

**MINUTES OF SELECTMAN'S MEETING  
TOWN OF GORHAM  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2016 6:00 PM  
TOWN HALL CONFERENCE ROOM**

Gorham Selectman present: Grace LaPierre, Patrick Lefebvre

Also present: Robin Frost, Town Manager; Michael Waddell; Jeff Schall

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

**2. Appointments:**

**a) Hunter Desilets – Senior Project Results** – Desilets was not in attendance

**3. New Business:**

**a) Health Insurance Rates** – TM Frost advised that the health insurance rates are up 6.5% from last year. Chairman LaPierre asked what the difference was between the RV rates and the GMR rates on the list of rates. TM Frost advised that the RV rates were the ones already in place as of July 2016, and the GMR rates are the “not to exceed” rates for July of 2017, which is the one that is up 6.5%. Jeff Schall asked what the current rates are and TM Frost advised that the GMR rate for a single plan is \$677.66 per month, a two-person plan is \$1355.22 per month, and the cost of a family plan is \$1829.68 per month. The overall cost per month is \$33,363.54. Chairman LaPierre asked about the cost for the retirement plans and TM Frost advised that they are for retired employees, but the town does not pay for them, the insured does.

**b) Railroad Street/Grone Property** – York Land Services has submitted a proposal for the survey to be completed. The cost of the work will be \$2500. Selectman Lefebvre was concerned about drainage and water and sewer lines that are on the property. Selectman Lefebvre advised that there would need to be maintenance easements on the property. TM Frost has given the information to the Water and Sewer Commission and the town will wait to hear back from them before proceeding with any decision.

**c) Munce Properties** – TM Frost advised that the Munce properties are in the process of being taken by the town. They will not be ready for deeding until the end of December. Jeff Schall asked in any of the properties have contamination and TM Frost advised that they have all been cleared by DES.

**d) Budget Schedule** – Budget review will begin on Thursday, November 10 at 6:00 pm. It was decided that Police, Fire, and Ambulance would be switched to this night, as it is not a meeting night and they will take some time. November 14 will be Public Works and the Recreation Department. November 21 will be Town Clerk and Tax Collector, Assessing, Finance, and any other. November 28 will be the Library, Capital Reserve Fund, and any other that need review. Mike Waddell advised that he is hoping the budget committee will begin meeting in two weeks.

**e) Meeting With School Board** – TM Frost advised that she sent an email to Paul Bousquet requesting a few dates, but has not heard back.

**f) Equalization Discussion** – A discussion was held on Equalized Value and Equalization Ratio. The equalized value is what is used to apportion the County taxes and the school taxes so that everyone is on the same level. The state reduces the utility values to what they determine the values should be, and in 2015 reduced the value by \$41 million for the town. TM Frost advised that the tax rate would have

been close to last year's rate if the school had not gone up. TM Frost also advised that the town's rate went up because revenues are down. Chairman LaPierre asked about quarterly revenue reports, they used to receive them but have not received any this year. TM Frost advised that the accounts payable system has been in the process of changing over, but now they can print them again. She will get the report to the selectman. Jeff Schall asked why the revenue was down for the town and TM Frost advised that the ambulance revenues are down the most. Mike Waddell asked how that would affect the setting of the tax rate and TM Frost advised that they use current revenues.

**g) 91-A Right-to-Know Explanation** – It was decided that this would be tabled until Selectman Oliver is present.

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

**a) Cascade Railroad Crossing** – TM Frost advised that the order has still not been signed by DOT.

**b) Fairpoint Poles in Cascade** – TM Frost advised that they are waiting for a line crew to move the lines.

**c) Public Works Building** – TM Frost advised that the concrete is in and the walls will be going up. There is no new completion date yet.

**d) Eversource Dam/Dike Update** – TM Frost advised that Jim Gallagher is working with FERC on the dam issues. Eversource is coming to meet on November 10 reference to the encroachment issues. It will be a meeting on site and will discuss easement licenses. Mike Waddell asked if it was public and TM Frost advised that he was welcome to attend, but it would not be a public discussion.

**e) Trash Pickup on Private Property** – TM Frost spoke with Mike Perreault in Berlin. Perreault advised that they do pick up trash in Pepin's Trailer Park, as they are grandfathered, but they will not pick it up in any new subdivisions on private roads. The Board decided to leave the current pick up as is, but will look into changing the ordinance for any future developments.

**f) Holmes Raffle Winner** – The winner of the benefit raffle for Buddy and Rhonda Homes was Cecile Provencher. Provencher chose to take the money instead of the wood.

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

Mike Waddell asked about the Munce properties and what will be done with them. The Board advised that they will decide how to dispose of properties, at least 30 days after they have been deeded to the town.

Mike Waddell encouraged the Board to keep on DES about treating the dike as jurisdictional.

Waddell also asked about the road proposals for Stony Brook. RM Frost advised that some questions have been sent to the engineers. Selectman Lefebvre asked if CMA would be willing to sit down and discuss their perspective on the road work. Jeff Schall suggested that the town talk with the road agents in Milan and Bartlett about work that was done on Success Road in Milan and Glen Ledge Road in Bartlett to find out who they used. Mike Waddell suggested that having the engineering work done would not be relevant if there was no money to do the project.

Jeff Schall again mentioned the potholes at the beginning of Marion's Way. TM Frost had advised the public works department about them and will follow up to see when they will be filled.

Jeff Schall asked about the legal line item in the budget and asked if the town had hired a labor attorney. Chairman LaPierre advised that is it a non-public issue. TM Frost advised that the amount spent was \$5700. TM Frost advised that they are over the budget for legal fees, and that the majority has been spent on the Eversource divestiture. TM Frost advised that there is money left in the line item for legal fees for the Planning Board, which has not been used.

**6. Other Business:**

**a) Town Manager's Update** – TM Frost did not have any other updates.

**b) Selectmen's Updates** – Selectman Lefebvre mentioned that they may want to sit down with the mill again and discuss whether they are able to pay any more at this time toward the back taxes.

Chairman LaPierre stated that the Master Plan Meeting was very well attended. There were a lot of ideas about recreation in the town and they will be listed in the report. TM Frost advised there will also be a meeting at the school at 5:30 on November 16 about the use of the trails in town. The forum will be a way to discuss how to make the current uses of the trails more compatible.

**c) Approval of Minutes (October 17, 2016) - On a motion by Chairman LaPierre, seconded by Selectman Lefebvre, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of October 17, 2016 as prepared.**

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

TM Frost gave the selectman an abatement for Portland Pipeline to sign per the settlement agreement. The abatement was in the amount of \$35,468.27 and the agreement is for one more year.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm.

**REVIEWED AND APPROVED:**

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Grace LaPierre

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Terry Oliver

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Patrick Lefebvre

