

**MINUTES OF SELECTMAN'S MEETING  
TOWN OF GORHAM  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 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; Chief PJ Cyr; Chief Jay Watkins; Diane Bouthot; Henry Sanschagrin; Jeff Schall; Michael Waddell; Lee Carroll; Kim Pike; Michelle Lutz; Audrey Albert; David and Abbie Evankow; John Scarinza; and others.

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

**2. Appointments:**

**a) Chief PJ Cyr – Camp RZR Recap** – Chief Cyr advised that there were between 7,000-7,500 participants for Camp RZR. He advised that the town was busy and the hotels were full, but that is something that Gorham has dealt with before. Cyr advised that there were a total of 13 complaints about OHRV use from Thursday through Sunday, and of those calls, two were initiated by officers and 11 were calls received from residents. Most of the calls concerned OHRV use after hours, three were for OHRV use on the Berlin-Gorham Road, two were for erratic operation, and one was for an accident reported on the trails, which was never located. Cyr advised that the officers issued one summons, and the rest of the operators that were spoken with were issued warnings. Cyr advised that the town's cost for the weekend was just 8 hours of overtime, and that the other 60 hours of patrol was covered by a grant from the Fish and Game Department.

Chairman LaPierre asked if Cyr had looked into the School Resource Officer position. Cyr advised that he spoke with Superintendent Bousquet, who advised that if there was funding available, the school would be interested. Cyr advised that the town could be added to the queue for the COPS grant through the Department of Justice, and they would be notified if funding becomes available, at which time they would have to apply. The grant only covers three years, with a cap of \$125,000, and after that the town would be responsible for the cost. Selectman Oliver suggested that if there was a position open at the department at that time, the officer could take that position. Questions were asked about whether or not you can reapply for the grant at the end of three years, and if the position could be filled with an existing officer. TM Frost advised that it has to be a new officer or rehired officer. Chief Cyr suggested that if the grant was received and the position was filled, the Resource Officer could also start the DARE Program again. Chairman LaPierre requested that Chief Cyr put the town in the queue for the grant.

**b) John Scarinza and Chief Jay Watkins – Dilapidated Buildings** – Selectman Lefebvre had given Scarinza a copy of Berlin's code concerning Blighted Vacant Buildings. Scarinza advised that there are parts that could apply to Gorham, but it would be a fire department process in dealing with it. Scarinza recommended that the town proceed with adopting the International Property Maintenance Code. There are only two or three places in town that the code would apply to, and Selectman Lefebvre advised he would like to see something in place so that the town could have a way to enforce violations. TM Frost advised that a copy should be given to other boards, such as the Planning Board, to look over. There would need to be a public hearing, and the code would have to be voted on at the town meeting. Scarinza and Chief Watkins will be taking a look together at the buildings that need work.

**3. New Business:**

**a) Donation of Hangar to Town** – TM Frost advised that Eugene Berry has offered to give the hangar that he owns at the airport to the town. He is requesting that the taxes that he owes be abated, in the amount of \$133.93. Lee Carroll from the Water and Sewer Department advised that they will take possession of it and will be removing it. **On a motion by Selectman Lefebvre, seconded by Selectman Oliver, the Board unanimously approved accepting the donation and abating the taxes owed.** Carroll advised that the Water and Sewer Department will take care of sending a letter to Berry advising him of the decision.

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

**a) Cascade Railroad Crossing** – TM Frost advised that the hearing will be held on Wednesday at 10:00 am in Concord. The railroad has no objection and will not be attending the hearing. Signage will be the town's responsibility as everything will stay as it is, it will just be labeled exempt.

**b) Fairpoint Poles in Cascade** – TM Frost advised that several of the worst poles have been replaced. The wires have not been transferred to the new poles, but the process has been started.

**c) Public Works Building** – TM Frost advised that work has begun and the old slab has been torn up. The new anticipated finish date is November 1.

**d) Road Study Proposals** – TM Frost advised that both road study proposals were received. The proposal from HEB was for \$24,750, and the one from Horizons came in at \$31,248. TM Frost advised that as of right now, there is no money available. It was agreed that the bid from HEB would be accepted if there were funds. TM Frost advised that we would know more about the money available after the bids for the engineering in Stony Brook come in.

**e) Wood Raffle to Benefit the Holmes Family** – TM Frost advised that Bob Chapman has donated the wood for a raffle. Tickets are being sold at town offices. The wood is in a container at the Public Works Garage with a banner. The drawing date is October 28, 2016.

**f) Eversource Dam/Dike Update** – TM Frost advised that there has been no update from Chris Boldt. Jim Gallagher, the Chief Engineer for the Dam Bureau at DES, will be sending a letter to FERC asking them to put the dike back into the project boundary. Mike Waddell again recommended that the town get the dike recognized by the State of NH as a flood control structure. TM Frost advised that it is included in Gallagher's email and that DES is looking into it. Waddell requested a copy of the letter and TM Frost agreed to forward it to him once it is received.

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

Jeff Schall advised that the road sign for Marion's Way is missing and also that the potholes at the intersection with Route 16 need to be filled in. TM Frost will contact Joey Ramsey at Public Works and advise him of the problems.

Abbie Evankow asked Chief Cyr if the officers were required to give tickets for after hours use of OHRV's. Cyr responded that the officers have been told to use their discretion, as there are extenuating circumstances that factor into the decision.

Kim Pike mentioned that there was a good police presence during the RZR weekend, but questioned whether or not operators were being given warning for excessive noise. Pike stated that she knew it would be a busy weekend and did not call to report anything, but that many bikes and ATV's are very loud. Chief Cyr advised that the officers have been told to issue a summons for any modified exhaust.

Selectman Lefebvre explained that it is hard to measure what is excessive. There is a guideline of 85 decibels, but that must be measured at a certain angle from a certain distance, which is difficult to do. Henry Sanschagrín advised that it is many of the dirt bikes that are over the noise limit. He also advised that local businesses have been trying to help with the noise problem by not selling any modified exhausts. Anyone who is using them is getting them from a dealer out of town or online.

Diane Bouthot shared a concern about children ages 12-15 who are allowed to operate OHRV's on the road even though they are not licensed to do so. Chief Cyr advised that the laws have not caught up with the use and that there is a study commission looking into the concerns. Cyr also advised that it has been brought to the attention of the person in charge of OHRV certification that the certification does not cover rules of the road, even though they may be riding on the road. Michelle Lutz advised that there is proposed legislation that will require a license for operating OHRV's on the roadway.

John Scarinza advised that there is a Master Plan Meeting scheduled for planning what people would like to see for the town over the next 10 years. Mike Waddell advised that it is scheduled for Saturday, October 29 at 9:30. The event is open to the public. Michelle Lutz advised that she will be sending the information to all the boards. TM Frost advised that she has flyers that will be put up in town. It was also suggested that the town do a press release for the newspaper.

## **6. Other Business:**

**a) Town Manager's Update** – TM Frost advised that Jay Watkins has been appointed Health Officer for the town and has agreed to also be the Emergency Director.

TM Frost gave the selectman a copy of the new MS535 that had to be signed by the board.

TM gave the selectman a copy of the Warrant for the General Election, which was signed by all three members of the board.

TM Frost advised that there is new legislation concerning Veterans credits for tax bills. Frost asked the Board to keep it in mind, as the town will need to decide whether or not to extend the benefit to all Veterans, or just Veterans of qualifying wars. The Board asked Michelle Lutz what the total of current Veterans credits is and she advised it is \$23,400.

TM Frost advised that the new Recreation Department building is being painted and looks great. TM Frost also advised that stakes have been put up around the old trailer to keep people away.

**b) Selectmen's Updates** – Selectman Lefebvre reported that trucks have been using the first entrance to Cascade Flats and going over the bridge. He was wondering if the bridge has been rated for trucks. The residents in Cascade would prefer that the trucks use the second entrance for the mill. Chief Cyr suggested a sign with an arrow stating "Mill Entrance Ahead".

Selectman Lefebvre asked if the mill has deeded the property to the town for the playground in Cascade Flats. TM Frost said they are waiting on approval from mill management.

Selectman Lefebvre stated that the odor has been better in Cascade Flats.

Selectman Lefebvre also asked about the road in front of the mill entrance, if it was the town's responsibility or the mill's to fix the potholes. TM Frost advised it was mill property.

**c) Approval of Minutes (September 19, 2016) - On a motion by Chairman LaPierre, seconded by Selectman Oliver, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of September 19, 2016 as prepared, with correction of the time to 6:30pm on that date.**

**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 Lefebvre, seconded by Selectman Oliver, the Board unanimously voted by roll call to move to non-public session at 7:22 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 9:00 pm. Lefebvre – Aye, Oliver – Aye, LaPierre, Aye.**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

**REVIEWED AND APPROVED:**

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**Grace LaPierre**

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**Terry Oliver**

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**Patrick Lefebvre**