

**MINUTES OF SELECTMAN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY JULY 23, 2018, 6 PM
TOWN HALL CONFERENCE ROOM**

GORHAM SELECTMEN PRESENT: Mike Waddell, Judy Leblanc

ALSO PRESENT: Town Manager Mitch Berkowitz, Denise Vallee, Alex Belenz, Helen Beausejour, James and Linda Reichert, Edith Tucker, Ron McCauley, Jimmy Willhoite, Chief PJ Cyr

1. Call To Order:

2. Appointments:

a) Alex Belenz- Hearing for Scenic Byways- Alex explained he was there to discuss proposed changes to state designated scenic byways, specifically the Presidential Range Trail and the Moose Path Trail. Alex explained the role of the Regional Planning Commission and the North Country Scenic Byways Council. He also explained what is looked at when designating a road as a scenic byway and provided copies of the RSAs that outline regulations for the scenic byways.

In 2015 the North Country Council and North Country Scenic Byways Council produced management plans that look at several factors regarding the byways and make recommendations for them, which include route changes to eliminate overlay and strengthen the themes of the byways.

The recommendation for the Presidential Range Trail was to add Route 2 from the intersection of Route 16 through Shelburne to the Maine line and remove that same area from the Moose Path Trail. It was determined that section of Route 2 is more aligned with the Presidential Range. There was also a recommendation to add Route 116 in Jefferson to the Presidential Range Trail. Alex advised that he would ask the board of selectmen to consider the presentation and public comment and decide whether they support the changes, and if so submit a letter of support. Alex then asked for public comment and recommended the board allow the public a week to write in with comments.

Helen Beausejour commented that it really doesn't change anything, just adds or renames one section that is already there.

Paul Robitaille commented that he supports the changes and recommends that the board of selectmen support the changes too.

Chairman Waddell advised that it makes sense and would be added to the agenda for the next meeting and would be acted on then.

Alex advised the state is also working with Nh Fish and Game and the White Mountains Community College doing assessments of stream culverts in the Androscoggin River Watershed. They are hoping to determine vulnerability to floods and whether it is blocking fish passage. The town will be provided the information once it is complete.

He advised they are also working on a process update for the regional transportation plan to identify needs, issues, and opportunities related to the transportation network in the region which will help prioritize projects in the ten year plan.

Edith Tucker asked if parking was part of the transportation plan, noting that there has been an increase in cars parking along Route 2 near the Appalachia parking area and in Gorham. Alex advised they are working with a few towns reference their parking issues.

Alex also offered his help with the town's TAP application.

3. New Business:

No new business on the agenda.

Town Manager Berkowitz asked the board to consider writing a letter of support to the liquor commissioner as they did in 2012 for the Dynasty Buffet. They are changing ownership and Dawn, one of the owners, is present at the meeting. Town Manager Berkowitz requested a motion to authorize the town manager to send a letter of support on behalf of the board of selectmen for the Li Dynasty Restaurant liquor license application.

Selectman Leblanc made a motion to authorize the town manager to send a letter of support on behalf of the board of selectmen for the Li Dynasty Restaurant liquor license application. The motion was seconded by Chairman Waddell. Both were in favor.

4. Old Business/Updates:

a) Spring Road Bridge/Culvert Project Update- Town Manager Berkowitz advised that the easements are done and there will be agreements with the property owners separate from the easements for restoration of small trees and shrubbery after the work is done.

b) FEMA Projects October 2017 Storm Event-

i. Problem with property access- Still being worked on. John Scarinza is now checking with the governor's office for the declarations for that period of time. This is in reference to the berm that was repaired on White Birch Lane.

ii. **NRCS-Romano Property- EWP Agreement-** Town Manager Berkowitz asked the board for a motion authorizing him to sign on the board's behalf for the EWP agreement which has to be submitted by email tomorrow at 8:30 am. At the same time the town will be putting in for an extension to leave ample time to complete the project.

Selectman Leblanc made a motion authorizing Town Manager Berkowitz to sign the EWP agreement on the board's behalf. The motion was seconded by Chairman Waddell. Both were in favor.

Chairman Waddell advised nobody can seem to find anything on the several hundred thousand dollars in federal aid the town was supposed to get to rebuild lower Stoney Brook Road. The town was told they were in a good position to received grant money to rebuild that section of road. Town Manager Berkowitz will look into it.

c) **Snow Storage at Town Garage-CMA Proposed Estimate Update and Execution-** Town Manager Berkowitz is waiting for Mr. Southworth to get back to reference his request for a one year extension. Town Manager Berkowitz also advised they received a revised estimate of cost for the last component. The first two segments came in at \$16,000 and the last segment came in at \$30,000. Chairman Waddell wanted to know what the other options are. There is a proposal from J and M that needs to be looked at by public works as it would require more trucking time and wanted to know if permission would be needed to do that. Helen Beausejour asked what the extension was for; she was told it was for the current snow storage location. Someone asked if the J & M site was for primary storage as it was thought that would be for overflow. Chairman Waddell advised it was not an overflow. Their fee is \$5 per load with no limit, and the town would be responsible for moving it around at that location. Town Manager Berkowitz advised the new wires that Eversource installed in that area are 4 feet lower than they used to be which reduces the amount of snow that can be stored under them due to the height requirement. Angela Khan asked what the issue was now with snow storage. Chairman Waddell explained the issues that have been discussed in previous meetings, the purchase of the land, and issues with the debris pile. Other options and sites were also discussed. Town Manager Berkowitz suggested a motion to table the CMA Proposal.

Selectman Leblanc made a motion to table the CMA Proposal. The motion was seconded by Chairman Waddell. Both were in favor.

d) **Woodland Park – Plowing and Road Easement-** Town Manager Berkowitz has not received any documents from the attorneys.

e) **Cascade Neighborhood Adjustment-** There has been discussion reference this issue at KRT. Chairman Waddell advised he and Selectmen Leblanc have signed everything, but Selectman Lefebvre hasn't.

Selectman Leblanc made a motion to send the paperwork with two signatures. The motion was seconded by Chairman Waddell. Selectman Leblanc-aye. Chairman Waddell-aye.

f) **Cascade Truck Signage-** Nothing new.

g) **Gorham Paper & Tissue Tax Payments-Status-** Town Manager Berkowitz met with leadership last week to get them back on track. He is waiting to hear what they are going to do as he requested a good faith payment and a return to the \$25,000 per week payment schedule. He has not heard back from them yet. If the board does not hear from the mill, it will be added to non-public session for the board to take action.

h) **Tax Deeded Properties – Gateway Trailers- Update-** One was in the paper. Nothing further.

i) **Update Re: Police Lt. Hiring process-** Chief Cyr advised the process has gone well. An oral board was conducted with one candidate as the other had dropped out. There was a six member panel: Gerry Marcou, Mike Cote, Town Manager Berkowitz, Tina Binette, Al Gould, and Jay Watkins. After deliberation and discussion there was unanimous vote that he was a qualified candidate and a good fit for the community. Chief Cyr discussed some terms and conditions of compensation with the candidate. Town Manager Berkowitz suggested going into non-public to discuss that issue. The candidate is from Kentucky. Chief Cyr gave the board an overview of his qualifications. Jimmy Wilhoite, former Dallas police officer, asked if the police department was done accepting applications. Chief Cyr advised there were still parts of the process the candidate had to go through and if he was interested to submit a resume and letter of intent. Training and NH certification requirements were also discussed.

j) **Update Re: Town Manager hiring process-Next Steps-** Town Manager Berkowitz advised the applicants would be discussed in non-public session.

5. Public Comment: None

6. Other Business:

a) **Selectmen's Updates-**

Selectman Leblanc asked about the Northern Borders applications. Town Manager Berkowitz advised it had been submitted but he hasn't heard anything further. She also asked about what the board was going to do with the list of 121 garbage stops that includes the trailer park. Providing municipal services such as garbage pick-up on private roads was discussed.

Chairman Waddell discussed the issue of language needed from the attorneys for the plowing issue involving the Reichert's and Clermont Drouin.

b) Approval of Minutes (June 25, 2018)- Chairman Waddell requested the minutes be amended to show that he voted in favor of the motion to accept two signatures for abatements. Chairman Waddell stated that he voted aye as well.

Selectman Leblanc requested that the motion to accept the minutes for June 11 be amended to read that Selectman Lefebvre made the motion to accept them and she seconded them.

Selectman Leblanc made a motion to accept the public minutes as amended for June 25, 2018. The motion was seconded by Chairman Waddell. Selectman Leblanc-aye. Chairman Waddell-aye.

Selectman Leblanc made a motion to accept the non-public minutes for July 9. The motion was seconded by Chairman Waddell. Selectman Leblanc-aye. Chairman Waddell-aye.

Selectman Leblanc made a motion to accept the non-public for June 11, 2018. The motion was seconded by Chairman Waddell. Selectman Leblanc-aye. Chairman Waddell-aye.

Selectman Leblanc made a motion to accept the non-public minutes for June 25, 2018. Chairman Waddell seconded the motion. Selectman Leblanc-aye. Chairman Waddell-aye.

c) Town Manager's Report- Town Manager Berkowitz advised the next meeting of the Androscoggin Valley Regional Refuse Disposal District would be held Thursday July 26, 2018 at 6:00 pm

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

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

Selectman Leblanc made a motion to go into non-public session under RSA 91-a:3, II, b, c, e. 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 9:00 pm. Motion was seconded by Chairman Waddell. Selectman Leblanc-aye, Chairman Waddell-aye.

8. Adjournment

Selectman Leblanc made a motion to adjourn at 9:00 pm. Motion was seconded by Chairman Waddell. Selectman Leblanc-aye, Chairman Waddell-aye.



Michael Waddell

Judy LeBlanc