

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, June 23, 2014, 6:00 PM
GORHAM TOWN HALL**

Gorham Selectmen present: Chairman Bill Jackson, Jeff Schall, Grace LaPierre
Also present: Robin L. Frost, Town Manager; Mike Cummings and Wayne Johnson, Gorham Paper and Tissue

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

2. Appointments:

a) Mike Cummings and Wayne Johnson – Gorham Paper and Tissue: Chairman Jackson gave the floor to Mr. Cummings to speak to the abatement application of Gorham Paper and Tissue. Selectman Schall stated that he wanted to go on record that while he feels that the Gorham Paper and Tissue representatives should be allowed to speak to their abatement application, he was not allowed, even though he recused himself as a selectman. He feels that he was not afforded an opportunity as a taxpayer to speak to his abatement application.

Mr. Cummings began by saying that Mr. Sansoucy did a good job on the valuation of the mill given the information that he had in front of him. When Patriarch purchased the mill, the taxes were around \$200,000. Since then they have knocked down one building and built another one in its place, although a bit larger. The taxes are now around \$400,000. They have paid \$260,000 of the total due, which amounts to what the taxes would be if the abatement were granted. Mr. Johnson showed a couple of aerial photos of the mill properties. One had the new building highlighted. He then showed a drawing of the new building with an overlay of the old building that was demolished. The new building is 13,000 square feet. The difference between the new building and the old building is an increase of about 3,000 square feet. Mr. Johnson also researched industrial buildings sold in New Hampshire in the last ten years. In essence they sold for an average of \$60 per square foot. This is a great deal lower than the value placed on their building by Mr. Sansoucy. There was a discussion about market value and how it relates to the valuation for taxation purposes.

Chairman Jackson thanked Mr. Cummings and Mr. Johnson for coming in and presenting this information to the Board. Mr. Cummings and Mr. Johnson left.

Chairman Jackson moved to item C. Sign Manifest; Abatements and Exemptions (if necessary) under section 4, Other Business so the Board could discuss the Gorham Paper and Tissue abatement as well as the Wal-Mart abatement. Selectman LaPierre stated that the mill has done lots of work on the new building and believes that the old building did not house a paper machine, which probably affected the assessment. Selectman Schall stated that he feels their pain. He wondered about what was exactly taxable in that building. He assumes that some of the electrical work, lighting, etc must be taxable. He said that our assessor, Mr. Sansoucy had recommended denying the abatement request. Selectman Schall felt that we could deny now and forward this information to Mr. Sansoucy for his review. Chairman Jackson had nothing further to add. **On a motion by Chairman Jackson, seconded by Selectman LaPierre, the Board voted unanimously to deny the abatement application for Gorham Paper and Tissue.**

Chairman Jackson then moved on to the Wal-Mart abatement request. He felt no changes should be made to the assessment, agreeing with Mr. Sansoucy's recommendation to deny the request. There was no further discussion on this subject. **On a motion by Selectman Schall, seconded by Selectman LaPierre, the Board voted unanimously to deny the abatement application for Wal-Mart.**

3. Public Comment: There was no public present.

4. Other Business:

a) Town Manager's Update: TM Frost stated that there has been a request for a petting zoo on the common during the July 4th celebration. The Board asked who was running the attraction. TM Frost will find out and get back to them. The entity will have its own insurance. TM Frost also mentioned that Mike Guay and Paul Robitaille, Chairman and alternate member, respectively, of the Planning Board, will be at the meeting on June 30th to explain to the Board what transpired at their meeting with regard to the complaints about overnight truck parking at the Irving Station. Additionally, Mike Scala the regional representative for Senator Kelly Ayotte, has asked to be on the agenda for the July 14th meeting.

b) Selectmen's Updates: There were no updates from the Board members.

5. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

William H. Jackson

Jeff Schall

Grace LaPierre