Town of Gilsum
Selectboard Meeting
Held in Gilsum Public Library
November 2nd 2026, 6:00pm

Board Present: Clem Lounder, Chair; Bruce Murphy, Member; Jon Gaouette, Member; Selectboard Asst. Hailey Hrabovsky (attending remotely) per ok J.G.

Others: Lenoir Law, Dee Denehy, Deb Reilly, Vicki Ayer, David Dauphin, Sue Cadmus, Jason Ballou

Bruce Murphy is attending the meeting through Zoom. Murphy has an excused absence for needing to attend a conference. There are no additional people or animals in the room with him.

6:00pm Chair Clem Lounder calls meeting to order

Lounder motions to approve 10/26/2026 minutes as amended
Gaouette 2nds
Vote: Lounder – yes, Gaouette – yes, Murphy – yes
Motion passed

Gaouette motions to accept 11/2/2026 check manifest
Lounder 2nds
Vote: Lounder – yes, Gaouette – yes, Murphy – yes
Motion passed

Bill Signing – Financial
Profit and Loss are in the Selectmen's Office to view and updated weekly.

Lounder motions to transfer $974 from the Road Improvement Expendable Trust Fund for gravel from St. Pierre needed for the Hammond Hollow Road Improvement project.
Gaouette 2nds
Vote: Lounder – yes, Gaouette – yes, Murphy – yes
Motion passed

Lounder motions to transfer $4,285 from the Bridge Maintenance and/or Replacement Fund previously to seal the bridge expansion joints on Hammond Hollow.
Gaouette 2nds
Vote: Lounder – yes, Gaouette – yes, Murphy – yes
Motion passed

SAU Office: Law brought up that the school district is asking if we could move up the timeline on paying our school payments (taxes), so they can get it in the month that it is for. It does not affect our operating budget but it will show as doubling a school payment in one month. Discussed the plan and will move forward with their request.

Highway Department:
Hammond Hollow Trees; Hrabovsky reports that we received a signed permission letter from the property owners.

Cemetery; Ballou reports that trees to be taken down urgently; two trees at risk to be falling into Centennial Cemetery. The trees are located on the road side of cemetery; town may be liable if there are damage. Cheaper to cut trees down than repair headstones. Ballou will send pictures to Hrabovsky.

Fire Department: The Fire Department is hosting the Cheshire County Forest Fire Warden's Association Awards which is a meeting that will include a meal.

Budget Items: Discussed budget items that there have been concerns on from previous budget meetings and information that has been talked about. The Selectboard invited members of the Budget Committee to attend, Jason Ballou and Vicki Ayer came to the meeting to represent the Budget Committee and participate in the discussion.

Police Budget – Discussed information from Cheshire County Sheriff's Office about the signed contract and hours. Discussed information from the State Police as well, including the signed MOU. Hrabovsky to email Ballou information for the Budget Committee.

Highway Department – Discussed addition to barn, Quonset hut for salt and sand, work that has been done to Hammond Hollow already and it is being documented, step by step; Hrabovsky has notes and pictures, just needs to put it into electronic format. It is a multi-year project; it was requested to get timelines for the work to be done in 2027 and 2028; Hrabovsky to work with Road Agent for the timelines and estimated costs. Ayer asked about outsourcing the work in the winter, discussed and it would be less expensive to keep it in house but open to getting estimates. Briefly discussed the plan with SWRPC, Ayer brought up some additional websites from NHDOT that could be helpful in research on roads, culverts and bridges.

Building Maintenance – Discussed building maintenance and the Library/Town Office will need a new roof in the next 5 years. Law is working on coming up with a list of regular maintenance items to plan better. Discussed the work we have had done over this year so far in 2026. Highway Department building is good for a while. Fire Department roof is going to need to be screwed down, but otherwise everything is good now.

NH Municipal Wages/Salaries – NHMA has a web page that you can filter through towns, positions and their population for wages. At the last budget meeting, Ayer provided them with NH Wage Data at their last meeting for population under 1,000. Hrabovsky decided to follow up with the information that was provided and came up with different numbers and towns, determining that Ayer provided data for populations under 2,000 instead of under 1,000. Hrabovsky felt that under 1,000 helps us understand our town wages better as we have around 750 people. Hrabovsky asked Ayer what the side bar numbers were by the Road positions and it was mileage for each town for what each town needs to maintain. The data is also not entirely accurate from NHMA as the last updated wages were anywhere from 2020-current, but mostly around 2023 and there have been a lot of economic changes since then.

MDS Costs – Costs went up as we were expecting. Impact to the town $100 a month increase. Impact to the residents is that bag costs are going from $3 to $4.

Budget Committee moved their meeting date to be November 12th, 2026, instead of November 19th, 2026. Time and location to remain the same.

Cemetery: Ballou reports that the current surveyed plot of Centennial Cemetery, is close to full. The cemetery trustees will need to have a meeting to discuss and request an expansion. There will need to be another survey done per a NH RSA.

Lounder motions to adjourn
Gaouette 2nds
Lounder – yes, Gaouette – yes, Murphy – yes
Meeting adjourned at 7:22pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Hailey Hrabovsky

Minutes approved	Signature	Date
Clem Lounder		11/9/26
Bruce Murphy		11-9-26
Jon Gaouette		11-9-26