

**MINUTES OF SELECTMAN'S MEETING  
TOWN OF GORHAM  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2017 6:00 PM  
TOWN HALL CONFERENCE ROOM**

Gorham Selectman present: Terry Oliver, Pat Lefebvre, and Mike Waddell

Also present: Robin Frost, Town Manager; Edith Tucker, Berlin Daily Sun

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

**3. New Business:**

**a) Encumbrances** – TM Frost presented to the Board a list of encumbrances from the 2017 budget. These amounts, if approved, would be brought forward to 2018 to be spent without further appropriation. The total of the encumbrances is \$51,395, broken down as follows: \$34,295 for employee health reimbursement accounts, Planning Board Master Plan Update \$10,000, Milan landfill monitoring \$3600, and Cates Hill Closure at \$3500. **On a motion by Selectman Waddell, seconded by Selectman Lefebvre, the Board unanimously approved the encumbrances as presented.**

**3. Other Business:**

TM Frost reported that the work on the berm at the end of White Birch Lane had been approved under an emergency authorization by the NH Department of Environmental Services. Work needs to be completed by January 19, 2018. HEB Engineers has outlined a scope of work with an estimated cost and TM Frost is contacting a local contractor to see if he is available to complete the work in time.

The Board signed Non-Public Minutes that were approved at a previous meeting, but were not available for signing.

TM Frost provided the Board with a comparative statement of the budget the was presented to the Board by the Town Manager and what the Board's budget was from their ongoing discussions so far. There were a few questions about the changes in the Police department budget and TM Frost will review and make changes, if necessary.

TM Frost reported that the Honda snow blower that is typically kept in the storage building at the Libby Recreation Area is missing and presumed stolen. A police report has been generated, but it is uncertain when the machine was taken. Parks and Recreation Director is looking for approval to purchase a new snow blower and take the insurance deductible amount of \$1000 out of the Recreation Revolving Fund. **On a motion by Selectmen Lefebvre, seconded by Selectman Waddell, the Board voted unanimously to allow the purchase of a new snow blower.**

TM Frost asked the Board when they would like to have Eric Grenier of HEB Engineers come in to discuss his Road Improvement Study Report. It was decided that January 2<sup>nd</sup> would be a good time, if he was available.

The Board signed a transfer request for the Special Insurance Trust Fund to the general fund for the insurance deductibles for 2017.

TM Frost brought four abatements for two commercial properties to the Board for approval. The first property at 459 Main Street is Lead Mtn, LLC and the BTLA ruling reduced their assessment from

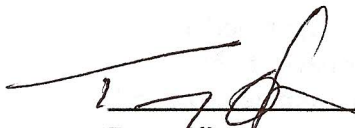
\$881,500 to \$500,000 resulting in one abatement for 2015 in the amount of \$12,634 plus 6% interest and one abatement for 2016 in the amount of \$12,961 plus 6% interest. There was significant discussion on how this could be so far off and if \$500,000 was a fair assessment for that property. TM Frost reported that she consulted with George Sansoucy on the assessment of the property and he felt the original number was closer to the correct assessment. He based this on his knowledge of land values in that area of town since he performs the assessment on Wal-Mart for the Town. The Board requested to see KRT's representatives at a prior meeting and reiterated that request to TM Frost.


The second property was at 260 Main Street and is owned by Northway Bank. This property was originally assessed at \$530,000 and the order from BTLA set the assessment at \$280,800. This resulted in an abatement of the 2015 taxes in the amount of \$8238, plus 6% interest and an abatement of the 2016 taxes of \$8443, plus 6% interest. The same concerns were brought forward from the Board.

Chairman Oliver stated that he was in the process of putting together a form to be used for the Town Manager's evaluation. He hopes to have that to the Board by the January 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

**4. Adjournment:** As there was no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:43 PM.

**REVIEWED AND APPROVED:**

  
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Terry Oliver

  
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Patrick Lefebvre

  
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Michael Waddell