

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2014, 5:00 PM
GORHAM TOWN HALL**

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

Also present: Robin Frost, Town Manager; Kirstan Lukasak, Berlin Daily Sun; Rich McClure, Mike Waddell, Mike Guay, Brian Lamarre

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:04 pm by Chairman Schall.

2. Appointments:

a) 5:35 PM Sophie Riendeau – Boston Post Cane Recipient: The Board presented the Boston Post Cane along with a plaque commemorating Mrs. Riendeau as the eldest resident of the Town.

3. New Business

a) Personnel Policy – Sick Leave: TM Frost presented the Board with updated language to the Personnel Policy as it applies to sick leave. She explained to the Board that the Town has changed the disability insurance policy to one that will not “kick in” until the employee is out for 30 days. This new policy will allow the Town to save just under \$7,000 per year. The current personnel policy allows up to 25 days of sick time to be accrued. The new sick time proposed would be to allow employees to have 30 days of sick time so that they could use their sick time for the 30 day gap in time. The other item that TM Frost stated that would be added to the sick leave policy, would be to add a clause to allow employees to donate their sick time to another employee. TM Frost stated that this clause is currently in the police union agreement. Chairman Schall made a motion to accept the proposed sick leave update/addition as presented, seconded by Selectman Oliver, voted unanimously.

4. Old Business

a) Street Lights: Chairman Schall asked TM Frost if she had received additional feedback on this matter since the recent public hearing. She said that she had received additional comments from one more resident not in favor of shutting down the lights. Chairman Schall stated that based on the negative feedback that has been received to date that he feels that the lights should be left on as they currently are. The remaining Board members agreed the lights should stay on.

b) Bedbug Ordinance: Chairman Schall explained that at the recent public hearing on the proposed ordinance that, Tom Cote as a landlord, questioned the property owner's accountability when a tenant does not notify them that there is a problem. Mike Guay explained there is a State Statute that covers remediation by the landlord and/or property owner. Mr. Guay went on to say that there are ways that a landlord can cover themselves, i.e. property inspection prior to renting to a new tenant, etc. He also stated that usually, when a multi-unit property is inspected, a professional inspector can tell where the infestation began. Chairman Schall made a motion to move forward with approval of the Bedbug Ordinance as presented, seconded by Selectman LaPierre, approved unanimously.

c) 2015 Budget Finalization: Chairman Schall stated that the Board appreciated the exercise that Chief Cyr did with regard to cutting back the department to a five man crew. He noted that Chief Cyr showed it could be done; however, it is not in the best interest for the department or residents to try to do that on a full time basis. The Board agreed on the whole that the budget that had been originally received by Chief Cyr is approved and will be forwarded to the Budget Committee as presented. The Board stated that the remaining budget will be forwarded to the Budget Committee, noting that the Fire Department truck replacement will be voted on via a Warrant Article. TM Frost and the Board will be reviewing merit raises in non-public session.

d) Update on Sale of 459 Main Street: TM Frost presented the Board with settlement documents for their signatures with regard to the 459 Main Street property. She stated that the closing will take place on Monday, December 29, 2014 and that the sale proceeds will be wired to the Town's bank account.

5. Public Comment:

Mike Waddell asked the Board what types of changes to the personnel policy were being made. The Board explained the sick time updates as agreed upon. He also asked if the Board had made a decision on the street lights. The Board informed him that no lights were going to shut off. Mr. Waddell also asked about the raises and which employees would be effected and what changed about their positions, and further asked why they were not discussing this matter in public session. TM Frost explained to Mr. Waddell that the Board wanted to discuss specific items and therefore could be discussed during non-public session.

6. Other Business

a) Town Manager's Update: TM Frost presented the Board with spreadsheets outlining and breaking down the assessing and legal fees for the larger abatement cases. The Board and TM Frost discussed concerns regarding the amount of fees that the Town has paid over the last four years. While Chairman Schall stated that the Town should be careful moving forward and be mindful of Mr. Sansoucy's fees, Selectman LaPierre stated that she feels the Town needed to stay on Board with him. Mike Waddell stated that the Board needed to look at the entire picture when looking at the amount of money that has been spent. He suggested that the Board look at how much money Mr. Sansoucy has assisted the Town in saving on the abatement cases. He strongly urged the Board to proceed with caution and that they should look at the original value requests versus the settlements and payback to the Town.

TM Frost presented the Board with a Pole License Agreement for PSNH, for a pole that is being moved on Main Street near Walmart. She stated that this Agreement is a standard agreement. The Board signed the Pole License Agreement.

TM Frost also presented the Board with an updated Forest Warden appointment, this change will correct the date of birth for the Warden. The Board signed the appointment.

b) Selectmen's Update: There were no updates.

c) Approval of Minutes (December 15, 2014): Selectman LaPierre made a motion to approve the Minutes of the December 15, 2014 meeting as presented, seconded by Chairman Schall, voted unanimously.

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 a, d, 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 6:00 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 7:15 pm. Schall – Aye, LaPierre – Aye, Oliver - Aye.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 PM.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Jeff Schall

Grace LaPierre

Terry Oliver