

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 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; Dennis Arguin, Henry Sanschagrin, Rene Boutin, Robert Balon

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

2. Appointments:

While there were no appointments noted on the Agenda, TM Frost informed the Board that Mr. Boutin should have been placed on the Agenda under appointments.

a) Rene Boutin - Androscoggin Valley ATV Club: Mr. Boutin stated that the Androscoggin Valley ATV Club is planning Foliage/Sunset Ride on September 27 as a thank you to their club members. The ride will include a picnic barbeque at Jericho State Park. Mr. Boutin asked the Board if it would be possible to keep the Route 2 trail later than the ½ hour after sunset so members that come from out of town and are staying in Gorham could ride back to their respective hotels. This is a special ride and permission is being sought for members only. The Board agreed to request permission from the State, with the letter being signed by Chairman Schall on behalf of the Board/Town.

3. New Business

a) Selectman Vacancy Letters: TM Frost stated that two letters of interest were received by noon on September 5th, one from Robert Balon and the other from Terry Oliver. She went on to say that Mr. Oliver had previously planned a trip and was not available for this meeting, or he would have attended the meeting. After further discussion of candidate interviews, the Board agreed to perform interviews for the two interested parties. The Board will ask the candidates a series of questions, which will be the same for both interviews. Mr. Balon informed the Board that he would be available to attend the meeting/interview.

b) North Country Council Plan for NH North Country – Draft: TM Frost stated that NCC prepared a draft Plan for NH North Country in preparation of the September 18 meeting, which is scheduled for 5:00 pm. Chairman Schall stated that he had received a copy of the plan and is planning on reviewing the information. Selectman LaPierre took the CD to review.

c) Electricity Pricing: TM Frost presented the Board with a spreadsheet of electricity costs. FD Vallee stated that currently the rate quoted through March of 2015. At this time, the quoted rates are unfavorable, and therefore, FD Vallee is suggesting that the Town use PSNH versus an alternate supply company. She will look at the rates at that time. The Board agreed to use PSNH as the energy supply company with the understanding that FD Vallee will work with Patriot in March to change suppliers in the Spring.

d) Public Works Garage Wood Heating Feasibility Study: TM Frost presented the Board with a Preliminary Feasibility Report for a new pellet heating system for the Town Garage. She stated that this report has been completed, with no cost to the Town, so a grant application may be completed.

4. Old Business

a) Public Works Roof: TM Frost stated that the bid specs had been received from Dave Laurin and that the project is ready for the bid process. She anticipates that it will go out to bid this week. Mr. Laurin will assist the Town with the review and decision process. The project itself should not take very long to complete once started. This project is being partially paid for by a grant that has been received.

b) Moose River - Arguin: TM Frost presented a Letter Agreement from HEB Engineers for engineering services along the Moose River. HEB Engineers' costs to perform the "project" is estimated between \$8,000 and \$9,000, which includes a geomorphological assessment of the area. TM Frost explained that the estimate is not the actual design work for the project but will outline the anticipated costs for the project. The area in question is from the end of Water Street to the Town's cemetery. Chairman Schall stated that while he would like to be able to move the project forward, he would like to handle this matter the same way that the Route 16/Stony Brook Road area, in that the residents that were affected by the project area paid a portion of the costs that were directly related to their property. The amount of money that was requested by the residents was 25% of their project areas. The Board, TM Frost and Mr. Arguin went on to discuss who along the Moose River is effected by the flooding could be sent a letter requesting payment of a portion to assist with the resident portion of the costs of the project. The Board requested TM Frost to create said letter.

c) Town Hall Windows: TM Frost stated that FD Vallee has still not received any information back on this matter. TM Frost informed the Board that the Town Hall's air conditioning was down. She said that Accutemp from North Conway will be coming up on Thursday to look at the system.

d) Public Safety Contracts – EMS Info: Chairman Schall stated that he had seen the information that EMS Director Miller sent with regard to the transfer information that was requested. However, he would like more time to digest the information. Selectman LaPierre stated that she too would like more time as well. Therefore, the Board passed over this matter until the next meeting.

e) Prospect Terrace – Water/Sewer Letter: TM Frost stated that no easements were found with regard to the water and sewer lines on Prospect Terrace. The Board requested TM Frost to forward a letter to the homeowners informing them that there is no easements on record for these lines.

5. Public Comment:

Henry Sanschagrín stated that he feels that the Town needs to educate ATVerS on the rules and regulations of the trail system within the Town of Gorham. He went on to say that he would like to work with Police Chief Cyr and other local officials to work on getting the hours of operation on the Route 2 trail to be in sync with the Berlin hours.

After the discussion of hours of operation took place, the Board and TM Frost decided that the request of Mr. Boutin needed to be rescinded because this event is a closed event and not for public. TM Frost will notify Mr. Boutin of this change.

6. Other Business

a) Town Manager's Update: TM Frost presented the Board with a BTLA Settlement Recommendation for Lyla O'Neil's property at 21 Mt. Carter Drive. Rich Dorsett of KRT Appraisal was able to inspect the property and found errors to the sketch and physical data. After the corrections to the assessment it reduces the value by \$4,200 to \$243,300 and an abatement amount of \$134.32. **Selectman LaPierre made a motion to accept the new assessment value as recommended by KRT Appraisal, seconded by Chairman Schall, voted unanimously.**

TM Frost presented the Board with a copy of the MS-5 Financial Report, as information. This information is prepared by the Town Auditor.

TM Frost stated that Union negotiation started today for the Police Department. The next planned meeting is September 22, 2014. TM Frost stated that she would like to be able to meet prior to that meeting. It was decided that FD Vallee, Chief Cyr, TM Frost and Chairman Schall will meet at 4:30 pm on September 16 to review information.

TM Frost stated that she happened to be in the Town Clerk's office when a Shelburne resident was in to complete their automobile registration. She said that the transaction had issues, and took TC Porter a substantial amount of time to complete the transaction all while residents of Gorham had to wait in line. TM Frost stated that TC Porter would like to stop servicing the residents of Shelburne. Selectman LaPierre stated that while she understands the situation, she believes that because Gorham is a State Agent, it cannot discontinue servicing the Town of Shelburne. She suggested that TC Porter check with the State on this matter.

TM Frost stated that the Forest Committee was scheduled to meet with the Board at the September 22, 2014 meeting.

b) Selectmen's Update: Selectman LaPierre asked what the status is on the Tax Deeds. TM Frost stated that she is getting information and pricing from auctioneers. At this time she has not received back all quotes and information. Selectman LaPierre asked about the street lights. TM Frost stated that she has received feedback and will forward that information to the Board. Selectman LaPierre stated that she saw in the paper that Mrs. Helen Lamontagne just recently celebrated her 100th birthday. Mrs. Lamontagne was a long-time resident of Gorham, and was wondering if she should be considered for the Boston Post Cane. Chairman Schall and Selectman LaPierre reviewed Town Code on this matter, and it was decided that according to Code the person being selected to receive the cane needed to be nominated as well as residing in Gorham.

Prior to moving on, TM Frost stated that she had another matter to present the Board. She presented the Board with a current use application for John and Paulette Losier. The Board signed the application.

c) Approval of Minutes (August 18, 2014, August 25, 2014): Selectman LaPierre made a motion to approve the Minutes of the August 18, 2014 meeting and the August 25, 2014 meeting as presented, seconded by Chairman Schall, voted unanimously

d) Sign Manifest: All manifests were signed. However, Chairman Schall stated that he was concerned about the Police Department purchasing tactical weapons and questioned why the department needed as many as they were purchasing. TM Frost stated that each cruiser will be equipped with a gun, and the remaining guns will be under lock and key in the office. TM Frost stated that Chief Cyr feels that it is more and more necessary to be prepared for the unexpected.

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 8:09 PM.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Jeff Schall

Grace LaPierre