

**MINUTES OF SELECTMAN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2018 6:00 PM
TOWN HALL CONFERENCE ROOM**

Gorham Selectman present: Terry Oliver, Pat Lefebvre, and Mike Waddell

Also present: Robin Frost, Town Manager; Diane Bouthot; Judy Leblanc; Edith Tucker, Berlin Daily Sun

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Oliver at 6:00 pm.

PUBLIC HEARING: Allowing Keno Games in Gorham Establishments

Diane Bouthot asked if all the money from Keno would go for education and was advised it will go toward funding full-day kindergarten.

There was no other public comment.

2. Appointments:

There were no appointments.

3. New Business:

a) Audit Fieldwork – TM Frost advised that the auditors from Melanson Heath were here last Friday to begin going through the information. They will be back in April to finish up. They have set up a shared file for any other documents that they will need. Edith Tucker asked how much the audit cost and TM Frost advised it is about \$18,000. Judy LeBlanc asked if the financial report is not done until April, how it will be included in the town report. Frost advised that it would be included in the 2018 report.

b) Tax Rate Impact – TM Frost advised that the figures for the tax rate impact that were given at the public budget hearing were incorrect due to an input error. Instead of the 98 cents, it should actually be 33 cents. Selectman Waddell asked which number was incorrect and Frost advised it was a 2017 revenue amount that was entered incorrectly in the spreadsheet. Doug Gralenski asked if all the other numbers were accurate and was advised they were, it was just the tax rate calculation. Selectman Waddell advised that if the town rate is \$0.33, the state school around \$2.22, the school up \$1.80 to \$15.20 and the county up 3% to 4.50, the new tax rate would be \$36.21 per thousand. TM Frost advised that we do not have a number for the fund balance yet and do not know how much we may be able to use to reduce taxes. TM Frost cautioned against using this number, as not everything has been factored in. Judy LeBlanc advised that when they tell people the estimated tax rate at the hearing, they take this at face value.

4. Old Business/Updates:

a) Fire Ponds in Stony Brook – On hold until spring.

b) Spring Road Bridge/Culvert Project – TM Frost advised that DOT is still looking at preliminary designs. Frost advised that she did receive an email from the attorney advising that they can discontinue the paper street between the Zornio and Zboray properties as long as it has not been used in 20 years, but this will require a vote of the Board. Selectman Lefebvre asked if there is a deadline and Frost advised that they are still planning to go out to bid at the end of March or beginning of April.

c) **Alternate OHRV Trailhead** – TM Frost advised that there is nothing new.

d) FEMA Projects October 2017 Storm Event

i) **White Birch Lane Berm** – TM Frost advised that the work on the berm has been completed and was just over \$30,000.

ii) **Stony Brook Road** – TM Frost advised that FEMA will not be sending anyone out to look at the work that needs to be done for some time, so the Board will have to decide whether to wait on FEMA or to do work on the road to bring it up to pre-storm condition. TM Frost advised that they do not have a date yet for the training for FEMA, but the town's field representative stated that she would input the information if we send it to her.

On a motion by Selectman Lefebvre, seconded by Chairman Oliver, the Board voted unanimously to wait for FEMA before beginning the work on Stony Brook Road.

iii) **Public Works and Town Hall Building Issues** – TM Frost advised that the work has been completed.

Selectman Waddell asked about any progress with the snow dump and DES. TM Frost advised that CMA has communicated with DES, but they do not have an answer. TM Frost advised that Mike Kelley submitted a proposal to remove the wood from the property for \$3500. Selectman Lefebvre asked if there was a minimum amount for putting things out to bid and TM Frost will research this.

5. Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

6. Other Business:

a) **Town Manager's Update** – TM Frost presented the Board with the public safety agreement and EMS agreement with the County. The agreement was signed by the Board.

TM Frost advised that in reference to the Warrant Article concerning contract calculations, it will be advisory. However, Frost advised that changes will need to be made.

TM Frost advised that she received a letter from Jeremiah Macrae-Hawkins, who is interested in serving on the Forest Management Committee. Selectman Waddell advised that they currently do not have any openings.

TM Frost advised that Jeff Tennis was contacted by Mike Murphy, who is interested in purchasing a small piece of property that abuts his parcel at 13 Main Street. Selectman Lefebvre advised it would not be a problem as long as it is not an expense to the town. TM Frost advised that Water and Sewer will also need an easement.

On a motion by Selectman Lefebvre, seconded by Chairman Oliver, the Board voted unanimously to allow the purchase by Mike Murphy of the land next to 13 Main Street from the town.

TM Frost advised that she received a letter complimenting Sgt. Mark Santos and thanking him for taking the time to help a family get some things straightened out this past weekend. Selectman Lefebvre advised Frost to pass along their kudos.

b) Selectmen's Updates –

Selectman Waddell asked about the Chamber dinner and TM Frost advised she was going. Waddell stated that he would also attend.

Selectman Lefebvre asked about the property at 240 Main Street, as he received a complaint that someone is running an auto body shop out of the old vet office. TM Frost will have someone look into this.

Selectman Lefebvre advised that he received a written request from Jay Holmes to make a motion to extend the town manager's contract for another year.

Selectman Lefebvre made a motion to extend the current town manager's contract for an additional year. The motion was seconded by Chairman Oliver.

Selectman Waddell advised that he felt this was a bad idea, and would encourage a result that could not be predicted. Waddell also felt that since the contract does not expire until the end of May, they should continue with the plan they had to do an evaluation, a job description, and then a new contract. Selectman Lefebvre felt that the Board voting to extend the contract would show the voters that they support their current form of government and that it would not change anything if the voters decide to discontinue the town manager form of government. Chairman Oliver suggested that sending a letter to the paper in support of the town manager form of government might be a better option.

On the motion made and seconded, Selectman Lefebvre voted aye, both Chairman Oliver and Selectman Waddell voted no. The motion was defeated.

c) Approval of Minutes (February 5, 2018 public, and November 27 and December 11, 2017, January 2, January 8, January 22, and February 5, 2018 non-public)

On a motion by Selectman Waddell, seconded by Selectman Lefebvre, the Board voted unanimously to accept the public minutes of February 5, 2018, and the non-public minutes of November 27 and December 11, 2017, and January 2, January 8, January 22, and February 5, 2018, as presented.

d) Sign Manifest; Abatements and Exemptions (if necessary)

There were no abatements or exemptions.

7. Non-public Session: RSA 91-A:3, II- a

On a motion by Selectman Lefebvre, seconded by Selectman Waddell, the Board unanimously voted by roll call to move to non-public session to discuss the union contract, the snow dump, and personnel at 6:40 pm. Oliver – Aye, Waddell – Aye, Lefebvre - Aye.

On a motion by Selectman Waddell, seconded by Chairman Oliver, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to come out of non-public session at 7:05 pm. Oliver – Aye, Waddell – Aye, Lefebvre - Aye.

Minutes of non-public session are available separately.

8. Adjournment: On a motion by Chairman Oliver, seconded by Selectman Waddell, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Terry Oliver

Patrick Lefebvre

Michael Waddell