

**MINUTES OF SELECTMAN'S MEETING  
TOWN OF GORHAM  
MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2016 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*; Officer Richard McClure; Michael Waddell; Wanda Tanguay, Dana Horne, Arthur Perry, Christina Ross.

**1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman LaPierre at 6:03 pm.

**2. Appointments:**

**a) Mike Waddell – Eversource Divestiture** – Mike Waddell again shared with the board that the Public Utilities Commission has told Eversource that they need to divest their generating resources. He advised that in Gorham, the land they own is the powerhouse and surrounding area located behind the Public Works Department. Waddell shared concerns about the town's use of the land, as some of the piles at the Public Works Department encroach onto Eversource land. He also shared his concerns over the sale and maintenance of the dike, which is important to flood control. Waddell recommended that the town needs to define what it wants, and should consider purchasing the land that they have an interest in. He also suggested that the town obtain a copy of the properties with flowage rights and that the town form a review committee consisting of the Selectmen, the Water and Sewer Commission, the Conservation Commission, and the department heads to monitor the sale. He also stated that there are documents containing the inundation maps for the dams that have not been located at the town hall. He requested that the board make a motion to allow Bill Jackson to come in and look in the vault for the records. Waddell feels that some of these documents may contain information that will help the town with deeded rights or easements to the property. **On a motion by Selectman Lefebvre, seconded by Selectman Oliver, the board unanimously approved the request for Bill Jackson to assist in locating the documents governing the dam.** Waddell also requested that the Board make a motion to allow him to continue to research and follow the sale on behalf of the town. Chairman LaPierre made a motion, which was not seconded. Selectman Oliver asked if the town already had an attorney to represent them in the matter, and TM Frost advised they did have an attorney, Chris Boldt, and also Skip Sansoucy, who are looking out for the town's best interest. TM Frost advised that the attorney would like to meet with both the Selectmen and the Berlin City Council about the divestiture. TM Frost will be meeting with Berlin's City Manager, Jim Wheeler, on Wednesday, and they will look at the schedule and find a date for the meeting. The Board decided that any further research by Waddell should wait until after the Board has had a chance to meet with Attorney Boldt and Skip Sansoucy. Waddell also requested that communications between the town and Eversource on this matter be kept in a public file.

**3. New Business:**

**a) Road Reconstruction Program** – Figures from the road study were provided to the Selectmen by TM Frost. TM Frost advised that there are no figures from HEB yet for the remaining roads to be studied.. Selectman Oliver suggested that the board bring two warrant articles to the town meeting next year; one requesting a bond to do the roads in Cascade Flats and Stony Brook and one to do all the roads that need work, and let the voters decide. Selectman Oliver asked if there was enough money budgeted to cover the engineering work for Cascade Flats and Stony Brook. TM Frost advised that the engineering costs for both would be \$268,759, and there is only \$200,000 available in the budget. Engineering cost for just Stony Brook is \$198,759. **On a motion by Selectman Lefebvre, seconded by Selectman Oliver,**

**the board unanimously approved moving forward with the engineering for the roads in Stony Brook.**

Mike Waddell suggested to the board that they consider raising the tax rate about \$2, which would give the town about \$550,000 per year for road repair, instead of bonding, which would save money. This would allow the town to do one or two roads per year. Some projects, such as Cascade, would have to be done in two years with this option, and the concern over the project costing more when you do it pieces was mentioned. TM Frost advised that she would get information for the board on bond options for the next meeting. TM Frost advised that she would put together an RFP to bid for the engineering for the roads in Stony Brook.

**b) Herbicide Spraying Ordinance Request** – Christina Ross requested that the board consider an ordinance governing the use of herbicides being sprayed in town. Ross stated that Eversource contracted with someone to spray the land at the dike, and has a health concern for abutters to the property. Ross stated that abutters should at least be notified that this is being done, and it shouldn't be done on windy days when it gets carried to other properties. Selectman Lefebvre asked if this would fall under John Scarinza with code enforcement, and TM Frost advised that it would. TM Frost will get samples for this ordinance from the NH Municipal Association, as other towns probably have similar ones. Selectman Lefebvre also suggested that spraying pesticides should also be covered, especially due to the recent spraying for mosquitoes in other areas due to the Zika virus.

**c) Special Event Campground and Parking Rules** – The ordinance governing special event camping and parking for the ATV Festival and Camp RZR was discussed. Selectman Lefebvre asked if the ordinance would also apply to Walmart during this time and was advised it would. Chairman LaPierre requested that the town notify Walmart of this change for the two special events. Selectman Lefebvre asked if there would be a charge for the parking permits, and TM Frost advised there would not be, as it would encourage people to apply. John Scarinza will be in charge of issuing the permits and a copy will be given to the Police Department. **On a motion by Selectman Oliver, seconded by Selectman Lefebvre, the board unanimously approved the Special Event Campground and Parking Rules and it was signed.**

#### **4. Old Business/Updates:**

**a) Tinker Brook Bridge** – TM Frost advised that the bridge project has been completed and is open. The work was completed on time, and only a small amount over budget, which was for rocks which will come out of the water department's budget. TM Frost advised that the contractor, Lee Corrigan, did a phenomenal job.

**b) Cascade Railroad Crossing** – TM Frost advised that there has been no news on this. No date has been set for the meeting.

**c) Sidewalk Grant** – TM Frost advised she is working with North Country Council on the sidewalk grant in the amount of \$540,000. The grant application will need a letter in support signed by the Board of Selectman. The letter was signed by members of the Board.

**d) Public Works Building** – TM Frost advised that the USDA has agreed with the recommended bid for the building. TM Frost will be meeting on Thursday with Dave Laurin and Ray's Electric. After the meeting, she will have a better idea of the start date for this project.

**e) Salt Truck Update** – TM Frost advised that there were two suggestions on how the replacement of the salt truck could be handled. Joe Ramsey suggested that they could use a truck they already have and convert it to a salt truck, even though this would leave the department short one truck for snow removal. Buddy Holmes recommended that they purchase a truck using money in the capital reserve

fund, which has a balance of \$16,000. Ramsey thinks they may be able to purchase one for about \$10,000, but the board suggested that if one is found for a little more that would last longer, that should be considered.

**f) Accounting Software Implementation** – TM Frost advised that Denise Vallee is working with Accufund to get the budgeting set up. Payroll will be ready in October.

#### **5. Public Comment:**

Arthur Perry asked about the sewer repair for Ray Street and was advised he would need to contact the Water and Sewer Department.

Mike Waddell asked if the Board would be adjusting the bid for the Public Works Building, and they advised they would not be. It will stay at \$159,000.

Mike Waddell advised that there was damage done to the Icy Gulch Trail. The damage occurred two years ago when it was harvested. Randolph Mountain Club and Haven Neal were involved in looking at the trail and advised it has been reasonably repaired.

#### **6. Other Business:**

**a) Town Manager's Update** – TM Frost advised that the Board would need to designate a voting delegate for the meeting of the Municipal Association on September 23. **On a motion by Selectman Oliver, seconded by Chairman LaPierre, the board unanimously approved to designate TM Frost.** TM Frost will take care of sending in the card.

**b) Selectmen's Updates** – Selectman Lefebvre advised that the smell from the water treatment by the mill is hit or miss. He also advised that the sand has built up and that is not how it was designed to run. Selectman Oliver noted that it seems to be worse when there is a heat wave.

Selectman Lefebvre also asked about paving repairs in Cascade Flats, and if the sinkhole had been done. TM Frost advised that it had been and the town had not committed to anything else.

Selectman Oliver asked about the playground in Cascade Flats. TM Frost advised that they are waiting for the property to be deeded to the town.

Chairman LaPierre asked if the town had a list of names for the memorial from the American Legion. TM Frost advised that she will check with Pat Boisclair to get this so that it can be put in the budget for next year.

Chairman LaPierre asked about the state roadside mowing. She noticed that it has not been done yet this year. Not having the roadside mowed makes it difficult for trash pickup for the groups that are responsible for Route 16. Selectman Lefebvre asked if inmates were available for some of this work and was advised that they were not, as there are not enough guards currently for supervision.

**c) Approval of Minutes (August 8, 2016) - On a motion by Chairman LaPierre, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of August 8, 2016 as prepared.**

**d) Sign Manifest; Abatements and Exemptions (if necessary) -**

TM Frost advised there were no abatements or exemptions.

**7. Non-public Session: RSA 91-a:3, IIa** On a motion by Chairman LaPierre, seconded by Selectman Oliver, the Board unanimously voted by roll call to move to non-public session at 8:07 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 8:32 pm. Lefebvre – Aye, Oliver – Aye, LaPierre, Aye.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm.

**REVIEWED AND APPROVED:**

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Grace LaPierre

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Terry Oliver

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Patrick Lefebvre