

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, OCTOBER 06, 2014, 6:00 PM
GORHAM TOWN HALL**

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

Also present: Robin Frost, Town Manager; Kirstan Lukasak, Berlin Daily Sun; Mike Waddell, Steve Malespini, Glen Eastman, Dennis Arguin, Bob Demers, Rueben Rajala, Pat Sanschagrín, Henry Sanschagrín, Rick Eichler, Fire Chief; Mike Guay

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

2. Appointments:

a) Mike Guay – Bedbug Ordinance: (Mike Guay was late for meeting, the Board moved on to Rick Eichler until Mr. Guay came in.) Mr. Guay stated that he asked to go before the Board as a concerned resident of the Town of Gorham. While Mr. Guay works for a pest control company, he has seen several cases of bedbugs in Berlin, as well as a few cases in Gorham. Mr. Guay explained that bedbugs are out of control in Berlin and does not want to see that happen in Gorham. He asked the Board to consider coming up with an ordinance that would require landlords to be responsible in making sure that items that need to be disposed of is taken care of correctly and not allowed to be left at the curb for pick up. The Board and Mr. Guay discussed this matter further, and agreed to look into creating an ordinance, and it was agreed that Mr. Guay would assist with the preparation of the ordinance.

b) Fire Chief Rick Eichler – Status of Engine 2: Chief Eichler stated that Engine 2 underwent a pump test in the beginning of September and that, for the third year in a row, failed. When looked at, it was found to be quite rusted, but was repairable. However, it was found that the radiator also needs repair. The cost of the repairs will be \$3,000. Chief Eichler stated that once these repairs are completed, he feels that the Engine will be usable through at least the winter. He indicated to the Board that the department is scheduled to replace this truck in 2015 and that if the Town continues to place \$44,000 in the capital reserve fund the balance will be approximately \$190,000 by the end of next year. Chief Eichler has been obtaining pricing on new pump trucks and has received pricing that ranges from \$280,000 to \$310,000. He has also checked into used Engines between the years of 2006 to 2009 and those prices range from \$184,000 to \$229,000. Engine 2 is currently housed in the Cascade Fire Station. If a new truck is purchased, it will replace this truck and the department will move the 2006 which is currently housed in the Gorham Station to the Cascade Station. If a used truck is purchased, the department will look at which truck is in the best shape and keep that truck in the Gorham Station with the other being sent to the Cascade Station.

c) Budget Committee, Mike Waddell – Absolution Auctions: Mr. Waddell stated that at the recent Budget Committee meeting TM Frost explained to the committee how an absolute auction works. Mr. Waddell stated that since that time, he asked TM Frost for information regarding the total balances of taxes, expenses for each property, and said that the Currier property alone is a balance of somewhere near \$650,000. He stated that the Budget Committee is concerned that the Town will not receive enough money from this type of auction and that the Town will potentially lose out on possible income. Mr. Waddell along with other committee members and general members of the public expressed extreme concern in continuing with this type of auction and not at least

requiring minimum bids on the four properties up for auction. It was suggested that the Board cancel the auctions and get further information and expert opinions from local realtors as well as the Town's auctioneer. **Selectman LaPierre made a motion to cancel the absolute auction sale for all four properties until the Board can look into it further, seconded by Selectman Oliver, voted unanimously.**

3. New Business

a) AV Chamber of Commerce Request to Extend OHRV Hours: TM Frost stated that she had been contacted by the Androscoggin Valley Chamber of Commerce to ask the Town to contact the State and request that the Gorham OHRV trail system have extended hours on October 18, 2014. The annual Riverfire celebration is taking place on October 18th, and the Chamber would like to accommodate ATVers partaking in Saturday's events/festivities. TM Frost prepared a letter on behalf of the Board requesting the State to keep the Gorham trail system open late to accommodate the festivities. **Selectman LaPierre made a motion to sign the letter to the State as presented, seconded by Selectman Oliver, voted unanimously.**

4. Old Business

a) Public Works Roof Update: TM Frost stated that another walk through is scheduled for this Thursday, October 9, 2014.

b) Town-acquired Property Auction Update: Chairman Schall stated that after the discussion that took place earlier, the Board needs to come up with an action plan. The Board stated that they would look at working with a local realtor as well as speak with the auctioneer on the matter of placing minimum bids on the properties.

c) Balon v Holmes Decision: TM Frost stated that on September 30, 2014, the Court ruled on the Balon v Holmes case in favor of the Town. Mr. Balon has 30 days to appeal the decision.

d) Street Lights: Chairman Schall stated that he reviewed the two letters from Lt. Lemoine and Cpl. Santos of the Police Department to not turn off any further street lights. He and the other Board members discussed the lights on lower Main Street as well as one on Jimtown Road that should be turned back on as well as the list the officers commented on. The Board felt that prior to doing anything further the Town should request PSNH for pricing with regard to the costs of the street lights remaining on. **Selectman Oliver made a motion to present the list of street lights in question to PSNH and ask how much the Town can save, seconded by Selectman LaPierre, voted unanimously.**

e) Public Safety Contract Development Committee: Chairman Schall stated that the committee met today and is continuing to work on pricing for both Randolph and Shelburne. While the committee has not firmed up the figures for Randolph and Shelburne, the committee has come to a consensus for Coos County. The committee believes that the Town should be requesting \$25,000 for its EMS services, noting that this number covers administrative and mechanical services. The previous contract for the County was \$18,700. **Selectman LaPierre made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Public Safety Contract Development Committee and accept a contract fee for 2015 in the amount of \$25,000, seconded by Selectman Oliver, voted unanimously.** Chairman

Schall stated that the committee will meet again on October 20, 2014, to discuss the Shelburne and Randolph contracts and feels that the committee will be able to wrap things up then.

5. Public Comment:

Dennis Arguin stated that there are still no additional sandbags. He also asked Selectman LaPierre why she has changed her mind on moving forward with the engineering estimate, because she had previously been behind it. She stated that she is new to the Board and did not realize that other work that has been previously done after the two hurricanes included homeowner funds. Mr. Arguin stated that while the area in question is not on his property, he is down the river from the berm area, but he has a lot of frontage that is affected. He stated that he does not feel it is fair to lay the burden on him.

Bob Demers asked if the Public Safety Committee's numbers will include all services. Chairman Schall stated that it is primarily for EMS.

Pat Sanschagrín stated that the Moose River is in desperate need of dredging, noting that since the Hurricanes Sandy and Irene it has washed out and is substantially wider.

Henry Sanschagrín stated that he would like to work with the Town and State to work on extending trail hours so that requests do not need to be sent out to the State for every special event as well as match trail hours with Berlin.

Mike Waddell said that recently it has come to his attention through social media that Mr. Balon had requested payable information and had information on certain people that should be protected and not given out. He said that while he is not a professional on RSA 91-A, he is horrified to think that information that may be hurtful to someone was given to the public for review. TM Frost stated that she has taken measure to tighten up on those situations.

Rick Eichler asked what Mr. Balon has cost the Town in legal fees. The Board stated that there is a breakdown of legal fees. It will be updated by the next meeting.

6. Other Business

a) Town Manager's Update: TM Frost stated that she has been approached by a couple of residents for a memorial for John Ellis. She said that one person was the Board's Selectman Oliver. Selectman Oliver stated that back in the 60's John Ellis made himself available to play ball, at his expense, with local children. He helped out a lot of kids by supplying the equipment at his expense. Selectman Oliver said that it would be nice if the Town would allow the placement of a granite bench on the common in his memory, or if the Town would considering naming the actual ball park Ellis Field, on the Town Common. The Board stated that they felt this would be a nice idea.

TM Frost stated that the updated pricing for the Town Hall Windows came back, but had not changed very much. The pricing did however, give a price per window and allows the Town to do the replacement piece meal rather than all at once. Selectman LaPierre asked if the Town did elect to fix the windows like that will the price stay the same throughout the entire process. TM Frost said that she will have FD Vallee find this information out. TM Frost stated that the windows for the

Medallion Opera House could be paid out the MOH Revolving Fund, with the remaining windows being paid for from the Building Capital Reserve Fund.

TM Frost stated that she was asked by Rec Director Stewart if the money for the signs that were attached to the welcome signs could be put back in the Rec Revolving Fund. He was displeased with these signs being paid for out of his budget line without getting any input from him. The Board stayed with their original decision for payment of said signs.

b) Selectmen's Update: Selectman LaPierre asked about the status of the ambulance that was out for repair. TM Frost stated that it has been back for quite some time and apologized for not letting the Board know. Selectman LaPierre asked where we stood with getting the tax rate set. TM Frost stated the Town was not in the queue as of yet. She also asked if any letters of interest had been received for the Budget Committee, TM Frost stated that one has been received to date.

Chairman Schall took a moment to Welcome Selectman Oliver to the Board and thanked him for filling the position until the March 2015 election.

c) Approval of Minutes (September 8, 2014 & September 22, 2014): Selectman LaPierre noted a couple of spelling errors on the September 8, 2014 minutes. Selectman LaPierre made a motion to approve the minutes of September 8 with the corrections as noted, seconded by Selectman Oliver, voted unanimously. The minutes for September 22, 2014 had not been received by the Board and therefore passed over.

d) Sign Manifest: All manifests were signed.

e) Sign Abatements and Exemptions (if necessary): None were presented.

7. Non-Public Session: RSA 91-a:3, II e: On a motion by Chairman Schall, seconded by Selectman LaPierre, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to move into non-public session at 8:05 pm. Schall – Aye, LaPierre – Aye, Oliver – Aye.

On a motion by Chairman Schall, seconded by Selectman LaPierre, the Board came out of non-public session by unanimous roll call vote at 9:00 pm. Schall – Aye, LaPierre – Aye, Oliver – Aye.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 PM.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Jeff Schall

Grace LaPierre

Terry Oliver