

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 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; PJ Cyr, Police Chief; Officer Phil Pelletier, Dennis Arguin

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

2. Appointments:

a) Chief PJ Cyr – Officer Introduction: Chief Cyr, at the request of Selectman LaPierre, introduced Officer Phil Pelletier. Officer Pelletier spent four years in the Marine Corps, is married and has a son. Chief Cyr stated that the department has also hired Brian Valerino of the Berlin PD as a part-time, per diem officer. Wanda Tanguay has been hired as part-time dispatcher. Chief Cyr stated that Officer Eric Benjamin had given his two-week notice today indicating that he was going to go to work for the Town of Gilford's police department.

3. New Business

4. Old Business

a) Street Light Survey: Chief Cyr stated that he has spoken with officers regarding the street lights that are currently shut off. The officers have indicated that there are no lights on lower Main Street and felt that while it has not been an issue to date, they feel that there is a safety concern because it is so dark. TM Frost stated that she has a list that was created by PWD Holmes and Chairman Schall that she would get to Chief Cyr so that the night officers can see if there are additional lights that may be shut off. The list does not include any lights that may be at street intersections.

b) Public Works Roof: TM Frost stated that she has still not received anything from Dave Laurin, but she expects that it will not be too much longer.

c) Boston Post Cane: TM Frost stated that Elaine Riendeau nominated Sophie Riendeau for the cane, and that she was the only person nominated. Ms. Riendeau also submitted a copy of her birth certificate for proof of age. It was agreed to move forward with ordering the cane. When the cane comes in, the Board will present the cane to Mrs. Riendeau at a regular meeting.

d) Wal-Mart Comparisons: TM Frost stated that AC Lutz did verify the assessment values of other Wal-Marts throughout NH as requested by the Board. The assessments that Mr. Pharr presented to the Board were found to be correct. Chairman Schall stated that the Town should advise Wal-Mart to file the abatement appeal because of timing issues. He would then like to approach the matter proactively and work on negotiating with them. The Board asked TM Frost to contact Attorney Boutin to see what the Town needed to do to get the mediation process started. TM Frost stated that Attorney Boutin had handled the last agreement that the Town had with Wal-Mart. She will forward the comp information to him. Chairman Schall stated that part of his thought process on this matter is to try not to include Mr. Sansoucy on the negotiation process because to date he has

not provided back-up information for his assessment and that it is what it is. Selectman LaPierre concurred with Chairman Schall and how the Town should proceed with this matter.

e) Moose River – Arguin: TM Frost stated that she had sent a request to Jay Poulin of HEB Engineers. Mr. Poulin was on vacation last week, but did get back to TM Frost today. He stated that he would go and look at the area tomorrow and get an estimate to the Town. The estimate will include the area at the end of Water Street as well as the Town's cemetery. TM Frost hopes to have the estimate by the next meeting.

Mr. Arguin asked the Board and TM Frost about the status of getting more sand bags. TM Frost stated that she has asked about more being placed there, but there was concern about the bags rotting because of the UV rays of the sun. Further discussion took place regarding this matter, and it was suggested that maybe a tarp could be placed with the bags to protect them from the UV rays. TM Frost stated that she had asked Mike Scala if he could look at older records to see if the Federal Government may have any Army Corp of Engineers information for the berm issue.

f) Town Hall Windows: TM Frost stated that FD Vallee was on vacation last week, but she had sent an email to the people that had done the original window work to see if there were other options besides caulking.

g) Public Safety Contracts – EMS Info: TM Frost stated that EMS Director Miller was on vacation last week and would like to let it ride until the next meeting.

h) Prospect Terrace – Water/Sewer Letter: As requested by the Board, TM Frost a letter for signature, sending the Prospect Terrace matter back to the Water/Sewer Department. She stated that she is concerned that an injunction could be placed and leave homeowners without water and sewer connections. The property owner that does not want the other properties' water and sewer going over their property any longer would like the water and sewer lines disconnected. The Board signed the letter.

Prior to moving on the Board discussed the following items.

Chairman Schall asked about the Selectman position search. TM Frost said that she knew of one person that expressed interest, but was not sure if they will put in a letter. The ads have been placed in the local paper as discussed.

Chairman Schall asked about the airport lease. TM Frost stated that no further information has been found.

Selectman LaPierre asked where the tax deeding process was. TM Frost stated that the notification/wait period would be up this week. She will be contacting auctioneers to get prices. She is hoping to be able auction the properties that the Town would like to get sell by the middle of October at the latest.

Chairman LaPierre asked where the Balon/Holmes lawsuit stood. TM Frost stated that the Court had granted the Motion to Dismiss, but that Mr. Balon had since filed a Motion to Reconsider. TM Frost presented the Board with a letter from the Attorney General's office that stated there was no proof that Mr. Balon was mistreated by the Town.

Selectman LaPierre asked when the Forest Committee will be attending a meeting. TM Frost stated that she understood that she was to invite them to the September 8 meeting.

Chairman Schall asked about the letter that the Town received from Mary's Pizza with regard to Cascade Flats being open for ATV traffic. Mr. Ferrante stated that he wanted his business to be able to benefit from the ATVers and the ATV festival. Chief Cyr the Board and TM Frost discussed how Cascade Flats could be connected to the ATV trails and a discussion took place with regard to the intersection at the bottom of Cascade Hill. Chief Cyr expressed concern regarding that intersection stating that it can be a very busy intersection. The Board discussed the possibility of opening Cascade Hill for ATV traffic because of the proximity to the Berlin trail system.

5. Public Comment: Ms. Lukasak of the Berlin Daily Sun asked how the Town would pay for engineering fees, TM Frost stated that the Town has a River Maintenance CRF that has an approximate balance of \$71,000.

6. Other Business

a) Town Manager's Update: TM Frost presented the Board with the MS-1, noting that the valuation assessment for the Town is down approximately \$1,009,000. She said the bulk of the reason is because of commercial and industrial abatements. The Board signed the MS-1.

b) Selectmen's Update: Selectman LaPierre thanked TM Frost for getting the light at the tennis court fixed.

c) Approval of Minutes (August 18, 2014): Because the Board had only received the minutes before the meeting, they agreed to table the approval until the next meeting.

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 7:02 PM.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Jeff Schall

Grace LaPierre