

**MINUTES OF SELECTMAN'S MEETING  
TOWN OF GORHAM  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 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; Denise Vallee, Finance Director; Chief PJ Cyr; Buddy Holmes; Michael Waddell; Deidre Blair

**1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman LaPierre at 5:57 pm.

**BUDGET REVIEW:** Chief PJ Cyr and Buddy Holmes presented budgets for the Police Department and Public Works Department.

**2. Appointments:**

**a) EMT Introduction** – TM Frost advised that Paul Ingersoll, Jr, was hired as the new EMT for the Ambulance Department. Ingersoll's first day was today.

**3. New Business:**

**a) Forest Fire Warden Appointment** – On a motion by Chairman LaPierre, seconded by Selectman Lefebvre, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Jay Watkins as the Forest Fire Warden. The Board members signed the appointment.

**b) Pay as You Throw Discussion** – TM Frost gave a copy to the Board of the cost analysis done in 2013 for a pay as you throw proposal. The town would collect revenue toward the cost of Sanitation from selling either bags or stickers to put on garbage bags. It would increase revenue for the town and hopefully increase recycling. Selectman Lefebvre asked about the study's proposal that only one garbage truck would be needed, and TM Frost advised that this would not be practical. Selectman Lefebvre also asked if bags were put out on the curb that were not paid for, would they still be picked up, and TM Frost advised they would not be. Mike Waddell shared a concern that the revenue earned by the town would come mostly from the homeowners, as most of the town's valuation comes from utilities and businesses, which already have their own garbage pickup. Waddell felt that the cost to savings ratio would not be fair to the homeowners. Deidre Blair asked if recycling would be free, and TM Frost advised that it would be. The Board will read through the proposal and discuss the idea again at the next meeting.

**c) Meeting with School Board** – TM Frost advised that the meeting with the School Board is scheduled for Tuesday, November 15 at 6:30 pm.

**d) 91-A Right-to-Know Explanation** – TM Frost shared a handout from the NHMA with the Board of rules regarding NH RSA 91-A concerning Public Meetings and Governmental Records.

**e) Engineering Proposals** – TM Frost advised that she, along with Buddy Holmes and Joey Ramsay, will be meeting with CMA on Monday to discuss the Stony Brook Road Proposal. They will also be meeting with Horizons and HEB.

**f) Settlement Agreement – Gorham Paper and Tissue** – Selectman Lefebvre had asked when they would sit down with Gorham Paper and Tissue again to discuss the tax settlement. TM Frost advised that it

would be 9 months from the date of execution, which was in June. TM Frost advised that they will meet again after the town meeting next year. The mill has been paying the agreed amount every week.

#### **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 still waiting for a line crew to move the lines.

**c) Public Works Building** – TM Frost advised that the walls are up and the new completion date is mid-December.

**d) Railroad Street/Grone Property** – TM Frost advised that Gorham Water and Sewer Department has concerns about the infrastructure that they have on the property and the easements that would be needed in order for them to maintain it. The Board decided that it would be too much expense for both the town and the Grones to justify selling the parcel. TM Frost will call Steve Grone and advise him of the decision.

**e) North Country Public Safety Foundation – Chief Eichler Award** – TM Frost advised that Rick Eichler received an award for his service at the North Country Public Safety Foundation’s annual dinner. Janet Corrigan was also mentioned for her years of service to the department. Both recognitions were well deserved.

**f) Eversource Dam/Dike Update** – TM Frost advised that they had a meeting on site with Eversource last week. Eversource is looking into options for the piles that are encroaching on their property. The town will hear back from them as soon as they have had a chance to research it.

**g) Exposed Cellar Hole** – Chairman LaPierre advised that nothing has been done yet. LaPierre suggested possibly contacting Ron Dagesse about putting up caution tape to warn people.

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

Mike Waddell brought up the socializing aspect concerning NH RSA 91-A. He advised that the intent of the law is that you do not discuss town business, even if you may end up with two or more members of the Board at a social function.

Kirsten Knowlton asked where a copy of the NH RSA on Right to Know could be found and was advised it was available on line on the State of NH website.

Mike Waddell asked for a copy of the email from TM Frost. Frost advised that she would forward it to him.

Mike Waddell advised that the Budget Committee would be meeting on December 6 and December 13.

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

**a) Town Manager’s Update** – TM Frost advised that Jennifer Stewart of REMAX requested a letter from the Selectman about the Town Garage. Stewart is having trouble with the sale of the property on Main Street in front of the Town Garage because the bank will not finance a property next to a dump. TM Frost drafted a letter stating that it is a transfer station, not a dump, and the Board signed it.

TM Frost gave the Board a list of the proposed meeting dates for 2017. It was decided that only one meeting per month would be held during June, July, and August, and the meeting scheduled for December 26 would be cancelled.

**b) Selectmen's Updates** – Selectman Lefebvre asked if the potholes and sign by Marion's Way have been taken care of. TM Frost will check to be sure they have.

Chairman LaPierre advised that the Town Clerk, Carol Porter, had mentioned that Yankee Forest was requesting that the interest be abated on their first tax bill, as it was never received. LaPierre recommended that it not be, as it was sent to the correct address, and was not returned to the town. The Board agreed that it would not be abated.

Chairman LaPierre reminded everyone that the parking ban would begin on Tuesday. TM Frost advised that it would be put in the paper and on the town's website.

Chairman LaPierre asked TM Frost if there was any information on the ordinance for trash pickup. TM Frost advised that she did not have it yet.

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

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

There were no abatements.

**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 8:20 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 8:40 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 8:41 pm.

**REVIEWED AND APPROVED:**

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**Grace LaPierre**

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**Terry Oliver**

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**Patrick Lefebvre**