

Guilford's Town Meeting will be March 6th. It is special and unique in that it is the one day each year when we join together as a community to make decisions on how our town will be run for the following year – pure democracy.

This year, in addition to our regular Articles, which we vote upon, our voters will be asked to decide (by Australian ballot) whether or not they support a bond in the amount of \$195,000.00 (or less) to fund two extensions off the main route of the municipal waterline which will be constructed this spring. One will extend the line, bringing it to the exterior wall of the Guilford Volunteer Fire Department (GVFD). The other will be a spur which will allow for the Town's Red Cross designated Emergency Shelter, located in the Guilford Community Church (GCC), to connect.

The Selectboard is proposing these two extensions after discussions with members of the Fire Department and the Church (which acts as our Designated Red Cross Emergency Shelter). The Selectboard is asking the people of Guilford to support the construction of the extensions just to those resources which we ALL can reap benefit from: GVFD and the Emergency Shelter/GCC.

Let's remind ourselves how lucky we are to have the GVFD and the GCC as our Emergency Shelter.

The Fire Department and the Emergency Shelter both were staffed for several days during Tropical Storm Irene. The members of the GVFD stood vigilant, 24/7, patrolling, checking and making sure everyone was safe and secure. The Emergency Shelter – the Guilford Community Church – was open, offering a dry refuge with food, power and beds for any resident in need. Everyone in Guilford had these resources – GVFD and the GCC – available and ready to help them if they needed it.

Here are some other times in our recent past when these resources have been used by everyone:

- Wind storm in May, 2010
- The Ice Storm in December, 2008
- The Flood in October, 2005

In every one of these events, our town's resources were tapped into and stood vigilant and ready to serve ALL of us. Building these two proposed extensions to the waterline will help the Fire Department and the Emergency Shelter function much more efficiently.

Please read these important facts to learn more about the waterline project:

- The Main Route of the waterline, which is fully funded at no cost to the town, starts by D&E Tree Company, crosses under Rte 5 by Woodcock Chiropractic, continues up the west side of Guilford Center Road and ends by the Doggie Daycare property.
- Any property located along the Main Route of the waterline will be able to connect at THEIR expense (the Town WILL NOT pay for it). The water system will be metered and users will be billed quarterly for their usage thus covering the administrative and maintenance costs of the system.
- **The Bond:**
 - The purpose of the bond is to add two extensions to the Main Route (which is fully funded) to benefit specific community resources:

- The Guilford Community Church is the Town's (Red Cross) designated Emergency Shelter. The GCC also offers their space for many non-religious programs: Overflow Shelter, Senior Lunch, Live Strong, Qigong, Guilford Cares, FOMAG, Guilford Historical Society, AFD #1 meetings, AA meetings, Sugar on Snow Supper, rehearsals, concerts, etc.
- The Fire Station – The waterline will be brought to the Fire Station to enable fire fighters to fill their trucks quickly and easily AND to provide access to a sprinkler system for the building. The value of the assets of the GVFD amounts to approximately \$2,000,000.00. The GVFD is applying for a grant for a sprinkler system.
- “Not to exceed \$195,000” – This is our best estimate – the cost will not be more.
- We are proposing a ten (10) year bond. The cost would be approximately \$.01 per \$1,000.00 of assessed property value for the duration of the bond – example: on a home assessed at \$250,000.00, the increase to the municipal property tax bill would be \$2.75 for each of the ten (10) years.
- If the bond vote is defeated, municipal water will not be available for GVFD or the GCC, however, the Main Route of the waterline will still be constructed.

The members of the Selectboard would like your support for this important bond vote. Please vote YES by Australian ballot on Town Meeting day.