

**MINUTES OF SELECTMAN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2017 6:00 PM
TOWN HALL CONFERENCE ROOM**

Gorham Selectman present: Patrick Lefebvre and Mike Waddell

Also present: Robin Frost, Town Manager; Chief PJ Cyr; Kirstan Knowlton, Berlin Daily Sun; Arthur Perry; Diane Bouthot; Judy LeBlanc; Eric Cornish; Gloria Monk; Audrey Albert

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Selectman Lefebvre at 6:15 pm.

2. Appointments:

a) Chief PJ Cyr – Police/Dispatch Contract Study – Chief Cyr advised that he has submitted a Request for Proposal to Chief Morency at Berlin PD for both police and dispatch services. Chief Morency requested clarification on several items on August 14 and requested the information by August 18, of which they did comply. Cyr also advised that a copy of the budget was requested this morning and submitted to them. Cyr requested that the Selectman and anyone else interested take a look at the proposal and if they notice something lacking, it can still be added. Selectman Lefebvre asked for a timeline and Cyr advised that it needs to be brought before the Police Commission and the City Council, but should meet the October 1 deadline. Lefebvre mentioned that Morency had requested a meeting and asked when that could be scheduled, TM Frost advised that they will do that when Chairman Oliver gets back from vacation. Cyr wanted to clarify his comments in the paper about a fiscally responsible plan and stated that with the uptick in call volume in town, in general and with OHRV's, he has some concerns about Berlin being able to provide the same level of community policing that Gorham currently provides. Cyr stated that many residents don't understand that Gorham will no longer have officers and that Berlin will be here in their uniforms with their cruisers. Cyr stated that cutting costs for the department was not the task before him, but that if the taxpayers want to keep the department here, they could look at the budget and see where it may be possible to save money. Selectman Waddell mentioned Berlin's concern about a 1-year contract not being long enough, and Cyr agreed, stating that any COPS grants are usually for three years. Cyr suggested that the proposal carry the figures out through a fourth year, in case they are factoring in grant money and Waddell stated that the budget would be built without the grant money and if received could be used to reduce cost. Waddell stated that with the amount of disruption this would cause, a one-year contract would not be wise. Selectman Lefebvre mentioned that even though Gorham only has 2,800 residents, that number may double between May and October. Waddell stated that figures on hotel occupancy would be available from the Chamber.

3. New Business:

a) Acceptance of Resignation of Town Treasurer- TM Frost advised that a letter of resignation was received from Patty Flynn, the Town Treasurer, with a resignation date of September 1.

On a motion by Selectman Waddell, seconded by Selectman Lefebvre, the Board voted to accept Flynn's resignation with regret.

b) Appointment of Town Treasurer- TM Frost advised that Judith Crofts has applied for the Town Treasurer position. Crofts and Flynn have a meeting scheduled for September 1 to go over information.

On a motion by Selectman Waddell, seconded by Selectman Lefebvre, the Board voted to accept Crofts application to be the new Town Treasurer.

c) Gorham Paper and Tissue Agreement Modification Request – TM Frost advised that she received a request from the mill for a suspension of their payment agreement until the end of October. They received a large contract, but need to purchase materials up front. At the end of October, they would catch up on the back payments and continue with the scheduled ones. Frost advised that she needed to know if the Board was agreeable to working with them. Frost stated that any change in the agreement will be in writing. Selectman Waddell asked how much the payments would add up to, and was advised it would be 150,000 to 200,000. Both Selectman Lefebvre and Waddell stated they were open to negotiation.

d) Fence on State Property at Trailhead on Route 2- Selectman Waddell advised that the state is planning to erect a fence along the OHRV trail on Route 2 within the next 3-4 weeks in response to the many complaints they have received. Waddell stated that he is concerned, as several of the abutters are opposed to the fence and he does not feel it will help the situation if building the fence makes the residents more angry. Selectman Lefebvre stated that it is the State's right to put the fence on their property and the residents should be contacting the state if they disagree, as it is not a town issue. Waddell asked if the Board should urge the state to be cautious, and Lefebvre disagreed.

4. Old Business/Updates:

a) Fairpoint Poles in Cascade - TM Frost advised that she left a message for John at Spectrum and is waiting to hear back from him.

b) Eversource Divestiture – TM Frost advised that Attorney Boldt had filed a motion with the PUC to intervene. Gorham was included in the motion, but can withdraw. It was agreed that it was not in the best interest of the town. Boldt will not charge Gorham for the cost, Berlin will pay.

On a motion by Selectman Waddell, seconded by Selectman Lefebvre, the Board voted to withdraw from the motion to intervene.

TM Frost will advise Boldt of the decision.

c) Fire Ponds in Stony Brook – TM Frost advised that she has left a message for Howie Wemyss at Gorham Land Company and Jay Watkins to discuss this. She is waiting to hear back from them.

d) Cascade Playground – TM Frost advised that the lease agreement has been signed by both parties and the equipment is on order. Frost stated that it was less than \$1000 to order the 4 swing set, so that was ordered instead of the 2 swing set. Lefebvre asked what the timeline was for delivery and Frost advised about 3 weeks. The total cost was \$10,290.30. TM Frost will email the balance left of the Revolving Fund after the purchase to the Board.

e) Complete Road Improvement Plan – TM Frost advised that there is nothing yet on this.

f) Spring Road Culvert Project – TM Frost advised they are working on the engineering. Frost advised they send a monthly report and she will bring the report to the next meeting.

g) PSNH/Gorham Land Purchase – This was tabled until reviewed by the Board.

h) Rules of Procedure for Selectmen's Meetings – This was tabled until all of the Selectmen are present.

i) Jimtown Crosswalk Project – The written request and map was shared with the Board and Chief Cyr. Cyr will check the uniform code for line of sight requirements and consult with DOT to see if the location is safe or not.

5. Public Comment:

Audrey Albert asked about the fence that the state was planning to erect along the OHRV trail. She stated that the purpose is to cut down on the amount of noise and the lights for the residents, but is afraid that once they build this, the priority of relocating the trailhead will be put on the back burner. TM Frost advised that even if the trailhead is relocated, the parking area on Lancaster Road will still be available and used, just not by as many OHRV's as they would be able to access the trail from another location as well.

Gloria Monk asked if the fence was on one side only and was advised it was on both sides, but not along the entire trail. She was shown the map with the location of the fence, which turned out to not be along her property.

Eric Cornish shared a concern that the state was trying to push the responsibility for the crosswalk on Jimtown Road onto the town, when it should be closer to the office on their portion of the road. Selectman Lefebvre advised it is the town's responsibility to paint the crosswalks regardless of if they are on town or state roads.

Diane Bouthot asked if the Gorham officers would get the same pay as the Berlin officers if the contract with Berlin were to be approved. It was explained that it would only be Berlin officers covering the town and there would not be Gorham officers anymore. Bouthot advised this is not what they wanted. Eric Cornish asked what would happen if a contract with Berlin was accepted now and then not renewed in four years, and was advised the town would have to rebuild the department from the ground up.

6. Other Business:

a) Town Manager's Update – TM Frost presented the deed for Chip Bean's purchase for the Board to sign. The deed was signed by Selectman Lefebvre and Selectman Waddell. Waddell asked about the Chapman purchase and TM Frost stated that Chapman is wondering when we would close. Frost advised they are still waiting on documents from the attorney.

TM Frost advised that 155B letters were sent to several property owners by John Scarinza, including the Reed property in Cascade Flats, 2 River Street, and Dagesse for the cellar hole on Main Street. The Reeds have started working on the issues. Frost advised that Scarinza is also working on a letter for 2 Glen Avenue.

TM Frost advised that she will set a Public Hearing for the next meeting for the additional highway funds that were received from the state.

Selectman Waddell asked when the proposal from HEB will be available and TM Frost advised she would email to find out.

TM Frost advised that MRI would be coming on September 12 to talk with the Fire and EMS departments about ongoing issues that need to be addressed. Frost advised that Chief Watkins had expressed that he no longer wanted to be in charge of the EMS department and had asked that someone else be hired for that job. Frost and Waddell agreed that was not a good course for the town. Watkins has agreed to stay on as director for both for now. Waddell stated that is it obvious that we

need to rethink how we handle the EMS department. Frost advised that MRI will be looking at both departments to see where improvements can be made. Selectman Lefebvre stated that MRI will see if the issue is with the department head or the department and will give suggestions for them to move forward.

b) Selectmen's Updates – Selectman Waddell had nothing.

Selectman Lefebvre stated that concerns he had are things that will need to wait for MRI to visit in September. Selectman Lefebvre also stated that the town should start looking at a fee scale for inspections.

c) Approval of Minutes (July 24, 2017 and August 1, 2017) –

On a motion by Selectman Waddell, seconded by Selectman Lefebvre, the Board voted to accept the minutes of July 24, 2017 and August 1, 2017 as presented.

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

TM Frost presented an abatement for the Recreation Building at 27 Exchange Street.

On a motion by Selectman Lefebvre, seconded by Selectman Waddell, the Board voted to approve the abatement.

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 at 7:12 pm to discuss a personnel matter. Lefebvre – Aye, Waddell – Aye.

On a motion by Selectman Waddell, seconded by Selectman Lefebvre, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to come out of non-public session at 7:45 pm. Lefebvre – Aye, Waddell - Aye.

Minutes of non-public session are available separately.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 pm.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Terry Oliver

Patrick Lefebvre

Michael Waddell