

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
TOWN OF GORHAM  
MONDAY, JUNE 1, 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; Jeff Stewart, Rec Director; Ron Donato, Phil Ross, Larry Leighton, Dennis Arguin

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

**2. Appointments:**

**a) Jeff Stewart – Proposed Libby's Scoreboard:** RD Stewart reviewed a request with the Board for a scoreboard for Libby's Field. The total cost and installation fees for the scoreboard is slated to be \$5,882.22. He anticipates receiving \$4,000 in donations and the balance will be taken from the Field Maintenance CRF. Advertisement of the businesses that donated money will be placed on the scoreboard. It will be placed approximately 20 feet from the riverbank at an angle so it can be seen from the field. The electricity for the scoreboard will be from the existing warming hut panel. The Board agreed to have the project move forward.

**3. New Business**

**a) Property Tax Warrant – 1<sup>st</sup> Issue:** TM Frost presented the Board with the first half tax Warrant in the amount of \$4,124,895.40. The tax bills will be sent out this week and interest will start accruing if the bills are not paid by July 6<sup>th</sup>. The Board signed the Warrant.

**b) John Ellis Memorial:** Chairman Schall stated that while the John Ellis Memorial is an old subject for the Board he had asked for this matter be placed on the agenda as a new item. The dedication for the Memorial was last Tuesday afternoon, and the Memorial itself has been in the works for over a year. The matter has come before the Board numerous times, but the Board never actually placed a formal vote. The Board's consensus had been to move forward with the Memorial. However, at this time Chairman Schall stated that based on the recent incident, he would like the Board to reconsider the location of the Memorial and move it to another location close to the ball field. He stated that he felt that the location, based on the tragic incident, shows insensitivity towards the family. TM Frost stated that she had received a request that the ball field be renamed in Mr. Ellis' honor as well. Selectman LaPierre stated that it is a sticky situation, however, the monument was asked to be placed in its current location well before the tragedy took place, but she definitely sympathizes with the family deeply. Further discussion took place with regard to its current location and the expense/payment of moving the monument. **Selectman Oliver made a motion to table the subject, seconded by Selectman LaPierre, voted unanimously. Selectman Oliver also made a motion to table the matter of renaming the ball field, seconded by Selectman LaPierre, voted unanimously.**

**c) Fire Station Air Quality:** TM Frost stated that she has had a couple of complaints from employees with regard to air quality at the Fire Station. The building has had roof leaks in the past and it is suspected that there is possibly mold in the building. The Lawson Group provided an assessment quote in the amount of \$2,824.00. TM Frost stated that while The Lawson Group is a very good company, they are not the only company that provides this type of service and other quotes will be sought after. TM Frost stated that she wanted to bring this matter before the Board, noting that the Building Maintenance CRF will be used for payment. At this time, the matter is for informational purposes only.

#### 4. Old Business

**a) Date for GLHA Mediation, Designation of Selectmen's Representative:** TM Frost stated that the mediation date for Great Lakes Hydro abatement case will either be scheduled for July 6 or July 10, noting that it will likely be an all-day event. She also suggested that whoever will be going to attend as the Board's representative, they should have the okay to move forward with proposals. Chairman Schall stated that he will plan to attend.

**b) Tinker Brook Project Update:** TM Frost stated that the preliminary plans for the Tinker Brook project have been received and have been forwarded to the Engineer for the Water and Sewer Department. Don Bouchard of Horizon Engineers is working with Dave Patry on the project. The project is still on schedule for this fall.

**c) Sign Shelburne EMS Contract and Letter of Agreement:** TM Frost presented the Board with two copies of both the EMS Contract and Letter of Agreement for the Town of Shelburne. The Board signed both documents.

**d) Status of OHRV Request to State:** TM Frost stated that the State of NH DOT and DOS will be out to look at the roads tomorrow should have an answer in 2-3 weeks as to whether the State approves the recent requests.

#### 5. Public Comment:

Larry Leighton informed the Board that in 1959 a child drown at Libby's Pool, but it did not close. The recent incident was tragic, but the stone should not be moved. He went on to say that life continues on. We did not come to the town to beg for anything with this situation. We were just trying to do something nice. While he feels bad for the family, this matter should not be turned into a circus.

Phil Ross stated that this project was started 2.5 years ago, and it has snowballed since. He started talking to Dick Downs and they both decided that before they died they wanted to do something nice for John Ellis because of everything he had done for the local kids. He said that no one could predict the future. He feels extremely bad for the family, but the location picked for the stone is in the area that Mr. Ellis used to enter the field. He feels the monument should stay where it is.

Ron Donato agree with some of what was said, but disagrees with circus portion. He has seen a lot of people that agree with Messrs. Leighton and Ross, but there are some people who feel it is in bad taste. Mr. Donato said that his dad used to work with the local kids a lot and there is no monument for him. He said that he agrees with a comment that Mr. Jackson said before that doing monuments throughout the Town would make it look as though it is a "mortuary".

Kirsten Lukasak said that at the last meeting Chairman Schall's concern was mentioned and wondered if the issue could have been avoided or is it hindsight. Chairman Schall said that it may be hindsight and that he had reservations at the last meeting. He is not trying to do/say anything bad about or towards Mr. Ellis, but feels that in light of the situation it is a sensitivity issue.

Larry Leighton when the decision is made, who will pay for moving the monument and said that it definitely needed to be moved by Nicoletti noting that it will never be the same.

Phil Ross said that the Town does not want to remember a person getting shot on the common, but wants to remember a positive note like John Ellis.

Dennis Arguin stated that he thought he was supposed to be on the agenda for tonight's meeting. TM Frost apologized noting that it was an oversight. The Board asked TM Frost to provide Mr. Arguin with a copy of the report.

**6. Other Business**

**a) Town Manager's Update:** The Board presented the Board with an Appointment Certificate for David Graham as the full Trustee of the Library Trust as well as a Certificate for Clint Emmett as Alternate Trustee. The Board had previously approved the appointments. The Board signed both Appointment Certificates.

**b) Selectmen's Update:** Selectman LaPierre asked if the Losier property in the abatement matter was in John's name. TM Frost stated that the property is owned by Joelle Losier but that John (her father) was Ms. Losier's agent in the matter.

**c) Approval of Minutes (May 25, 2015):** Selectman LaPierre made motion to approve the Minutes of May 25, 2015 as presented, 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 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 6:54 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 7:25 pm. Schall – Aye, LaPierre – Aye, Oliver - Aye.

**8. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 PM.

**REVIEWED AND APPROVED:**

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Jeff Schall

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Grace LaPierre

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Terry Oliver