

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
TOWN OF GORHAM  
MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 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; Chad Miller, EMS Director; Dennis Arguin, Pat Lefebvre, Mike Waddell

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

**2. Appointments:** There were no appointments.

**3. New Business**

**a) Resolution Endorsing Rail Coalition:** Chairman Schall stated that at the last meeting the Board put off this subject to wait for the return of Selectman Oliver. TM Frost stated that she will pull together the resolution and will have it ready for signature in the office.

**b) Ambulance/Paramedic Position – Chad Miller:** Chairman Schall stated that he waited for Selectman Oliver to continue the discussion of the position. Also, Chairman Schall asked EMD Miller if looking for the third ambulance was the same request as he had previously requested. EMD Miller stated that the reliability of the current ambulances is problematic. Currently, the Capital Reserve Fund balance is not enough to purchase a new ambulance. The price of a brand new ambulance is approximately \$173,000. EMD Miller said that when there is a problem with one of the current ambulances, the PW Garage needs to have the vehicle for a long period of time because some of the issues that have been dealt with. EMD Miller went on to say that the ambulance replacement plan for the CRF has typically been 10 years. However, with the current growth of 12.3% per year for the department, the additional mileage driven each year needs to be taken into consideration. In the future, he feels that ambulance replacement should relate to annual miles driven. EMD Miller feels that having the third ambulance in the rotation will help keep the mileage down. At this time, he would like to be able to look at purchasing a good used ambulance for approximately \$65,000. The Board stated that while they understand the need for this additional ambulance, they are concerned about purchasing a used one and subsequently there not being adequate monies in the CRF to purchase a new one when needed. This will throw off the current plan. The Board requested EMD Miller to get more information and pricing on both new and used ambulances.

EMD Miller asked the Board if the department could hire an additional full time paramedic. At this time, he is the only person that is a certified paramedic. The department has turned down several transfers because they cannot staff the additional ambulance. EMD Miller would like to be able to take time and be thorough in the hiring process. At this time, a paramedic is being paid \$40 per hour for calls. As he stated at the last meeting, a full time position will be paid at a substantially less hourly rate. With overhead and the possibility of overtime wages, the difference between what the Town had been paying versus what the expense would be with a full time position is relatively small. EMD Miller has been taking as many transfers as possible. However, it is starting to take its toll on him. He expects that it will take time to complete the hiring process. **Selectman Oliver made a motion to advertise the full time paramedic position and move forward with the hiring process, seconded by Selectman LaPierre, voted unanimously.**

**c) Road Study Engineering RFP:** TM Frost stated that the RFP for the Road Study Engineering has gone out. It mirrors that of the Stony Brook area RFP. This RFP will give the Town an estimated cost for road repairs.

#### 4. Old Business

**a) Tinker Brook Project Update:** TM Frost stated that we are still waiting on permits from DES.

**b) Boston Post Cane:** TM Frost prepared a list of the oldest residents of the Town that had been nominated. At this time, it appears that Barbara Barnett of Evans Street is the oldest, nominated resident to receive the Boston Post Cane. **Selectman LaPierre made a motion to select Barbara Barnett to receive the Boston Post Cane, seconded by Selectman Oliver, voted unanimously.** TM Frost will get a replica ready for presentation.

**c) Randolph Police Agreement:** TM Frost stated she communicated with Linda Dupont at Randolph with regard to the language in the Agreement. Ms. Dupont stated that the Board of Selectmen are meeting tonight as well, and we should hear from someone tomorrow. This item will be moved to the next agenda.

**d) Street Lighting:** TM Frost stated that, to follow up on last weeks' meeting, she said that FD Vallee had received information from Eversource with regard to street light savings. At this time, the Town saves approximately \$2,174 per year having 40 street lights shut off at midnight. There is a fee of approximately \$250-300 per light to turn them back on. Eversource is offering a program in January to change over lights to LED lights and will reimburse the Town all but \$100 per fixture. The Board agreed to wait to turn any lights back on until after the first of the year and asked TM Frost to look into the LED lights.

#### 5. Public Comment:

Dennis Arguin asked when Mike Scala would be attending a meeting noting that he will be unavailable until after October 4<sup>th</sup>. TM Frost stated that she will ask Mr. Scala to attend the October 19 meeting.

Pat Lefebvre said the smell in Cascade Flats is awful, to the point that windows cannot be left open in the evening. He asked if this is something that he needed to go to the Mill with or can he go through the Town with a formal complaint. He stated that if #9 machine is not running, the Mill does not treat the water as much and the smell intensifies. TM Frost stated that she would call them tomorrow to check into this matter. Mr. Lefebvre asked what the status was of the ATV crossing on Route 16. TM Frost said that she had spoken with Chris Gamache of the NH Trails Bureau and, he stated that there is still no formal answer from DOT or DOS. TM Frost told Chief Gamache that the Board would likely vote to open the crossing. Chief Gamache stated that may spark a response from DOT or DOS, but he did not discourage this action. Mr. Lefebvre also spoke with the Board regarding the end of his driveway. He said that several years ago the fire hydrant near his house had gotten moved and the angle/lip for the driveway is unpassable for a car. He had never said anything before because he always had a pickup but now he has a car as well. He asked if that could be looked at and repaired so he can use his driveway to park his car. TM Frost said that she will take PWD Holmes to look at it tomorrow. Selectman Oliver also asked if the overgrowth onto the sidewalks next to the Mill's fence could be taken care of.

Mike Waddell informed the Board that he had received two emails, from TM Frost and then spoke on the phone with Katie Mann, Outreach Counsellor, ATC. There is a meeting scheduled for next Tuesday, September 1. Mr. Waddell wondered if everyone would be available to meet together instead of meeting one at a time. The Board and TM Frost agreed to meeting with them at either 8:00 am or 4:00 pm. Mr. Waddell will let them know what time will work for Ms. Mann. Mr. Waddell asked if the new paramedic position is in the current budget or if it will affect the budget bottom line. He is concerned that additional expenses will be made without the

consent of the voters, noting that when voters vote they should be comfortable with the fact that they are voting for the entire year. TM Frost stated that this was not a lack of planning on the department's behalf but a change in circumstance.

**6. Other Business**

**a) Town Manager's Update:** TM Frost stated that the Public Safety Organizational Research Committee is meeting this Wednesday night. The Committee includes: EMD Miller, FC Eichler, PC Cyr, Wanda Tanguay, Gerry Marcou, Dan McCrum and TM Frost. This Committee is a result from the Board's directive to TM Frost. The meeting is open to the public.

**b) Selectmen's Update:** Selectman Oliver asked TM Frost if she asked RD Stewart to remove the tennis court poles in Cascade. She said that she has not but will get a hold of him this week.

**c) Approval of Minutes (August 17, 2015):** Selectman LaPierre made a motion to approve the Minutes of the August 17, 2015, meeting, seconded by Chairman Schall, voted 2-0-1.

**d) Sign Manifest:** All manifests were signed.

**e) Sign Abatements and Exemptions (if necessary):** All signed.

**7. Non-Public Session: RSA 91-a:3, II a-e:** There was no need for a non-public session.

**8. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

**REVIEWED AND APPROVED:**

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**Jeff Schall**

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**Grace LaPierre**

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**Terry Oliver**