

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
TOWN OF GORHAM  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 09, 2015 6:00 PM  
GORHAM TOWN HALL**

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

Also present: Robin Frost, Town Manager; Austin "Buddy" Holmes, Public Works; Jeff Stewart, Recreation Department; George "Rick" Eichler, Fire Department; Chad Miller, EMS; Denise Vallee, Finance

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

**2. Budget Review:**

Chairman Schall stated that he would like to see the department heads review the significant changes to their budgets. The Board can review the remaining portion of the proposed budget.

**a) Public Works:** PWD Holmes started with the Cemetery Budget. He noted that the only increase in the bottom line is a two percent salary increase. In his review of the Highway Budget, he stated that other than the salary change, the only other item to increase in his budget is salt. The price of salt per ton increased approximately \$4.25. Sanitation stayed level funded with the exception of the salary increase. PWD Holmes stated that for the Highway and Asphalt CRF fund this year he would like to increase this year's amount requested from \$75,000 to \$80,000. PWD Holmes also reviewed two new pieces of equipment that the department is looking to purchase, which is part of the 10-year plan using its CRF. He went on to discuss an additional piece of equipment, a backhoe that he is looking at replacing. He is looking to obtain this equipment with a lease to purchase option. The pricing that PWD Holmes currently has does not include a trade proposal for the Town's current backhoe. The proposal for this lease to purchase option will be put in a Warrant for Town Meeting.

**b) Recreation:** Chairman Schall stated that at immediate glance he can see an increase of \$10,000 in the salary line. RD Stewart stated that since he has been in his position he has been able to decrease the budget by almost \$30,000. He has also upgraded the facilities. RD Stewart stated that he feels he deserves a raise. RD Stewart went on to review his budget noting that there is a 2% increase in the temporary position line. While telephone, internet and the electricity lines all have slight increases, the monies in the revolving fund for repairs and maintenance are projected to be lower. Both buses are relatively new and the information booth has been upgraded. He asked the Board if the Patriotic monies could be removed from his budget. It is nothing that he has anything to do with and does not allow his budget to show a true number. RD Stewart stated that he would like to purchase a used pickup for summer use. He would like to zero out the Recreation Maintenance CRF along with funds from the Revolving Fund to do this. His intention would be to spend approximately \$10,000 for this purchase. RD Stewart would also like to replace a portion of the fence at Libby's Pool with a vinyl white picket fence. A portion of the steel fencing would stay. He has received estimates ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000 to replace the fencing. He is also looking to replace the playground equipment at Libby's. He plans to use the Dagesse donation to purchase the new equipment. He informed the Board that he would also like to build new bathrooms at Libby's. He stated that he would place the building where the playground is currently. It would be bathrooms only and would be ADA accessible. Once the new bathrooms are built, GMHS seniors have asked if for their project, they could update the current bathrooms. All plumbing will be removed from the building and it will be turned into changing rooms as well as storage. He anticipates the new building costing approximately \$20,000.

Chairman Schall asked RD Stewart how he felt about renaming the ball field on the common. He indicated the proposal about placing the field name sign on the scoreboard. RD Stewart stated that he does not see the purpose and/or point. He is concerned that other people would like want to do the same thing with other Town property. The Board also RD Stewart if he would be still interested in pursuing the building adjacent to the Town Hall to purchase for his office/department. RD Stewart stated that he would definitely be interested. If the Town could move forward with this purchase, some of the projects that RD Stewart has outlined for completion may need to be put on hold for this year. The Board instructed TM Frost to contact a realtor regarding this matter. The Board also asked RD Stewart how he reached his salary increase request. RD Stewart said he reached out to both Lancaster and Littleton for information regarding their salaries. TM Frost stated that she is going to ask for a small pot of money for merit raises. Noting that the Board could always put that money in her proposed "pot" and allow her to give RD Stewart his merit raise.

**c) Fire:** It was noted that this is Chief Eichler's last budget process. The permanent position line is up 2%, but the voluntary positions is down \$3,000 because there are not as many people on the department. The maintenance and repair line is up because batteries need to be replaced. Previously, the uniform line carried the physical monies, but FD Vallee moved it to its own line. FC Eichler stated that the concrete apron at the Cascade fire station needs to be repair/replaced. He has placed an additional \$1,000 in repairs and maintenance. He stated that he would also like to keep the furnace replacement for the Cascade station in the Capital Reserve Fund.

TM frost stated that she and FD Vallee have been working to find new software to replace BMSI. They have met with Patriot who works with Accufund. TM Frost explained to the Board what this software is capable of doing, noting that it will stop duplicating work and potential errors. The bottom line for purchasing this software in its entirety is \$318,000, and she would look to fund it through a Warrant Article. TM Frost stated that Patriot has provided her with a five-year payment plan. However, if the Board will allow her to tell Patriot that "if" the Town does move forward with purchasing new software, it will be purchased with them. This will allow Patriot to move forward with securing a possible better deal with more concrete numbers. The Town is not on the "hook" to purchase if it is decided not to move forward. The Board gave TM Frost the go ahead with Patriot.

**3. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

**REVIEWED AND APPROVED:**

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**Jeff Schall**

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**Grace LaPierre**

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**Terry Oliver**