

**MINUTES OF SELECTMAN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 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; Sergeant Mark Santos; John Scarinza; Dan McCrum; Jean and William Scolere; Michael Waddell; Christina Ross; Lee Carroll; Maurice Tanguay; Gary Belanger; Frank Correau; Patricia Bernier.

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

2. Appointments:

a) Fire Chief James Watkins – Introduction – The new Fire Chief, James Watkins, was introduced to the Board of Selectman and welcomed to his new position.

b) Interim EMS Director Marlys Litchfield – Introduction – The interim EMS Director, Marlys Litchfield, was introduced to the Board of Selectman and welcomed to her new position.

c) Carol Porter – Request for Assistance from the Town of Dummer – Carol Porter advised the Board of Selectman that the Town of Dummer requested that their new town clerk/tax collector train in the office in Gorham. The new clerk is required to job shadow for 30 days before being allowed to process registrations for the state. The Board of Selectman approved the request.

d) John Scarinza

Byrne Junkyard – John Scarinza advised that he has spoken with Bob Byrne in reference to the unregistered vehicles that he is storing on Morin Drive. Byrne advised Scarinza that he has two types of vehicles that he is storing, some that he is hoping to repair and sell, and some that he will be selling for scrap as soon as the scrap prices rise. Byrne will identify the ones that he intends to repair and line them up so that it looks more appealing to people driving by. Scarinza advised that Byrne also agreed to begin getting rid of one or two vehicles a week that he wants to sell for scrap. Selectman Lefebvre asked if the property was zoned for this use, and was advised that the property has been used this way for at least the past 20 years. Selectman Lefebvre also asked about Title Loans and the cars that are parked behind that business. Scarinza will check with the business about the complaint.

2 Glen Road – Dilapidated House Several residents expressed concern over the condition of the property at 2 Glen Road. The building is vacant and the lawn has not been mowed or garbage picked up around the property. Scarinza advised that he spoke with the owner of the property, who agreed to hire someone to mow the lawn and pick up the debris outside on the property within the next two weeks. Scarinza advised that the property is boarded up and the doors are locked. Concerns about the property being abandoned and/or a safety hazard were addressed. Scarinza recommended that the Board consider adopting the International Property Maintenance Code, which would cover concerns about multi-family dwellings. Selectman Lefebvre will check with the fire department in Berlin to see if they have a copy of the code and TM Frost will look into how the code is adopted. Chairman LaPierre asked if the property was still listed as a multi-family on the property card. The owner is planning to turn it into a single family home. Concerns were expressed over the fact that only multi-family homes and

businesses are inspected by the building inspector, and it was suggested single family homes also be included.

Mill Odor – John Scarinza advised that he spoke with Ryan Carrier, the wastewater treatment operator for the mill. Carrier said that he and the mill are aware of the odor. It is an ongoing problem as the lagoons have not been dredged for about 15 years. They are working with DES to implement both short term and long term solutions to the problem. In the short term, they will be increasing the amount of odor reducer added to the clarifier, and making sure that all of the aerators are running. In the long term, dredging is recommended. DES has suggested an action plan, however the mill is operating within the parameters of their permit. DES has given the mill a deadline of September 30, 2016 to respond to the action plan. Dredging is very costly, and most likely will not be done this year, probably next spring or summer.

3. New Business:

a) New Hampshire State Primary – Carol Porter advised that the State Primary will be held next Tuesday, September 13, from 8:00 am until 7:00 pm.

b) North Country Public Safety Foundation – Request for Nomination – The North Country Public Safety Foundation send a letter requesting nominations for the Public Safety Officer of the Year. TM Frost advised that it is intended to recognize someone for a lifetime of achievement, not for a specific effort. Nominations are due by September 9, and can be for a firefighter, EMS personnel, or a law enforcement officer. Chairman LaPierre recommended that the Board nominate Rick Eichler, and the Board agreed. Chairman LaPierre will speak with Janet Corrigan at the Fire Station about writing a letter of recommendation and will get the letter to TM Frost by September 8.

c) Fairpoint Poles in Cascade Flats – Selectman Lefebvre raised concerns about the condition of the telephone poles owned by Fairpoint in Cascade Flats. A couple new poles have been installed, but the wiring has not been transferred over and the old poles are still there. The police department advised that the problem has been reported to Fairpoint. TM Frost will contact Fairpoint about the issue, and also the Public Utilities Commission if needed.

d) Road Study Proposal – TM Frost advised that the cost for the road study for the remaining roads in Gorham by HEB Engineers will be \$24,750. TM Frost advised that there is no money available in the budget for this at this time. Mike Waddell raised concerns over money being spent on the engineering for the roads in Stony Brook, and felt that completing the road study should take precedence. TM Frost suggested that the Board also ask Horizons for a price for the study, as their bid may come in lower than HEB. Lee Carroll suggested that when the study is done, they also look to include water and sewer work that may need to be done.

4. Old Business/Updates:

a) Cascade Railroad Crossing – TM Frost advised there has been no date set for the hearing.

b) TAP Sidewalk Grant – TM Frost advised the grant has been submitted.

c) Public Works Building – TM Frost advised the work on the building will start next week, and documents will be signed on Thursday.

d) Herbicide/Pesticide Spraying Ordinance – TM Frost advised that she has been looking for sample ordinances from other towns, but has nothing back yet. TM Frost will reach out to some specific communities in the next few weeks and will bring them to the next meeting.

e) Salt Truck Update – The Public Works Department was able to find a used truck in very good shape in Rochester for \$14,000. The town cut a check today, and they will be going down to get it.

f) Roadside Mowing – TM Frost contacted the NH Department of Transportation in reference to the mowing not being done yet this year. They advised that it is an equipment issue. They are hoping to get to Gorham before winter.

g) Names for Veterans' Memorial – TM Frost has left a message for Pat Boisclair at the American Legion about names for the Memorial.

5. Public Comment:

Christina Ross expressed concern over how the Eversource divestiture is being handled. TM Frost advised that they are meeting on September 26 with the City Council in Berlin, Attorney Boldt, and Skip Sansoucy. Mike Waddell asked if it would be an open session and TM Frost advised it is not. Mike Waddell again expressed concern that the town should have deeded rights to the property, that the town should not allow the dike to be separated from the dam, and that the town should have an agreement with Eversource about maintenance of the dike. TM Frost will contact the Dam Bureau and get information for the next meeting. Lee Carroll advised that the water and sewer department was not aware of the issues concerning the sale of the property. Gary Belanger asked if the town would be interested in purchasing the dam and Selectman Oliver advised they were not. Lee Carroll advised that there are other municipalities that do generate and distribute power, but that many are getting out of the business. Towns that do, including Wolfeboro and Ashland, do not make money on it. They must have a capital reserve fund for line trucks, dam repairs, and generator repairs, and it is run as a business.

Lee Carroll asked about the catch basin at the corner of Main and Church Street. TM Frost advised that it would be included in the sidewalk grant and the work would be done next year. TM Frost advised that the highway department would keep an eye on it throughout the winter, as it presents a problem for the sidewalk and walkway at the church.

6. Other Business:

a) Town Manager's Update – TM Frost asked the Board if they had any questions about the MS1, which is the report that goes to the State detailing the total valuation of the Town for 2016. The Board had signed the report and had no questions.

b) Selectmen's Updates – Selectman Oliver asked if the school would be interested in a School Resource Officer and TM Frost advised that they were contacted by Chief Cyr and they did not feel it was needed. The Board asked TM Frost to follow up on this item, since they feel the school should have a resource officer.

Selectman Lefebvre stated that he had spoken with Jay Holmes who was concerned that we were going to spend money on a road study when one had already been done. TM Frost explained that the study that was completed several years ago was very cursory in nature and was not completed by an engineering firm. Mr. Holmes also expressed a concern about why we are picking up garbage in private trailer parks. Selectman Lefebvre stated that he did not have an answer for Mr. Holmes and now he

wonders the same thing. Is there exposure for liability for the Town going on private property? TM Frost stated that she would research that possibility.

Selectman Lefebvre also asked if TM Frost would ask the Mill Manager where they stand on deeding the property that the playground is on in Cascade Flats to the town.

Chairman LaPierre gave TM Frost the court documents that were served on her, as the Chair of the Board, regarding an appeal of valuation by Fairpoint Communications.

c) Approval of Minutes (August 22, 2016) - On a motion by Chairman LaPierre, seconded by Selectman Oliver, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of August 22, 2016 and August 29, 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 Selectman Oliver, seconded by Chairman LaPierre, the Board unanimously voted by roll call to move to non-public session at 8:40 pm. Lefebvre – Aye, Oliver - Aye, LaPierre – Aye.

On a motion by Selectman Oliver, seconded by Chairman LaPierre, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to come out of non-public session at 9:05 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 9:06 pm.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Grace LaPierre

Terry Oliver

Patrick Lefebvre

