

**MINUTES OF SELECTMAN'S MEETING  
TOWN OF GORHAM  
MONDAY DECEMBER 10, 2018, 6 PM  
TOWN HALL CONFERENCE ROOM**

**GORHAM SELECTMEN PRESENT:** Mike Waddell, Adam White

**ALSO PRESENT:** Town Manager Mitch Berkowitz, Michelle Lutz, Edith Tucker, Burke York, Denise Vallee,

**1. Call to Order 6:00 PM**

Chairman Waddell called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**2. Appointments-**

Burke York spoke on behalf of York Land Services. Gerald Marcou was doing title work on his own and found some inconsistencies with his deed and asked York to look into it. Marcou had purchased land from Gorham Land Company at the end of Brook Road. York went through the easements and conveyances over the years. It was found that a conservation easement was on Marcou's land. York advised a confirmatory deed needs to be done to Gerry clarifying what was conveyed to him originally. Gorham Land Company will be correcting the original deed to Marcou. The town is being asked to release and quit claim any rights to what was conveyed after the land was deeded to Marcou, which is the west half of town lot 103, R6 lot 28 on the town tax map. Chairman Waddell advised the packet would be sent to Attorney Boutin but it would not be a problem with the select board and it will be placed on the agenda for next Monday for the board to act on it.

**3. New Business:**

**a) Abatement Requests-**

Michelle Lutz presented the board with two veteran abatement requests for Amanda Bradford in the amount of \$200 and Gerard and Carolyn Ramsey in the amount of \$200.

**Selectman White made a motion to accept the abatement requests as presented. The motion was seconded by Chairman Waddell. Both voted in favor.**

**b) Correspondence- Ms. Carol Frechette- Street Light-** The town is being asked to consider putting a street light at the corner of Wilfred and Railroad Street. Frechette considers it a safety hazard as she is not sure cars can see someone trying to cross the street in that area. Chairman Waddell inquired if there was an estimate for what it would cost and requested it be put on the agenda for a future meeting, and to notify the residents in the area. The board will look into it.

**c) Approval of the Shim and Overlay paving contract for Central Paving for Spring 2019-**

The town received funds for street work through a DOT grant as discussed at earlier meetings that has not yet been used. The town needs to sign a contract in order to be able to use the funds in 2019 to complete the project. Town Manager Berkowitz has signed a contract with Central Paving to complete the work on Crestwood Drive in the Spring of 2019 in the amount of \$48,200, with an additional \$4800 for unexpected costs.

**Selectman White made a motion to accept the contract with Town Manager Berkowitz's signature with Central Paving. The motion was seconded by Chairman Waddell. Both voted in favor.**

Town Manager Berkowitz presented the board with bids for surplus cruisers that are no longer operational. Sealed bids were received as follows, with a deadline of today at noon.

Cruiser #1 (2011) had a low bid of \$510, another bid of \$550, and a high bid of \$750 by Curt Gilcris.

Cruiser #2 (2008) had a low bid of \$500, a middle bid of \$510, and a high bid of \$751 by Alanna Gilcris.

**Selectman White made a motion to accept the high bids from the Gilcrises on both cruisers. The motion was seconded by Chairman Waddell. Both voted in favor.**

Town Manager Berkowitz presented the board with a memo from Buddy Holmes and asked the board to accept by vote an increase in the fees charged by hired truck drivers and dozer operators for their work this winter. The hourly rate for truck drivers has increased from \$50 to \$55 per hour and the hourly rate for dozer operators has increased from \$75 to \$85 per hour. Buddy also requested an increase in the contract service line of \$5000 to cover those expenses.

**Selectman White made a motion to accept the agreement. The motion was seconded by Chairman Waddell. Both voted in favor.**

Town Manager Berkowitz presented the board with an order from the Board of Tax and Land Appeals regarding Northway Bank vs. the Town Of Gorham. The Board of Tax and Land Appeals has received a settlement agreement and therefore marked the case as settled. Town Manager Berkowitz provided the agreement to the board for their signature.

#### **4. Old Business/ Updates:**

**a) Romano/NRCS Project Status Report-** Nothing new. This item can be removed from the agenda.

**b) Spring Road Bridge/Culvert Project- Authorization of the Interim Town Manager to execute all necessary documents for this project from June 1, 2018-** Nothing new. It was recommended by Chairman Waddell and Town Manager Berkowitz that this item be removed from the agenda until next spring.

**c) FEMA Projects Reports-** Nothing to report tonight. Stoney Brook Road will be kept on the agenda and Libby Pool will be added as they are both projects that need to be continued in the spring.

**d) Snow Storage Project at Town Garage and documents-** The town has a signed contract with the old Kwik Lube for storage for one winter at a cost of \$3000 which allows the town to split storage between existing storage at public works and this location.

**e) Execution of the Drouin Easement and documents-** An application for a lot line adjustment was received for the Drouin properties on Dublin St. The town discovered they did not have a legal right to cross the tracks to provide town services. The town now has the documents that allow them to cross the tracks, dump snow, and centralize garbage collection.

**Selectman White made a motion to accept the necessary documents as presented to the board. The motion was seconded by Chairman Waddell. Both voted in favor.**

The documents were signed by the board and witnessed by Denise Vallee.

#### **5. Public Comment-**

Three cub scouts took a picture with the board. Their pack leader explained they were there as part of one of their adventures, which is government and citizenship. They were there to watch government in action. A member of the audience requested they explain the process that

needed to be followed to get a dead end sign on Highland Ave. The process was explained to the scouts.

Erin Cosby explained an issue with receiving her tax bill, which was mailed on November 7, late due to a mix up with her mailbox and that she finally received her tax bill with only two days to pay the bill. Town Manager Berkowitz explained the town had to go by statute, which places the final responsibility on the post office and/or the property owner to check. The town could not make an exception and had to follow the statute.

An audience member asked if the \$4800 for unexpected paving costs would be lost if it was not used. Town Manager Berkowitz advised it would be, but the town would most likely be using it.

## **6. Other Business:**

### **a) Selectmen's Updates-**

Chairman Waddell went to Concord on behalf of the town to accept \$300,000 from the governor for the purchase of additional land for the town forest. Gorham was the biggest land project and one of the biggest recipients of cash.

### **b) Approval of Minutes (December 3, 2018 Regular Meeting, December 3, 2018 Non-public session)**

**Selectman White made a motion to accept the minutes from November 26, the public meeting minutes from December 3, 2018 and the non-public meeting minutes from December 3, 2018. Chairman Waddell seconded the motion. Both voted in favor.**

### **c) Town Manager's Report-**

Town Manager Berkowitz advised the board the North Country Counsel is attempting to upgrade their regional transportation plan. If the board wants to participate in that, they need to contact Alex Belenz.

Town Manager Berkowitz advised the board about a communication to do with the Board of Tax and Land Appeals that will be read in non-public session.

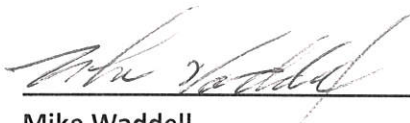
Town Manager Berkowitz read an email to the board that he received regarding the hiring of the new town manager, and what the expectations should be.

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

7. Non-Public Session: RSA 91-a:3, II, b, d, e (if needed)

Selectman White made a motion to go into non-public session under RSA 91-a:3, II, b, d, e if needed. The motion was seconded by Chairman Waddell. Selectman White-aye, Chairman Waddell-aye.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED



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Mike Waddell



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Adam White



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Judy Leblanc