

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2015, 6:00 PM
GORHAM TOWN HALL**

Gorham Selectmen present: Jeff Schall, Grace LaPierre, Terry Oliver

Also present: Robin Frost, Town Manager; Kirstan Lukasak, Berlin Daily Sun; Denise Vallee, Director of Finance; Rick Eichler, Fire Chief; Paul Gagne, Mike Waddell, Glen Eastman

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

2. Appointments:

3. New Business

a) Family Resource Center – Grant Support: Chairman Schall stated that the Family Resource Center asked the Town to sign a support letter that shows its support of a grant that they are applying for. The Board agreed to execute the document in support of the grant.

b) Abatement Recommendation – Map R4 Lot 4-B, 111 Glen Road: TM Frost stated that she had received additional information on this abatement request and would like to pass the matter over until the next scheduled meeting.

4. Old Business

a) Fire Truck Purchase: Fire Chief Eichler stated that he would like the Board to reconsider putting \$44,000 for the department's capital reserve fund back in the budget. He apologized to the Board stating that he had not realized that the Board had taken that money out. FC Eichler stated that he would like to keep the replacement schedule on track. He is concerned that if the money is not put in, then the truck replacement schedule will fall behind. The Board stated that they would consider putting the \$44,000 back into the CRF fund, but do not wish to see a new truck purchased this year unless a grant is received and the monies would cover the purchase. **Selectman LaPierre made a motion to put \$44,000 back into the budget for the Fire Truck Capital Reserve fund, and that no truck will be purchased unless grant money is received, seconded by Selectman Oliver, voted unanimously.**

b) Tinker Brook Culvert Replacement: TM Frost stated that she had received an Engineering Opinion of Probable cost from Right Angle Engineering in the amount of \$175,000 for the project. TM Frost stated that an additional \$100,000 needs to be added to the budget to get the project completed. Projects are being limited to this one and is considered to be top priority. Chairman Schall asked how this matter should be handled. Both Messrs. Eastman and Waddell were concerned that the budget still needs to have enough money in it to not leave the Town penniless for unplanned incidents. Mr. Eastman suggested that the Board consider taking \$100,000 from the fund balance to pay for this project instead of putting the matter back on the taxpayers. **Selectman LaPierre made a motion to complete the Tinker Brook Culvert Project that will cost approximately \$175,000 using \$100,000 from the fund balance, seconded by Selectman Oliver, voted unanimously.**

c) EMS Contracts: TM Frost stated that she has spoken with Jo Carpenter from Shelburne. Mrs. Carpenter stated that they would like to meet with the Board again to discuss changes and/or suggestions. However, they are not ready at this time. TM Frost stated that she would like to move this item to the next meeting.

d) Recreation Revolving Fund: Due to the controversy of this matter from the Budget Committee, TM Frost asked the Board how they felt about the Recreation Revolving Fund, asking if they wanted to continue the fund, abolish it and/or cap it. Chairman Schall asked if the goal of the account was to have the department eventually be self-funding. TM Frost stated that every year the regular budget is decreased. FD Vallee stated that she has been moving 2 to 3 budget lines into the revolving fund. Glen Eastman stated that he was concerned about accountability for the funds. Further discussion took place regarding the revolving fund, and it was noted by FD Vallee that having the revolving fund allows the Town to easily place donation funds where they were originally designated to be placed instead of the general fund. The Board agreed unanimously to leave the recreation revolving fund as is.

e) Moose River Project Update: TM Frost stated that a Pre-Application Meeting had taken place for the proposed project. It was agreed that the best course of action is to repair the berm, but a meeting would need to take place with come up with an agreement with property abutters. TM Frost stated that she hoped to receive the estimates for engineering and cost of construction next week.

5. Public Comment:

Paul Gagne stated that it had come to his attention that EMS personnel were being paid \$40.00 per hour to go on transfer calls. He expressed his concern that this amount of money is extremely high. Mr. Gagne was informed that transfers were paid at a rate of \$250. Mr. Gagne also stated that he was told that EMS employees are being paid to be on call. TM Frost stated that to the best of her knowledge no employees/volunteers were paid to be on call. The Board stated that they would check into the matter further.

Selectman LaPierre asked why the light on the tennis court was still on. TM Frost stated that she would check with RD Stewart to see why it was still on.

6. Other Business

a) Town Manager's Update: TM Frost presented the Board with 2015 North Country Fire Mutual Agreement, stating that it was the same as the previous year's agreement. **Selectman Oliver made a motion to sign the Agreement as presented, seconded by Selectman LaPierre, voted unanimously.**

TM Frost presented the Board with an Oath of Office for Rob Este for the Fire Department. Chairman Schall signed the Oath.

b) Selectmen's Update: There were no updates.

c) Approval of Minutes (December 22, 2014): Selectman LaPierre made a motion to approve the Minutes of the December 22, 2014 meeting as presented, seconded by Selectman Oliver, voted unanimously.

d) Sign Manifest: All manifests were signed.

e) Sign Abatements and Exemptions (if necessary): None were presented.

7. Non-Public Session: RSA 91-a:3, II a, d, e: On a motion by Chairman Schall, seconded by Selectman LaPierre, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to move into non-public session at 7:15 pm. Schall – Aye, LaPierre – Aye, Oliver - Aye.

On a motion by Chairman Schall, seconded by Selectman LaPierre, the Board came out of non-public session by unanimous roll call vote at 8:05 pm. Schall – Aye, LaPierre – Aye, Oliver - Aye.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Jeff Schall

Grace LaPierre

Terry Oliver