

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2014, 6:00 PM
GORHAM TOWN HALL**

Gorham Selectmen present: Jeff Schall, Grace LaPierre
Also present: Robin Frost, Town Manager; Kirstan Lukasak, Berlin Daily Sun

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

2. Appointments: There were no appointments.

3. New Business

a) Board Resignation: Vice Chairman Schall stated that former Chairman Jackson submitted his letter of resignation to the Town Office, citing personal reasons for his resignation. As such, Vice Chairman Schall is now "acting" Chairman. Chairman Schall accepted the letter on behalf of the Board. He took a moment to personally thank Mr. Jackson for volunteering his time on the Board. He also thanked him for the many years that he served as Town Manager for Gorham, noting that he always put the Town and residents first. While Chairman Schall and Selectman LaPierre accepted the letter of resignation, they did so with regret.

b) Vacancy on Board of Selectmen: Chairman Schall stated that he felt the Town should advertise the Board's vacancy via local media. He said that he would like the ad to state that a letter of interest should be sent to the Board which includes an explanation as to why they would like to serve on the Board along with qualifications and what they might be able to bring to the Board. After further discussion of this idea, the Board asked TM Frost to place an ad in the local paper, closing the vacancy ad on September 5th. The Board and TM Frost will review the applicants and set up for an interview, which will take place at the September 8, 2014 meeting.

4. Old Business

a) Street Light Survey: TM Frost stated that Police Chief Cyr will finish up completing the survey review and will put it on the next agenda.

b) Public Works Roof: TM Frost stated that David Laurin will be preparing the bid specifications for the roof, which has not been received yet. However, the application for the Grant has been received, and the Town will be all set to move forward as soon as the bid specs are received.

c) Boston Post Cane: TM Frost stated the FD Vallee had placed an ad in the local paper asking for nominations for the cane. The nomination process has a closing date of August 20, 2014. This matter will be placed on the next agenda.

d) Airport Hangar: TM Frost stated that AC Lutz has as of yet not been able to find the lease information that Bill Jackson spoke about at the last meeting. AC Lutz will be contacting Attorney Boutin's office to see if they could provide copies of the information. TM Frost will place this matter on the next agenda.

Prior to moving on the Board discussed the following items.

Chairman Schall asked what the status was of the tax deeding process. TM Frost stated that the owner's notice/letters had gone out and that it was a matter of waiting for the 30 day period to be complete. Next week will complete the waiting period. The Board can begin making plans for property sales/auction.

Chairman Schall asked TM Frost to get EMS Director Miller to pull together the revenue and expenditures for the last three years for the EMS 911 service only. He does not want EMS Director Miller to include any expenses and revenues for transfers. He would like to see what it costs the residents for emergency services. TM Frost stated that she will request the information from EMS Director Miller.

Selectman LaPierre inquired on the status of the lawsuit against Austin "Buddy" Holmes. TM Frost stated that they are waiting to hear from the Court on the matter.

Chairman Schall stated that Rob Pharr, tax consultant for Walmart, had given the Board some data with regard to the current tax rate for the Gorham store and that this information was given to Skip Sansoucy. He asked if TM Frost had heard back from Mr. Sansoucy. TM Frost stated that no information had been received as of yet. After further discussion regarding this matter and timing issues for dealing with the abatement, the Board stated that they felt that they should either deny the abatement or counter offer. The Board asked TM Frost to have AC Lutz confirm the information that was presented with regard to the assessment of other Walmart buildings in New Hampshire.

Chairman Schall asked what the status was with regarding to finding information on engineering for the Moose River as it pertains to Dennis Arguin. The Board stated that they felt that to date neither of them had gone out to look at the area in question, but felt that Mr. Arguin had been more than patient to get answers and would like to move on the matter. Chairman Schall asked TM Frost to see about getting an estimate on the engineering, noting that the Town could use the same payment ratio/match that was utilized for the Stony Brook project. He suggested that the Town use the River Maintenance CRF to pay the Town's portion. TM Frost stated that she would talk to Jay Poulin to see if he could look at this area as well as the cemetery area.

The Board asked about the water/sewer line at Prospect Terrace. TM Frost stated that she had not completed the letter, but would get it out this week.

Chairman Schall asked TM Frost with regard to the Randolph Town owned property to invite the Forest Committee to the September 8th meeting.

The Board asked about the KGI property, and TM Frost stated that to date the Town has not heard anything from Skip Sansoucy.

The Board asked what the status was on the windows and TM Frost stated that FD Vallee is still exploring options.

5. Public Comment: There was none.

6. Other Business

a) Town Manager's Update: TM Frost stated that she did not have any other updates, but wanted to remind the Board that as soon as they appoint the new Board member, they would need to shift around committee duties. Chairman Schall stated that in the meantime, he would attend the next quarterly Budget Committee meeting on September 17.

b) Selectmen's Update: Selectman LaPierre stated that Andrea Philbrook had contacted her with regard to the building permit fee schedule, noting that Mrs. Philbrook was quite upset. Chairman Schall spoke about a letter that was received by Jim Ferrante of Mary's Pizza with regard to opening Cascade Flats to ATV traffic and being able to connect/access the Berlin trails. The Board and TM Frost discussed this matter further, noting that Chief Cyr should be involved in the discussion. TM Frost stated that she would speak to Chris Gamache of the NH Trail Bureau and maybe the Town could roll this matter into the Jimtown Road access as well.

c) Approval of Minutes (July 28, 2014): The Board noted a couple of small spelling errors that needed to be corrected. **Selectman LaPierre made a motion to approve the minutes of July 28, 2014, with the corrections, seconded by Chairman Schall, approved unanimously.**

d) Sign Manifest: All manifests were signed.

e) Sign Abatements and Exemptions (if necessary):

7. Non-Public Session: RSA 91-a:3, II a-e: Non-public session was not necessary.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Jeff Schall

Grace LaPierre