

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

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

Also present: Robin Frost, Town Manager; PJ Cyr, Chief of Police; Michelle Lutz; Kirstan Knowlton, Berlin Daily Sun; Michael Waddell; Judy LeBlanc; Diane Bouthot; Sue Demers; Robert Demers

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman LaPierre at 6:02 pm. Selectman Oliver advised those present that the meeting was being video and audio recorded.

2. Appointments:

There were no appointments scheduled.

3. New Business:

a) Primex Resolution for Contribution Assistance Program (CAP) – TM Frost advised that CAP is the program that we participate in that limits increases to 7% each year. Chairman LaPierre read the resolution: "To hereby accept the offer of the New Hampshire Municipal Public Risk Management Exchange (Primex) to enter into its Workers' Compensation Contribution Assurance Program (CAP) as of the date of the adoption of this resolution, and to be contractually bound to all of the terms and conditions of Primex risk management pool membership during the term of the Workers' Compensation Contribution Assurance Program (CAP). The coverage provided by Primex in each year of membership shall be as then set forth in the Coverage Documents of Primex". **On a motion by Chairman LaPierre, seconded by Selectman Oliver, the Board voted unanimously to accept the resolution. On a motion by Selectman Oliver, seconded by Selectman Lefebvre, the board voted unanimously to allow Chairman LaPierre to sign on the Board's behalf. The resolution was signed by Chairman LaPierre.**

b) Cemetery Deed – TM Frost presented a cemetery deed for George and Priscilla Gazey for the Lary Cemetery, which was signed by all members of the Board.

c) Annual Audit Update - TM Frost advised that Paul Mercier was here last week for the annual audit and completed all of his field work. Mercier will put together the reports as soon as possible and will get the report to the state. Frost advised that it took a little longer than usual this year, due to the change to the new software program.

d) Dispatch Contract – Shelburne – The dispatch contract with the Town of Shelburne was signed by all three Board members. Sue Demers asked how the amount for the contract is calculated and how much they are paying. TM Frost advised the total cost is \$2394.31. Frost advised that the cost per call for services is based on the dispatch budget. The total dispatch budget is divided by the number of total calls per year to find out the cost per call, then that is multiplied by the number of Shelburne's calls, which are averaged over three years. Demers pointed out that Shelburne and Randolph are not paying their share of the infrastructure needed to provide this service, and Chairman LaPierre stated that her comment was so noted. Demers went on to say that the amount paid by the other towns is a good deal for them, but Gorham is the only town responsible for the cost of the equipment to provide these services. Bob Demers asked if the ambulance contracts had been approved. Frost advised they have been sent out, but are not back yet. Chairman LaPierre advised that the ambulance contracts must be

approved at their town meetings. Sue Demers also pointed out that Gorham will be responsible for handling emergencies at the new hotel at the Mt Washington Auto Road, the Glen House. She stated that Gorham Fire Department would be responsible and that the county did not always pay. Chairman LaPierre advised that when she was Town Clerk, if the County was billed, they did pay. Diane Bouthot suggested that the cost of the new dispatch equipment needed should be split three ways, as the other towns should be responsible for the cost of the equipment Gorham needs to dispatch for them. Bob Demers suggested that the cost for Randolph and Shelburne be based on population rather than the number of calls, as that would be a fair way to divide the cost.

e) Request to Meet with Randolph Selectmen – TM Frost advised that the Randolph Selectmen have asked for a meeting to discuss the dispatch contract. They are concerned that they are being charged for calls coming in from Randolph that are for trails that are not in Randolph. They do not want to be responsible for trails other than the ones in their town. Selectman Lefebvre asked if someone from dispatch or Chief Cyr would also join them and TM Frost advised that they would. Sue Demers suggested that the meeting would be a good opportunity to suggest that they use population as a basis for cost, rather than calls, as then they would only be paying per resident, rather than tourists here using the Presidentials.

f) Award of Assessing Contract for 2017 – TM Frost advised that she spoke with Brett Purvis and Associates, and Michelle Lutz sent an email, about their bid for Assessing. Frost advised that the answers received were vague and did not have any details on how they would determine values. Both Frost and Lutz recommended accepting the proposal from KRT Appraisals, at a cost of \$44,000. **On a motion by Selectman Lefebvre, seconded by Selectman Oliver, the Board unanimously agreed to accept the proposal from KRT Appraisal for \$44,000.**

g) Town Meeting Date and Time – TM frost advised that the Town Meeting will be held next Tuesday, March 14, at 7:00 pm. Voting will be held from 10am-6pm. The Selectmen were reminded to be at the polls by 9:30 am, and both Chairman LaPierre and Selectman Oliver will attend.

4. Old Business/Updates:

a) Fairpoint Poles in Cascade – Selectman Lefebvre advised that some progress has been made, as Eversource has converted their lines to the new poles, moved the streetlights, and cut the tops of the poles off. TM Frost advised that Time Warner Cable is scheduled to move their lines next.

b) First Impressions Program – TM Frost advised that the applications are ready, but that the cost for the program is \$2500. Chairman LaPierre asked if money was available in the budget and Frost advised none had been appropriated for this. Frost suggested filling out the application and seeing where it goes, and the Board agreed.

c) Eversource Dam/Dike Update – TM Frost advised there are no updates. Mike Waddell mentioned that in looking at the FERC maps, the lot that the town bought has not been broken out. This would be the lot where the salt shed and burn pile are located. Waddell also mentioned that the trees on the dike have been cut. Chairman LaPierre stated that it was clear cut. Waddell again cautioned the town to have its I's dotted and T's crossed as Eversource moves forward with the divestiture.

d) Munce Properties – TM Frost advised that there is nothing new. Frost has not heard from any of the former property owners about repurchasing the property. Letters were sent out in February, which gave them 30 days to repurchase. The town has to wait 90 days after deeding before selling the property.

f) Trails Committee – TM Frost advised that the trails committee met last Monday. The next meeting will be on Monday, March 13. The meeting last week consisted of drafting a mission statement and deciding what the focus of the group should be, which does focus mainly on ATV's. Frost stated that Chris Gamache was at the meeting and stated that they are looking at a possible new trailhead to provide access to the trail system. Gamache had a meeting scheduled with Pike Industries, and Frost will check with him to see how that went. Diane Bouthot asked if the meeting minutes could be posted on the website and Frost advised they would be, as soon as they are approved. Mike Waddell asked if the meeting dates were being posted and Frost advised that the last one was, and future ones will be.

g) Stony Brook Roads Project – TM Frost advised there is nothing new to report.

h) Spring Road Project Update – TM Frost advised there is nothing new. She advised that DOT will not receive the report until mid-March, and it will be mid-April before any decisions are made.

i) Rec Department Focus Group Update – TM Frost advised that there is a meeting scheduled for March 16 at 6:00 pm. Jeff Stewart will have the results from the two surveys that were done through the school system. Bob Demers asked if this had to do with activities at the Recreation Department and Frost advised it did. Demers again suggested that when a program was run at the Ed Fenn years ago, there was a problem with supervision and he wanted the department to be aware of this.

5. Public Comment:

Bob Demers asked Chief Cyr about the \$30,000 spent so far on the officer who is still not certified. Demers suggested that the officers be hired closer to the start date of the academy to save the taxpayers money on someone who is not certified to do the job. Demers also shared his concern that when an officer is not certified, they are required to work with someone else, and there is nobody trained to teach. Cyr advised that Officer Woodworth is certified as a Field Training Officer from Police Standards and Training, and he was responsible for working with Officer Riendeau. Cyr responded that an officer working this long before attending the academy is not how it is traditionally done. He stated that he had to file two extensions for the officer to attend the next academy, but feels that he is worth the investment, as he knows the area and knows the people in the area. Cyr also stated that newly hired officers must complete a 12-week in-house training either before or after attending the academy. Diane Bouthot agreed with Cyr that it takes a long time to get an officer ready, but if we have already put in 6 months, letting them go now would be a waste of money. Selectman Lefebvre suggested that the more time they spend on the street before going to the academy gives them that much more experience and knowledge to use there. Lefebvre also said that it is better to give a newly hired officer time on the street before the academy, as it will give them the exposure they need to be sure it is what they want to do. Demers was also concerned with overtime paid to Officer Riendeau and felt that this was not appropriate since he was not certified. Chief Cyr advised that is something he will monitor more closely in the future. Sue Demers stated that she felt this is why we should look into hiring Berlin to provide services. Demers stated that we train the officers and then they leave to go to Berlin or State Police. Gorham is spending the money to hire and train the officers, but is not reaping the benefits. Selectman Lefebvre stated that this happens everywhere, and Demers responded by saying it seems to be more of an issue here. Demers stated that Milan has hired Berlin to provide police services there. Cyr stated that he could show her the Milan contract and it is not what we would want.

Diane Bouthot again mentioned the dispatch contract with Shelburne. Bouthot wondered why the cost for the new equipment needed is not split three ways between the towns that are using it. Randolph and Shelburne should be included in the costs involved to dispatch for them. Selectman Lefebvre asked

Chief Cyr if extra equipment was needed to dispatch for the other towns and he advised there was not, the same equipment is needed regardless of who we are dispatching for. Bob Demers again suggested that the cost be based on population. Bob Demers asked Chief Cyr what would happen if there was a fight reported at the Town and Country Motor Inn and Cyr stated they would not respond, as Shelburne uses State Police to cover police calls. Cyr advised that he would respond if an officer was in need of help. Cyr also advised that with mutual aid, if there is no written agreement in place, if the dispatch center that provides services to that town requests assistance, they have the authority to go. Michelle Lutz asked what number you would use for population for the other towns, as Randolph fluctuates a great deal between winter and summer residents. TM Frost advised they would use the OEP projections, which are from the Office of Energy and Planning. Sue Demers asked if the taxpayers could put forth a warrant article asked for the cost to be based on OEP and was advised that they could do one next year. Sue Demers asked if the other towns help with the repeater and was advised that is part of the contracts, and they contribute \$1200 each per year for maintenance.

Diane Bouthot asked about minutes for non-public sessions. She advised that the school department adds a comment with a general idea of what was discussed in non-public session in their meeting minutes and requested that the town do the same. TM Frost advised that if any decisions were made in non-public sessions, they would be in the public minutes. Mike Waddell advised that the county also includes information on non-public sessions, giving the public a general idea of what was discussed.

6. Other Business:

a) Town Manager's Update – TM Frost advised that it was brought to her attention that at Town Meeting last year, the meeting minutes show that a motion on Article 20 was made by a non-resident. Frost advised that she spoke with the DRA and Steve Buckley of NHMA and they advised it does not matter. The vote on the article was not close, and there was no count, just a hand vote on the issue. Chief Cyr advised that the vote was on the Police Cruiser CRF and that it is listed that he made the motion. Cyr advised that he believes there may be an error in the minutes as he did not make the motion. Chairman LaPierre advised that she writes in who makes the motion and who seconds it on her warrant, and she will check when she gets home.

TM Frost advised that the Cub Scouts will be coming to the meeting on March 20 to observe.

TM Frost advised that there is a grant opportunity from NBRC with money for infrastructure. Frost would like to look into this for the sidewalk project and is hoping to get at least part of the cost funded.

b) Selectmen's Updates – Selectman Lefebvre asked if there was a date set by the school to have a Selectman visit. TM Frost advised they are flexible. Lefebvre stated he would be available to go.

Selectman Lefebvre shared a copy of the letter to the editor that he composed to send to the newspaper and asked the other Board members to support it. Chairman LaPierre was just concerned that it listed that they voted against the budget, but she requested that the letter reflect that the vote was 2-1, and she voted for it. Lefebvre will make the changes and submit it.

Selectman Lefebvre asked when the town would be sitting down with the mill. TM Frost advised that she has left a message for Dick Arnold and it will be at the end of March.

Selectman Lefebvre stated that he had been approached by a few people in town asking if a business owner would be allowed to speak at the meetings if they were not a resident. The Board agreed that this has never been an issue in the past and everyone has been allowed to speak. If it was an issue, the

moderator could ask for the consensus of the body as to whether they would be allowed to speak or not.

Selectman Oliver asked TM Frost if the town could send a letter to supermarkets, such as Market Basket or Hannaford, letting them know that the town would be interested in a new grocery store in town.

Robert Demers asked why the Town Meeting was not held in the Medallion Opera House and Chairman LaPierre advised it has to do with voting. The polls cannot be taken down until the votes are sealed, and would not leave time to set up for a meeting at 7pm.

Chairman LaPierre asked if TM Frost had been able to contact Senator Woodburn about the proposed rest area. Frost advised she had tried, but has not been able to reach him yet.

c) Approval of Minutes (February 21, 2017) - On a motion by Chairman LaPierre, seconded by Selectman Oliver, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of February 21, 2017.

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

The Board signed the abatement for the mobile home that had been demolished at 17 Dublin Street. There is no refund, it is just to clear the books.

The Board signed the abatement that had previously been approved for 3 Eden Drive in the amount of \$148.19.

TM Frost gave the Selectman an Abatement Recommendation from KRT Appraisal, which recommended that the abatement request at 8 Mt Carter Drive be denied. KRT felt the vacant 2.1 acre lot, currently assessed at \$55,300, was proportionate with similar parcels in the neighborhood, even though the purchase price was \$23,800. **On a motion by Chairman LaPierre, seconded by Selectman Oliver, the Board unanimously agreed to deny the abatement request.**

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

On a motion by Selectman Oliver, seconded by Selectman Lefebvre, the Board unanimously voted by roll call to move to non-public session at 7:30 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 7:45 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 7:46 pm.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Grace LaPierre

Terry Oliver

Patrick Lefebvre