

Press Release from the last BOS Meeting.

SUBJECT: Release

DATE:

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There is so much going on in town that it would be impossible to talk about everything, but we will try to do the best that we can to keep the citizens up to date. The one topic on most peoples' minds is the law suits. First we all need to be aware that we are the defendants in both of these cases. As far as the directives, we are not telling the police department what to do, they merely are asking them to tell us what they are doing. Surrounding towns already have what the BOS is asking for. If you look at the town of Gilford's board, that consists three board members like ourselves have job descriptions already laid out for them and one happens to be "adopt police policies" stating RSA 105 2 A as the authority to do so. We feel that this supports the Board's position.

Unfortunately, there has been friction between the Board and the police department from directives attempted in 2016. A number of issues have arisen in the last year or so, including disputes over the Gilmanston Police Department Facebook page, where the name was changed to the police association and the Board was told that now it's an association, we don't adhere to the towns policies. Despite the page going to the Town, the BOS still does not have the correct password and email that the account was set up on. This all happened while the BOS was attempting to work with the police department collaboratively prior to implementing the directives. Another issue that arose was over the use of comp time hours, which the BOS was not aware until late last year were being used in 2016 and 2017. The BOS had not supported the use of comp time hours and in reviewing Town policies, the wording was omitted from 2004 policy where it clearly stated " we do not acknowledge comp time" to not stating it in the revised 2012 policy. The BOS requested dates, times and reasoning to authorize this overtime, but has never received satisfactory information concerning the use of these hours.

Time cards have also been an extreme problem with zero accountability to them. This was one of the reasons for adopting the directives, as each one addresses concerns of the BOS. Gaps in police coverage are also a concern, such as the time when there was no coverage during a school day and the Town of Barnstead had to cover for the Town. It was the Board's understanding, after receiving a complaint from a citizen, that the Town's officers and chief were in the Town of Chichester doing details.

This situation was in the middle of the day with school in session. The BOS later discovered that this was not an isolated occurrence.

Lastly is the door closures at the town hall. Let's start with this, there isn't an employee in the town hall that doesn't appreciate the idea of people being buzzed in. How many people are complaining about the doors and haven't gone and asked the employees how they feel about it. If you have then I commend you. To the people who still complain about the doors, please keep in mind that this is about ensuring the safety of the Town's employees. EVERY employee deserves to feel safe in their work environment and shame on the Board if it doesn't do something about it. People need to know that these people are not kicking posts because they and the BOS work for you. They are amazing people and are willing to do it all for you. Please treat them with respect. Working together is the only way that this is going to work. Please come to the meetings with positive and constructive criticism and the Board will listen.

Thank You