them. He stated that he feels that input is needed from the public on this. It is a big deal it has

been put off for too long. The longer we put this off, the cost is going up.

Article 16 passes.

### *Article 17 Tennis Court & Lawn Mower*

*To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the following: Tennis Court Trust Fund created in 2006 with approximately \$9,283 and the Lawn Mower Capital Reserve Fund created in 2008 with approximately \$7,532. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the Municipalities General Fund. The Selectman and Budget Committee recommend this. (Majority vote required).*

Bruce Murphy brought to floor.

Heidi Bukoski seconded.

Discussion: Heidi Bukoski stated that the school was under the impression that the tennis courts were going to be repaired. Ralph Jernberg stated that the cost to repair was going to be over \$80,000 and is not feasible. The commission got three estimates. The Recreation Committee is looking to do something different with the money. They are looking at possibly a pickle ball court or something like that.

Article 17 Passes

1 Opposed

## ***Article 18 Recreation Commission***

***To see if the Town will vote to establish a Recreation Commission Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a, for purchases related to recreation uses and to raise and appropriate \$16,820 to put in the fund, with this amount to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance further to name the Selectmen and Recreation Commission as agents to expend from said fund. The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required).***

***Moderator: In your books "General Fund" should say "Unassigned Fund Balance" in place of "General Fund"***

**Gabe Jones brought to floor.  
Lauren Dolgner seconded.**

**Discussion: Selectman Cushing told the citizens that if you look at Article 17 and you add those funds up that is the amount we are discussing. Those amounts will go into the General Fund and will go back out to the Recreation Commission Expendable Trust Fund. The Selectmen and the Recreation Commission will have to agree on what those funds are to be used for. Selectman Louder asked if there has to be a Motion to change wording. Selectman Cushing said that the one submitted to the State has the correct wording the one in the book is a misprint. Betsy Cushings said that we will send the Addendum to the proper places for filing with the State. No Motion needs to be made.**

Article 18 passes.

Addendum will be made to the State.

### *Article 19 Optional Veterans' Tax Credit Readoption*

*To see if the Town will vote to approve the readoption of the Optional Veterans' Tax Credit RSA 72:28-11 to allow for the expansion of the criteria needed to qualify for the optional veterans' tax credit to now include those service members that are currently serving and have not yet been formerly discharged from the armed services. Readoption of the optional veterans' tax credit, if approved, would continue to offer a one hundred (\$100) tax credit to all honorably discharged veterans that qualify under the current requirements, but as of April 1, 2023, it would expand the eligibility requirements to now include those individuals that have not been discharged from active service. If this article does not pass, the optional veterans' tax credit will revert to the standard veterans' tax credit under RSA 72:28-1 and as of April 1, 2023 the standard veteran tax credit would be in place to reduce the tax credit from one hundred dollars (\$100) to Fifty Dollars (\$50) per year. (Majority vote required).*

Chip Chapman brought to floor.

Brian Bazarnicki seconded.

Discussion: Selectman Louder stated that if this article does not pass the amount will revert to the state amount of \$50.00. April Frazier asked what happens if current serving Veterans get dishonorably discharged? They will no longer get benefit.

**Article 19 passes.**

**Other Discussion.** Selectman Cushing thanked Victoria Ayer for her service to the Selectboard. Moderator Dauphin thanked Betsy Cushing for her service as Town Clerk for the past 2 years. Sally Struble asked Chip Chapman what the plan was for the recreation center. He said they were planning on leveling the ground and putting in some signage and benches. The hope is to have some events for the community and have the tree lighting there rather than the frog pond at Christmas. It will give better parking for people. GCPC (Gilsum Community Park Committee) a group of 6 people that have been meeting regularly for the park. Moderator Dauphin thanked the people for coming out to vote in the storm. He asked committee members to stand to be recognized for their service on committees.

**Moderator Dauphin made motion to continue the meeting to March 12, 2024.**

**Brian Bazarnicki brought to floor.  
Bruce Murphy seconded.**

**Motion Passes.**

**Submitted by: Debra Reilly, Town Clerk**

**3/24/2022**

