

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, MAY 11, 2015 6:00 PM
GORHAM TOWN HALL**

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

Also present: Robin Frost, Town Manager; Kirstan Lukasak, Berlin Daily Sun; Jeff Stewart, Rec Director; Keith Roberge, Police Chief, PJ Cyr; Henry Fournier, Kevin Rines, Henry Sanschagrin, David Graham, Mike Waddell, Todd Lamarque and others

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

2. Appointments:

a) Keith Roberge – OHRV Use on Jimtown Road and Cascade Crossing: Mr. Roberge stated that he wanted to see if the Board has decided how they were going to handle the request for trail access. In order for the State to consider any requests from the Town, a formal request needs to be received by tomorrow morning. If the State does not receive the request by tomorrow morning, they will not consider reviewing any requests until next year. TM Frost prepared a letter to the State for the Boards signature, and presented it to them for their review. Chairman Schall asked Selectman LaPierre how she felt about voting on this matter, and she stated that she was in favor of moving forward with the request.

David Graham asked the Board if the decision had already been made prior to the meeting. The Board stated that they had not. Based on the time frame, TM Frost stated that she had prepared the letter in case the Board had decided to vote in favor. Rich McClure asked if the Board was also looking to change the trail hours of operation to match Berlin. He was informed that this was also in the request.

Chairman Schall read the body of the letter: The opening of the roads in Gorham for OHRV use has been a great advantage for the Town and its businesses. The following are requests that have been generated by the residents, business owners and visitors of the town. We sincerely hope you will view these requests as an economic expansion of the trail system that has become a boon for the North Country as a whole. The economy is slowing looking better for this region and we feel this would be a natural progression of this success. To that end, the Gorham Board of Selectman respectfully requests your review and approval of opening up the following to OHRV traffic: 1. Route 2 from the trailhead parking lot to Jimtown Road, or in the alternative, 2. The rail bed between the trailhead parking lot on Route 2 to Jimtown Road. 3. The entire State-owned portion of Jimtown Road. 4. A crossing of Route 16 at its intersection with Cascade Flats Road and Cascade Hill Road, or in the alternative, 5. Opening Route 16 from its intersection with cascade Flats Road and Cascade Hill Road to the Berlin/Gorham line. This will allow access to and from the businesses and trails along and near those roads by OHRV users. In addition, as we have discussed previously, the Town of Gorham is where most of the local lodging is located. It would be beneficial to these businesses for the Town of Gorham to have the roads that are included in the trail system stay open until 10pm to mirror the hours in the City of Berlin. As you are aware, a large number of people staying in Gorham do so in order to enjoy the trail riding as well as events held in the City of Berlin. While we have been asking for special permission to keep the trails/roads open later for some of these events, it would be of even greater benefit to our businesses to allow the extended hours on a regular basis.

The Board discussed the contents of the letter and suggested that instead of requesting the opening of Route 16 to the Berlin/Gorham line as an alternative, change it to and/or. TM Frost stated that at the end of the meeting

she will make the necessary changes to the letter so they can sign it prior to leaving this evening. **Selectman LaPierre made a motion to approve and sign the letter to the State with the suggested changes, seconded by Chairman Schall, voted unanimously.**

b) Jeff Stewart – Proposed Ed Fenn Gym Improvements: RD Stewart presented the Board with letter that he received approximately a year ago from the GRS Education Foundations for updates in the Ed Fenn gym. The total project is approximately \$25,000. RD Stewart stated that the Town uses the gym quite a bit for the Rec Department activities so he was asked to be involved in the project. GRES is asking the Town to contribute \$8,000 toward this project. RD Stewart feels that the Town should give back to the School. He plans to use money out of the Rec Access Fee Revolving Fund. The approximate balance of this account is \$12,000. **Selectman LaPierre made a motion to have RD Stewart move forward with the project contribution taking the funds from the Rec Access Fee Revolving fund, seconded by Chairman Schall, voted unanimously.**

3. New Business

a) Proposed Fire Station Fire Alarm System: TM Frost stated that the Board had a proposal in the packets which is over a year old. There is currently no alarm system at the Fire/Ambulance Building noting that there is a lot of expensive equipment unprotected. The proposal for outfitting the building with an alarm system is expected to be around \$10,000-\$12,000. TM Frost is asking the Board if requests for proposals can be sent out. While this project is not in the budget, funds would be used out of the capital reserve fund. Further discussion took place with regard to the system as well as whether or not a third party would be used to monitor the system, and it was agreed to ask Fire Chief Eichler to attend the next meeting to discuss this matter.

4. Old Business

a) Shelburne EMS Contract: TM Frost presented the Board with drafts of a Letter of Agreement along with the new contract for the Shelburne EMS Contract for their review. Chairman Schall stated that he would like to see the same language as paragraph 3 of the Randolph contract included in Shelburne's contract. Specifically noting the sentence that states the Gorham's EMS staff do not enter property if they feel there is a threat until such time as the State Police respond and clear the scene. Selectman LaPierre feels that Shelburne's only issue at this time is the police portion of the contract as it relates to the \$250 fee. After further discussion regarding Gorham's employee's safety and the \$250 fee, the Board asked TM Frost to edit the Contract to include if Gorham's EMS staff does not deem a situation safe, they will not enter the property until it has been cleared by State Police. Also, the Police portion of the Contract will be removed from the Contract and the Letter of Agreement will include further negotiations of the police portion.

b) Abatement Cases Update: TM Frost stated that the abatement matter with KGI is still on going. The contract assessor hired to the independent appraisal has completed the field work. BTLA has scheduled the matter in June, but this can be rescheduled and/or cancelled if we can come to an agreement.

Chairman Schall stated that regarding the Labonville Trust abatement request he found out at a Planning Board meeting that the Town cannot grant an abatement until deeds have been transferred. He is not sure if this has to do with the matter that is currently before the Planning Board. The Board stated that they would like to get more information on the matter and verify with AC Lutz that this is a stand-alone matter prior to moving forward.

TM Frost received an order for remediation for the Portland Pipeline abatement matter. At this time, she is waiting for information from Brian Fogg of Skip Sansoucy's office. As soon as the information is received she will forward it to the Board.

c) Tinker Brook Bridge Update: TM Frost stated that work on the Tinker Brook Project has started, noting that the survey crew was on site last week. Research with regard to NHDOT access and right-of-way is currently being worked on. The project is moving forward as expected.

d) Public Works Roof Project Update: TM Frost stated that a crew will begin work on roof within the next 30 days. The contractor had a delay, which had been cleared with the USDA, for grant purposes. Dave Lauren will be overseeing the project. While the project was delayed, there is no increase in the project price.

5. Public Comment:

Todd Lamarque questioned the Board with regard to part-time, seasonal employees and their return to positions each year. Mr. Lamarque stated that his father had been working for the Rec Department for the past 8 years, but was not asked to return this year with no reason given. He said that his father should have been told that they would not be taking him back at the end of last season. He expressed his concern because RD Stewart thanked him for a job well done in the Town Report. Mr. Lamarque spoke with TM Frost a few weeks ago regarding this matter and still has not received a return call. Mr. Lamarque expressed his distaste with the way that the department has been run since the departure of Mr. Weathers. The Board stated that they would check into the matter and get back to Mr. Lamarque.

Mike Waddell presented the Board with copies of the most recent Conservation Commission's actions as it relates to Eversource and the dam behind the Town Garage. He said that this work is the same work as has been done previously. Mr. Waddell stated that Eversource is doing these updates and will be looking to sell off their dams. He expressed concern with regard to the portion of the property that the Town currently uses for the Town Garage. He suggested that the Board contact Eversource to discuss this matter as well as ask about the FERC line versus the distribution transmission property. While it may not mean much to Eversource it will mean quite a lot to the Town. Mr. Waddell also asked about a Wetland Permit for the Tinker Brook project, and the amount of time necessary to receive permits from the State. TM Frost stated that the project is on a very tight time line and we will know more mid to late August on the status of the project for this year.

6. Other Business

a) Town Manager's Update: TM Frost stated that she is currently working on a hands free policy for an addendum to the personnel policy as it relates to the use of electronics in town vehicles.

b) Selectmen's Update: There were none.

c) Approval of Minutes (April 10, 2015 & April 20, 2015): Selectman LaPierre reviewed some grammatical errors on both sets of minutes with Minute Taker Riendeau. **Selectman LaPierre made a motion to approve the Minutes of April 10 and April 20, 2015 with the discussed changed, seconded by Chairman Schall, 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: On a motion by Chairman Schall, seconded by Selectman LaPierre, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to move into non-public session at 7:20 pm. Schall – Aye, LaPierre – 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 7:45 pm. Schall – Aye, LaPierre – Aye, Oliver - Aye.

The Board reviewed and signed the document proclaiming May 17-23, 2015 as Emergency Medical Services Week. The Board signed the MS-535 Financial Report of the Town Budget which was prepared by our auditor, Paul Mercier.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 PM.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Jeff Schall

Grace LaPierre
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Terry Oliver