

**MINUTES OF SELECTMAN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2017 6:00 PM
TOWN HALL CONFERENCE ROOM**

Gorham Selectman present: Grace LaPierre, Terry Oliver, Patrick Lefebvre

Also present: Robin Frost, Town Manager; Kirstan Knowlton, Berlin Daily Sun; Michael Waddell; Glen Eastman; Judy LeBlanc; Diane Bouthot; Christina Ross; Dan Marcou; Reuben Rajala; Arthur Perry; Gary Belanger

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman LaPierre at 5:58 pm.

2. Appointments:

There were no appointments scheduled.

3. New Business:

a) 2016 Town Report – TM Frost advised that the Town Report has been sent to the Smith and Town Printers. Frost advised it will be in no later than March 6th, but they are hoping for March 3.

b) Pole License – Androscoggin Street – TM Frost gave the Selectmen the pole license for the new pole on Androscoggin Street. **On a motion by Chairman LaPierre, seconded by Selectman Oliver, the Board voted unanimously to approve the pole license for Androscoggin Street. The license was signed by the Board.**

c) Operating Budget – TM Frost advised that the operating budget originally included in the Warrant that the Selectman voted on had been changed at the last Budget Committee Meeting, so the Selectman needed to vote on the new number, \$3,926,467.00, which includes the additional \$40,000 that was added. **Chairman LaPierre made a motion to accept the Warrant Article with the additional \$40,000. The motion was not seconded.** TM Frost advised it would go into the warrant as not recommended with a vote of 2-1. Mike Waddell advised that if there was no second on the motion, there was no vote. Chairman LaPierre asked the other Selectman why they felt they did not want to recommend it. Selectman Lefebvre advised that he did not think it was enough money to cover the expenses that will be needed if the town decides to do away with the town manager form of government. Diane Bouthot stated that she thought Denise Vallee had provided the Budget Committee a figure for that cost, and was advised it was just the cost for the severance package, not the entire cost, which would include an interim, and a hiring process for a new administrator. Selectman Oliver agreed with Selectman Lefebvre that it was not enough money. Waddell commented that now the town will not have any money set aside if the warrant article passes. Chairman LaPierre asked the other Selectmen if they would feel comfortable keeping TM Frost as the Town Administrator if the article passes and Selectman Lefebvre advised that he would. Lefebvre stated that it would make more sense to let Frost's contract expire. It would save the town money and her contract expires only 8 months after she would be done if the article was to pass. Mike Waddell stated that the conversation consists of a lot of probabilities, but that nobody has taken the time to sit down and put together a budget if the article was to pass. Waddell advised that there has been plenty of time to do this, since the petition was submitted more than a month ago. Waddell advised that now instead of being recommended by both the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectman, it will only be recommended by the Budget Committee. Waddell warned that once you open up the budget on the floor at the town meeting, anything can happen. **Selectman**

Oliver seconded the motion made by Chairman LaPierre. Vote: LaPierre- yes, Lefebvre- no, Oliver- no. Vote 2-1 against accepting the Article.

4. Old Business/Updates:

a) Fairpoint Poles in Cascade – TM Frost advised that she has been in touch with Fairpoint. Fairpoint advised that Eversource has only done two of the poles, and they cannot do anything else until Eversource finishes and Time Warner Cable moves their lines.

b) Public Works Building – TM Frost advised that all the work is completed and the last payment has been made.

c) Eversource Dam/Dike Update – TM Frost advised there are no updates.

d) Munce Properties – TM Frost advised that the notifications have been sent out and nothing has been heard back. The town cannot do anything with the properties until 90 days after the deed was done.

e) Trails Committee – TM Frost advised that the trails committee meeting was postponed. They will be meeting on Monday.

f) UNH Cooperative Extension – First Impressions Program – TM Frost advised that the applications were still not available. Frost advised that they will be sending the application electronically as soon as it is.

g) Stony Brook Roads Project – TM Frost advised that we have received the preliminary map and estimates. They are looking at doing an enhanced reclaim for the bulk of the area, but would do a full reconstruction for the entrance. They have not decided yet how they would handle Evergreen and Hemlock. They are still working on the full report. Chairman LaPierre asked when this would be ready, and Frost advised they did not say. The preliminary cost estimate was \$1.6 million. Selectman Oliver asked how much was currently in the road capital reserve fund, and was advised it would be about \$183,000 if the money requested is added this year. Chairman LaPierre advised this would be enough to at least get the entrance done.

h) Spring Road Project Update – TM Frost advised HEB is working on the project report as requested by DOT for the bridge program. This should be done in mid-March. DOT will take about 30 days to get back to us with a decision after that. FEMA has everything they need, except the answer from DOT.

i) Rec Department Focus Group Update – TM Frost advised that the statistics class at the high school is putting together the results from the survey and they will have another meeting after those are received.

j) Assessment Update – TM Frost advised that they are still waiting for Brett Purvis and Associates to get back to them with a proposal. Selectman Oliver asked if there was a deadline and Frost advised they will have to extend the time limits.

5. Public Comment:

Gary Belanger asked about the Eversource berm. TM Frost advised that it falls under FERC jurisdiction and we are still waiting to hear back from Eversource. Mike Waddell asked if there was anything in writing from the Dam Bureau and TM Frost advised that she had an email from Shawn Southworth in

January. Waddell asked if he could look at the maps and get a copy of the email. Frost advised the maps were available in the town office and she would print a copy of the email.

Glen Eastman spoke about the Warrant Article about eliminating the town manager form of government. He stated that the article is not really to change the form of government, but to eliminate the current position. Eastman stated that it is not personal and he likes Frost, but that things have happened and many have been dissatisfied with her performance. Eastman stated that the Board of Selectman have not recognized, or chosen to not be aware of the issues and have taken no action. Eastman stated that he hopes that if the article passes, the Board will uphold the vote and their actions in the future don't continue with filling the Administrative Assistant position. Eastman stated that it is difficult to say it like it is, but that this is really about performance and not about the form of government. Selectman Lefebvre reminded Eastman that any discussion to do with personnel in regards to hiring or firing is non-public. Eastman stated that there is an undertone in town that needs to be satisfied, that it was the only choice they had with what is going on, and it is unfortunate but true.

6. Other Business:

a) Town Manager's Update – TM Frost advised that the Chamber dinner will be held on March 10. Chairman LaPierre advised she would attend and chose surf and turf for her entrée.

b) Selectmen's Updates – Chairman LaPierre asked if TM Frost had been in contact with Senator Woodburn about the tourist welcome center planned for Gorham. Frost advised that Senator Woodburn had left a voicemail apologizing for not contacting the town before the article was in the paper. Selectman Lefebvre advised that he would contact Senator Woodburn tomorrow.

c) Approval of Minutes (January 23, 2017) - On a motion by Chairman LaPierre, seconded by Selectman Oliver, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of February 6, 2017 with one spelling correction.

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

The Board signed the abatement for Angela Lanzillo in the amount of \$89.18 for 9A Elm Street.

7. Non-public Session: RSA 91-A:3, IIa

On a motion by Selectman Lefebvre, seconded by Selectman Oliver, the Board unanimously voted by roll call to move to non-public session at 6:39 pm. Lefebvre – Aye, Oliver - Aye, LaPierre – Aye.

On a motion by Selectman Oliver, seconded by Selectman Lefebvre, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to come out of non-public session at 7:19 pm. Lefebvre – Aye, Oliver – Aye, LaPierre - Aye.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Grace LaPierre

Terry Oliver

Patrick Lefebvre