

MINUTES OF SELECTMAN'S MEETING

TOWN OF GORHAM

MONDAY AUGUST 6, 2018, 6 PM

TOWN HALL CONFERENCE ROOM

GORHAM SELECTMEN PRESENT: Pat Lefebvre, Judy Leblanc, Mike Waddell

ALSO PRESENT: Town Manager Mitch Berkowitz, Michelle Lutz, Denise Vallee, Helen Beausejour, Diane Bouthot

1. Call to Order:

2. Non-Public Session: RSA 91-a:3,II, b

b) The hiring of any person as a public employee.

Selectman Leblanc made a motion to go into non-public session per RSA 91-a:3,II,b. The motion was seconded by Selectman Lefebvre. The board voted unanimously to go into non-public session per RSA 91-a:3, II, b.

3. Return to Public Session: Public Session called to order by Chairman Waddell at 6pm.

4. Appointments: None Requested.

5. New Business:

a) **Abatement Requests:** Michelle Lutz provided the board with abatement requests for the Cascade Flats area. Abatement requests will be left in the office for the board to review.

b) **Cascade Flats and Neighborhood Adjustments-Michelle Lutz:** KRT has reviewed sales information after the revaluation period and has recommended a 40% reduction in values in Cascade Flats, including River Street. Lutz provided the board with information on past and current values. KRT does not believe a reduction is warranted in the Cascade Hill area at this time.

c) **Letter of Support with Changes to the Presidential Range Trail Scenic Byway-** Chairman Waddell referenced a letter that was provided to the board and requested a motion to accept the letter of support.

Selectman Lefebvre made a motion to approve the Letter of Support for the Presidential Range Trail Scenic Byway. The motion was seconded by Selectman Leblanc. The board voted unanimously in favor.

d) Boston Post Cane Presentation request-Town Clerk Carol Porter- Carol Porter was not able to be present, however, Town Manager Berkowitz read a letter from Porter requesting that Gorham's oldest resident, Beulah Johnson, be presented with the Boston Post Cane. Mrs. Johnson's family will let the town know when would be a good time to do the presentation in the near future. The board will try to arrange the presentation for Thursday or Friday after 5:00.

e) Sample Letter of Notification to Gorham Water and Sewer Users- The letter has already been sent to residents.

F) Request to purchase a parcel of land adjacent to 52 Railroad Street-Steve Grone- Chairman Waddell advised the first step would be for it to go through the Technical Review Committee.

4. Old Business/Updates:

a) Spring Road Bridge/Culvert Project Update- Town Manager Berkowitz was able to get 3 agreements for 3 different properties that would allow the town to get the easements so work could begin. John Scarinza also negotiated agreements reference reforestation. The paperwork is done, and all that is needed are the signatures.

b) FEMA Projects October 2017 Storm Event-

i. Problem with Property Access- Town Manager Berkowitz spoke with the town's attorney and had him review the hold harmless language that FEMA insists the town must get signatures for. The board must sign off on it. Current owners are willing to provide an easement.

c) Snow Storage at Town Garage CMA Proposed Estimate Update/Approval- Town Manager Berkowitz has been working on calculations to determine the cost if snow storage has to be moved to a different site. The town is still working on trying to get a one year extension from Eversource. The board will need to decide whether the amendment to the CMA contract will be allowed for the work at the same location. Chairman Waddell advised they are also looking at alternative sites.

d) Woodland Park-Plowing and Road Easement- Town Manager has spoken with the town attorney who is working on it.

e) Cascade Truck Signage- Town Manager Berkowitz asked that the issue be explained. Selectman Lefebvre advised that tractor trailers are going into the flats where they are not supposed to and destroying the road that the town has spent a lot of money to repair. Better signage needs to be approved by the state, as the current sign is small and is after the southern Cascade Flats entrance. Chairman Waddell suggested putting a cone in the road with a "no trucks" sign.

f) Gorham Paper & Tissue Tax Payments-Status- Town Manager Berkowitz spoke with Wayne Johnson. The mill would like to get back to the payment plan and offer a good faith payment. Details will be discussed in a non-public session.

g) Tax Deeded Properties-Gateway Trailers-Update- There are 3 sealed bids that have been received that are not to be opened until October. Selectman Leblanc is meeting with Mike from North Country Recycling to see the properties, should there be any left after the bid process. He will be checking them to be hauled away for scrap if there are wheels and axels, and to check for mold and asbestos. Chairman Waddell and Town Manager Berkowitz discussed what would happen if a former owner came forward and wanted it and the town's liability.

h) Update re: Police Lt. hiring process- In process.

i) Update re: Town Manager hiring Process-Next Steps- In process. Chairman Waddell advised they interviewed one candidate for the position. There are also two additional candidates who have fallen outside the specified time period. Chairman Waddell suggested putting out another ad with a deadline of noon on the 20th. Interviews will be done the day after on the two candidates who have submitted applications.

j) Proposed forms for access to properties and acknowledgment form for construction- The forms were not in the board's packets. Town Manager Berkowitz advised they were in reference to properties in the river areas that have been damaged. In one case the town has no ability to deny the owner a building permit. John Scarinza has spoken with one property owner who is attempting to engineer it themselves. The idea is to protect the town by having the owner release the town after warning the owner about building in that area.

k) Review and Approve the CMA amendment to engineering contract.- Discussed earlier.

Town Manager Berkowitz advised the board reference White Birch Lane that FEMA has given them an alternative which is the "government indemnified-held harmless." Town Manager Berkowitz provided it to each member of the board and asked that they review it. The form is signed by the town manager and agrees to hold harmless FEMA and the state for the one property on White Birch Lane.

Selectman Leblanc made a motion to authorizing Town Manager Berkowitz to sign the form for one property on White Birch Lane. The motion was seconded by Selectman Lefebvre. All were in favor.

5. Public Comment:

Diane Bouthot brought up the print out from KRT regarding the assessments and that not everyone had been notified that their abatements had been denied. She was never notified that she her abatement had been denied or that she needed an appraisal. Diane asked the board to consider notifying residents next time the town goes through this. Selectman Leblanc advised she asked Michelle about the notification process and she was told they would see it in their tax bill. Town Manager Berkowitz will speak with Michelle about the procedure.

6. Other Business:

a) Selectmen's Updates-

Selectman Lefebvre asked Town Manager Berkowitz if he received an email from Mike Grondin. Grondin donated money to the rec department to purchase new uniforms and they have not yet been purchased. Selectmen Lefebvre asked that Town Manager Berkowitz follow up with Jeff Stewart reference this issue.

Selectman Lefebvre discussed the smell coming from the mill. The mill at one time had agreed to control the smell.

Selectman Lefebvre asked if the body shop on Main Street could be addressed as there are complaints from the abutters. John Scarinza is aware of the issue as it is the same person he spoke with on Lancaster Road. Chairman Waddell advised it may be zoned commercial, but that the business would be subject to site plan review.

Selectman Lefebvre advised this would officially be his last meeting as he is resigning effective tonight. Town Manager advised in order for the chairman to accept his resignation it had to be in writing. Selectman Lefebvre provided his written resignation effective August 6, 2018 at 7:18 pm to the Chairman.

Selectman Leblanc made a motion to accept Selectman Lefebvre's resignation from the board of selectmen. The motion was seconded by Chairman Waddell. All were in favor of accepting Selectman Lefebvre's resignation from the board of selectmen effective 8/6/18 at 7:18 pm. Selectman Lefebvre left the meeting after the Board accepted his resignation.

b) Approval of Minutes (July 23, 2018-Non-public session, July 23, 2018, August 1, 2018-Non-Public Session)

Selectman Leblanc made a motion to accept the July 23, 2018 public and non-public minutes and the August 1, 2018 non-public minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Chairman Waddell. Selectman Leblanc-aye. Chairman Waddell-aye.

Chairman Waddell asked Town Manager Berkowitz to put an ad in the paper for a new selectman to serve out the rest of former Selectman Lefebvre's term.

c) Sign Manifest; Abatements and Exemptions (if necessary)- Town Manager Berkowitz provided the remaining members of the board with papers that needed to be signed.

Selectman Leblanc made a motion to approve the pole license. The motion was seconded by Chairman Waddell seconded the motion. Both were in favor.

Town Manager Berkowitz advised the board that he received an email from the Northern Border Regional Commission advising that the town is not a recipient of the TAP grant for the sidewalks.

Denise Vallee advised the board the biggest difference on the fiscal report between this year and last year was the deferred revenue.

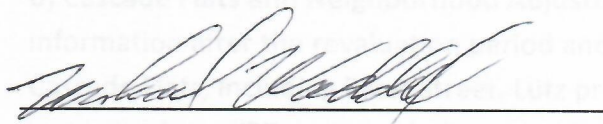
7. Non-Public Session:

Selectman Leblanc made a motion to go into non-public session under RSA 91-a:3,II,b,c. The motion was seconded by Chairman Waddell. Selectman Leblanc-aye. Chairman Waddell-aye.

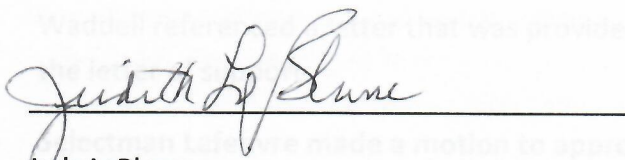
Selectman Leblanc made a motion to come out of non-public session at 8:35 pm. The motion was seconded by Chairman Waddell. Selectman Leblanc-aye. Chairman Waddell-aye.

8. Adjournment

On a motion by Selectman Leblanc, seconded by Selectman Waddell, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm.



Michael Waddell



Judy LeBlanc