

**MINUTES OF SELECTMAN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2018, 6:00 PM
TOWN HALL CONFERENCE ROOM**

Gorham Selectmen Present: Terry Oliver, Pat Lefebvre, and Mike Waddell

Also present: Robin Frost, Town Manager; Lt. Jonathan Woodworth; Edith Tucker, Berlin Daily Sun; Judy Leblanc, Diane Bouthot, Arthur Perry, Adam White

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

2. Appointments: Lt. Jonathan Woodworth - Resignation

The selectmen thanked Lt. Woodworth for his service. Selectmen Waddell requested clarification on stating in his resignation letter that he was leaving because of the selectmen. Lt. Woodworth advised that he did not have a feeling of longevity or job security. Lt. Woodworth advised he did not feel the town or selectmen have the best interests of the officers and dispatchers in mind due to the studies regarding police and dispatch. Selectman Waddell advised he could understand how he would feel that way earlier in the year, and outlined the decisions made to do the study with Berlin PD, but that the Board of Selectmen voted on November 27, 2017 not to put the proposal received from Berlin Police Department on the town warrant for 2018, ending the study. Selectmen Waddell advised there was language and discussion about keeping in touch with Berlin, but that he didn't mean further study. Selectman Waddell advised he was referring to continuing working with Berlin PD while the Department was shorthanded. Lt. Woodworth advised that it keeps being said the study is dead, but referenced the Selectmen's letter in the town report saying it was tabled and asked why it didn't say that further study would not be pursued. Lt. Woodworth advised he had no intention of leaving, but was called with an offer that he took due to not having a feeling of security for a long term job. Lt. Woodworth advised if they wanted officers to stay, stop making them feel like they have no longevity with the town. Selectman Lefebvre thanked him again for his service to the town. Selectman Waddell asked the other selectmen if they felt the board were still engaged in looking at studying services from Berlin. Selectman Lefebvre advised it was said that night that they would keep the door open with Berlin. Selectman Waddell advised he was talking about enhanced mutual aid. Selectman Waddell advised that the town has looked at contracting services for dispatch 3 different times and decided there was no financial savings and that there is no plan to close the police department at this point. Selectman Waddell doesn't believe they would have gone forward if the chief hadn't been in favor of doing the study. Selectman Waddell was concerned about the other officers in the department feeling the same. Chairman Oliver suggested that a letter be drafted in the near future stating that there would be no further study, but that the idea does keep coming up every few years. Selectman Waddell advised that they are not currently or in the foreseeable future considering re-doing the study to contract services with Berlin or anyone else. Selectman Waddell advised that the select board added bonus amounts to the union contract for retention and a differential and that wasn't the kind of thing they would do if they were planning on getting rid of the police or dispatch departments. Lt. Woodworth advised he was not

part of the union so he was not aware of the what was in the contract. Chairman Oliver advised he would have the town manager draft a letter.

Chairman Oliver began discussion on agenda item 3c. Chairman Oliver advised that purchasing weapons now makes sense as armorers recommend replacing them every 5-15 years. Selectmen Oliver made a recommendation to allow the purchase of new weapons for the police department. Trade-in and the possibility of officer purchase was discussed-a trade in amount will be given to the chief and the officers will have the option to buy their service weapon at the trade in value. Lt. Woodworth also advised there would be long term savings with the weapons being purchased as the ammunition for the new weapons is cheaper.

Selectman Lefebvre made a motion to allow the purchase of weapons by the police department. The motion was seconded by Selectman Waddell. The motion passed.

3. New Business:

a) Goal Setting with Primex – TM Frost spoke with Carl Weber from Primex who is available either April 9 or April 23. It was decided the board would meet with Weber on the afternoon of April 9, 2018. TM Frost gave the selectmen the agenda for that date and worksheets that Weber has requested all members of the board complete and bring to the session.

b) Loader Lease – TM Frost advised that companies who submitted bids have now contacted the town advising the price given was a budget figure and not their lowest price. TM Frost advised they would be soliciting bids for loaders. TM Frost spoke with town auditor Jamie Dow who suggested adding “or similar loader” to the warrant article that states the town will be purchasing a Caterpillar 930M. Selectman Waddell stated he was not comfortable changing it at this late date as they selected one and voted on it from five different units. TM Frost advised the town might get a better deal. Waddell also questioned the bid that was received for refurbishment and whether other bids should be sought. TM Frost agreed that refurbishment should go out to bid. Selectman Waddell and Selectman Oliver both stated that they were most comfortable with sticking with the decision that had been made and not changing that article. TM Frost again advised they were trying to get a better deal. Selectman Lefebvre stated if the article isn’t changed the town would be stuck buying a 2018 when there might be a new 2017 available. Selectman Waddell advised the town made a deal with Caterpillar that was voted on by the Selectmen and would listen if they had a better deal on a 2017. TM Frost advised that Buddy was trying to get the best deal. Selectman Oliver questioned if Buddy could go back to Caterpillar to ask if there was a still a 2017 that could be purchased to save some money. TM Frost advised that could be done, but it was not what the article says and is not what the selectmen voted on and if the town was sticking with what was voted on, the town would be getting a 2018 Caterpillar 930M. Selectman Waddell stated it was the most logical choice from the five different companies they looked at. Judy Leblanc mentioned that Caterpillar warranty work was also closer. TM Frost replied that Caterpillar comes to the site to do the work.

c) Police Department Weapon Purchase Order: See above.

d) Fire Department Bylaw Change- On a motion by Selectman Lefebvre, seconded by Selectman Waddell, the board voted unanimously to accept the Fire Department Bylaw Change.

e) Bids for the 2008 Ford Crown Victoria- TM Frost presented Chairman Oliver with bids for the 2008 Ford Crown Victoria. Joseph Daniels bid \$200. Carl Ouellette bid \$300. Thomas Myers bid \$810. Zack Binette bid \$605.

On a motion by Selectman Waddell, seconded by Selectman Lefebvre, the board voted unanimously to accept the bid for \$810 from Thomas Myers.

4. Old Business/Updates:

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

b) Spring Road Bridge/Culvert Project- TM Frost advised they were working on easements.

c) Alternate OHRV Trailhead- TM Frost advised she last spoke with Chris last week who advised he was talking with DOT and Department of Safety and would then come to the town.

d) FEMA Projects October 2017 Storm Event

i. White Birch Lane Berm – TM Frost advised the berm is complete

ii. Stony Brook Road- TM Frost advised pending-waiting for FEMA

iii. Public Works and Town Hall Building Issues- TM Frost advised complete.

5. Public Comment- There was no public comment.

6. Other Business:

a) Town Manager's Update – TM Frost directed the selectmen to the NorthPAC contract which had been put in the selectmen's files.

On a motion by Selectman Lefebvre and seconded by Selectman Waddell the board voted unanimously to accept the NorthPAC contract.

TM Frost advised Michelle Lutz spoke with Phil Bodwell at DRA regarding the storage unit building at Taillon's. TM Frost advised the town has until the 31st to send out a supplemental warrant, but they are under no obligation to pay it. TM Frost suggested the mistake be corrected for 2018 and move forward.

TM Frost presented Chairman Oliver with bids for the fire truck and ambulance. Bert Drouin bid \$2000 for the fire truck. Kevin Rines bid \$1100 for the fire truck and \$700 for the ambulance.

On a motion by Selectman Lefebvre and seconded by Selectman Waddell the board voted unanimously to accept the highest dollar amount bids for the fire truck and ambulance.

TM Frost advised John Scarinza checked the old veterinary clinic where it was suspected that there was a body shop in operation. Scarinza could not see any signs of that.

b) Selectmen's Update- A draft of a letter from the select board to the Berlin Daily Sun supporting the town manager form of government was discussed. Selectman Waddell advised he was fine with the letter except for the middle two paragraphs. Selectman Waddell provided history of when this had been voted on in years past. Selectman Waddell advised the select board could appoint a town administrator. Selectman Waddell felt they were moving in the right direction using the process of the town manager's evaluation to come up with a detailed job description to attach to the next contract. Examples of towns with town administrators were given. He advised he supports keeping the town manager form of government. He would recommend appointing TM Frost the town administrator if the town votes to do away with the current form of government. Selectman Waddell again advised he did not agree with the middle two paragraphs of the letter. Selectman Lefebvre advised that the functions listed in the middle two paragraphs is what would happen until they hired someone or put someone in place as town administrator. Chairman Oliver advised he supported the letter as is. Selectman Waddell advised he would also send something to the Berlin Daily Sun saying that he supports the town manager form of government.

Selectman Lefebvre made a motion to accept the letter as written. The motion was seconded by Chairman Oliver. Selectman Lefebvre- aye. Chairman Oliver- aye. Selectman Waddell- nay. The motion passed.

c) Approval of Minutes (February 13, 2018 public and non-public, February 19, 2018 public and non-public, February 20, 2018 public and non-public, February 27, 2018 public and non-public)

On a motion by Selectman Lefebvre, seconded by Chairman Oliver, the Board voted unanimously to accept the February 13, 2018 public and non-public, February 19, 2018 public and non-public, February 20, 2018 public only, February 27, 2018 public and non-public, as presented.

TM Frost and the board will request the date for the February 20, 2018 minutes be corrected before accepting the minutes.

Arthur Perry asked what they had to do to get rid of someone they didn't have any confidence in them, out of the selectmen. Chairman Oliver advised he had to write a letter to the board stating why that person is incompetent to do the job.

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 voted unanimously by roll call vote to move into non-public session at 7:05 pm to discuss the Town Manager's performance evaluation.

On a motion by Selectman Waddell, seconded by Selectman Lefebvre, the Board voted unanimously by roll call vote to go back to public session at 8:40 pm.

No decisions were made as a result of the non-public session.

As there was no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

**Reviewed and approved:
Gorham Board of Selectmen**

Terry Oliver, Chairman

Patrick Lefebvre

Michael Waddell