

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

Gorham Selectmen present: Bill Jackson, Jeff Schall, Grace LaPierre

Also present: Robin L. Frost, Town Manager; PJ Cyr, Chief of Police; Michelle Lutz, Henry Sanschagrin, Kirsten Lukasak, Berlin Daily Sun

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 by Selectman Jackson.

2. Board Reorganization: Selectman Jackson took nominations for Chairman of the Board. **On a motion by Selectman Schall, seconded by Selectman LaPierre, the Board voted 2-0-1 (Jackson) to appoint Selectman Jackson as the Board Chairman for the ensuing year.** The Board continued down the list of position/committee appointments, making the following decisions: **Selectman LaPierre made a motion, seconded by Chairman Jackson to appoint Selectman Schall the Vice Chairman of the Board. So Voted 2-0-1 (Schall).** **On a motion by Selectman Schall, seconded by Selectman LaPierre, the Board voted 2-0-1 (Jackson) to appoint Chairman Jackson to the North Country Council Transportation Advisory Committee.** **On a motion by Selectman Schall, seconded by Chairman Jackson, the Board voted 2-0-1 (LaPierre) to appoint Selectman LaPierre as the alternate for NCC TAC.** It was decided that since Yves Zornio had, for many years, been the representative to the Androscoggin Valley Regional Refuse Disposal District for the Town of Gorham, he would asked if he would like to continue in this capacity. The Board, therefore, postponed any decision on this appointment until TM Frost has a chance to speak with Mr. Zornio. **On a motion by Chairman Jackson, seconded by Selectman LaPierre, The Board voted 2-0-1(Schall) to appoint Selectman Schall as the Board's representative to the Planning Board.** **On a motion by Selectman LaPierre, seconded by Selectman Schall, the Board voted 2-0-1 (Jackson) to appoint Chairman Jackson as the Board's representative to the Budget Committee.** Finally, **on a motion by Selectman Schall, seconded by Chairman Jackson, the Board voted 2-0-1 (LaPierre) to appoint Selectman Lapierre as representative to the Medallion Opera House Committee.**

3. New Business

Selectman LaPierre stated that there were a couple of other appointments that would have to be made for Town committees. TM Frost stated that she had already obtained recommendations from Michael Waddell, who chairs both committees. **On his recommendation, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Gail Wigler to another three year term on the Conservation Commission and Michael Waddell to another three year term on the Forest Committee.** The Board signed the appointment certificates.

TM Frost asked that since the Fleury-Patry Funeral Home building is now on the market, would the Board like to open further discussion with the owners regarding the possibility of the Town acquiring the property? The Board stated that this could be a good opportunity for the Town to acquire the property adjacent to the Town Hall. The potential uses for this property are many, but the Board was cognizant of issues that may also arise. It was decided that TM Frost would explore and research this issue more fully and report back to the Board with her findings. Specifically, the Board wanted to know more information about the possibility/feasibility of using this as Recreation Department space, though it has many other potential uses.

Selectman Schall asked that the Town seek accurate, updated estimates for the road reconstruction work in the Stony Brook area. He feels that this is an issue that has been discussed for quite some time and needs to be

brought forward as a bond request. TM Frost will ask Jay Poulin of HE Bergeron Engineers to again review the report that was prepared for the Town in 2009.

4. Old Business

a) OHRV Ordinance: The Board reviewed the latest version of the OHRV Ordinance along with Berlin's newly-passed ordinance, both provided in their meeting packets. Chief Cyr was on hand to answer any questions that the Board might have. Chairman Jackson was glad to see that the section that required a local decal was deleted. He had a question regarding the speed limit which was answered by Chief Cyr. Chairman Jackson asked Henry Sanschagrín, who was in attendance, about the access for Jimtown Road and the surrounding area. Mr. Sanschagrín stated that he had done quite a bit of research on the strip of land over which the power lines are strung. He feels that the property is owned by Gorham Land Company, but Howie Wemyss is not so sure. It has been given to TM Frost to review. TM Frost stated that our assessor from KRT will be back in the office next week and he will take a look at the information provided by Mr. Sanschagrín. This will give Mr. Sanschagrín a better idea of from whom he needs to secure an easement for OHRV use of that property. Meanwhile, the Board advised Mr. Sanschagrín that he should be canvassing the residents on Crestwood Drive to see if they are in favor of allowing OHRV travel on that road. The Board would like that information before rendering a decision. Mr. Sanschagrín will also speak with the Bureau of Trails to get more information from them to move forward with a public hearing, since a portion of Jimtown Road is State-owned. **Back to the OHRV Ordinance, on a motion by Selectman Schall, seconded by Selectman LaPierre, the Board voted unanimously to approve the ordinance as presented tonight, superseding any prior Board of Selectmen approvals with regard to OHRV access in the Town of Gorham.** Chief Cyr stated that he has received complaints from people who don't believe the approval for operation of OHRV's on the roads allows for transporting children to school or going to a convenience store. The Board unanimously agreed that there is no such prohibition in the approval granted for access to public streets in Gorham by OHRV's.

Chairman Jackson stated that he had previously asked for a piece of information from the EMS Department and had not yet received it. He wanted to know how many transfers were turned down and the reason(s) we turned them down. TM Frost said that she thought that had been provided to her by EMD Miller and she would forward it to the Board, if so. Either way, the information would be provided to the Board as soon as possible. Selectman Schall stated that he would like to see the Board and the surrounding municipalities look into regionalization of ambulance services. He thinks it may make sense, but would at least like to see this option explored. Chairman Jackson stated that he feels there are three issues that the Board needs to be focused on this year. They are: Ambulance services, Utilities and Tax deeding. He has three binders into which he will be placing all the information that he has on those three issues. These binders will be updated as necessary with new or changing information. He expects that there will be updates from TM Frost on these issues at almost every meeting of the Board. He will provide a completed binder to the office and asked that someone copy it for the other members of the Board.

Further, Chairman Jackson had a couple of motions that he would like to make for the Board to consider. The first one deals with the dissemination of information that comes to the office, mostly by mail. He previously asked and the Board agreed twice (June 2012 and March 2013) to have all correspondence, excepting junk mail and typical invoices, copied and put into the Selectmen's mail envelope. Selectman Schall asked what the volume would be. It was stated that it would not be too cumbersome. **On a motion by Chairman Jackson, seconded by Selectman Schall, the Board voted unanimously that courtesy copies of all correspondence, including electronic, addressed to the Town of Gorham, the Board of Selectmen and the Town Manager be stamped for review and placed in the Selectmen's Mail.** Also, **on a motion by Chairman Jackson, seconded by Selectman LaPierre, the Board voted unanimously that all items listed on the Selectmen's Agenda include**

back-up material and be prepared for the Selectmen’s review on the Friday prior to the meeting. Absent an underlying reason, Agenda items lacking back-up will not be discussed. Chairman Jackson also requested that a full size town map be placed on the wall of the meeting room. This will aid the Boards when discussing a certain area of town.

TM Frost asked that Chairman Jackson clarify how other Board members would go about getting an item on the agenda for a meeting, since the Chairman sets the agenda. He stated, with concurrence from the other Board members, that all items would be routed through TM Frost. Those items will then be discussed with Chairman Jackson.

5. Public Comment: Henry Sanschagrín wanted to ask if the open style of the meeting, such as happened tonight, would continue. Chairman Jackson stated that it would as long as the discussions were contained.

6. Other Business:

a) Selectmen’s Updates: Selectman Jackson asked Assessing Clerk Michelle Lutz where the Fish abatement case stood. Was she waiting for the Board to make a decision? AC Lutz stated that the paperwork had been sent to the BTLA stating that the Town and the Taxpayer were not able to come to a settlement. The BTLA has scheduled the case for a hearing in August. The Board had a few questions for AC Lutz which were answered, including the assessor’s willingness to argue this case at the BTLA. AC Lutz stated that they stand behind the assessment. The Board was satisfied.

Selectman Schall asked that Recreation Director be asked to reset the clock on the skating rink. Since the time change, the lights are on when there is daylight. TM Frost will address this with RD Stewart.

b) Sign Manifest: All manifests were signed.

c) Sign Abatements (if necessary): The Board signed Elderly Exemptions.

7. Non-Public Session: RSA 91-a:3, II e: There was no need for a non-public session.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

William H. Jackson

Jeffrey Schall

Grace LaPierre

