

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2013, 6:00 PM
GORHAM TOWN HALL**

Gorham Selectmen present: Jeff Schall, Paul Robitaille, Bill Jackson
Also present: Robin L. Frost, Town Manager; Deb Thornblad, Berlin Daily Sun; Steve Gauthier, Denise Vallee, Director of Finance; Austin "Buddy" Holmes, Public Works Director; Jeff Stewart, Rec Director; Carol T. Porter, Town Clerk/Tax Collector; PJ Cyr, Chief of Police; Henry Sanschagrín, Bill Demers, Frank Edmondson, Beth Host, Sean Rano

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

2. Appointments:

a) Henry Sanschagrín – Jimtown Road Access to Trails: Henry Sanschagrín, President, of the Presidential OHRV Club, presented the Board with a letter that requested the Town to allow Crestwood Drive and Brook Road along with the upper part of Jimtown Road as well as all side roads to be open to OHRV traffic. The letter also asks the Town/Board to forward a written request to the NH Bureau of Trails that asks for the State to allow ATVs to use the State owned portion of Jimtown Road to be able to access the Town's portion of Jimtown Road. Mr. Sanschagrín said that he had done research at the Registry of Deeds and found that E. Libby & Sons purchased the land that Public Service has an easement on in 1905. The Club's goal would be to have the State allow access from the parking lot to the access point of the easement trail (approximately 200') along the current rail trail. From there ATVers could access Crestwood Drive and be able to get to Jimtown Road, etc. Mr. Sanschagrín also attached a copy of a letter from Edward Reichert of Gorham Land Company (E. Libby & Sons), which was also forwarded to Howie Wemyss, that gives permission for the Club to create a trail along the easement for access to Crestwood Drive. Further discussion took place regarding the request and the Board asked Mr. Sanschagrín to survey the Crestwood Drive residents as well as the homes that border the rail trail, asking the general feeling of the residents for this access.

3. New Business:

a) ZBA Appointments: TM Frost presented the Board with two certificates of appointments for Keith Roberge and Lenwood Knowles as alternates for the Zoning Board. Mr. Roberge had stepped down as a full time member, but would like to stay on as an alternate; and Mr. Knowles has served on the Zoning Board in the past. **Selectman Schall made a motion to appoint both Messrs. Roberge and Knowles as alternates for the Zoning Board of Adjustment, seconded by Selectman Jackson, voted unanimously.**

b) 2014 Budget Reviews (Police, Dispatch, Highway, Finance, CRF): Jeff Stewart, Rec Director, informed the Board that this year he did not want to include any money for Recreation Van CRF fund stating that as long as profits from the Moose Tours stays on course, the revolving fund can be used to purchase the new vehicle. However, RD Stewart stated that he would like to keep the Recreation Maintenance CRF intact and would like to request that \$5,000 be placed in that account this year. Further discussion took place regarding the two Rec Department CRF accounts.

PWD Holmes reviewed the Cemetery Budget noting that the labor line had a \$2.00 increase, but otherwise remained level funded. This budget includes one part-time employee that was added last year.

Carol Porter, Town Clerk/Tax Collector reviewed her budget with the Board noting that there was an increase in the expense lines associated with voting due to the extra "special" election. TCTC Porter also stated that she is looking for in an increase in the labor line to cover an increase in the deputy's hourly wage.

PWD Holmes reviewed his remaining budgets with the Board noting that one of the biggest changes to his Highway budget this year is the decrease to the salt line, noting that the price per ton had decreased this year. Further discussion took place regarding the budget. A discussion took place regarding the fact that EMS has been fuelling the ambulances at the State pumps. The Board asked if the State's price per gallon was better than the price that the Town was able to receive. PWD Holmes said that he was not sure if the State was less per gallon. The Board also asked PWD Holmes to get the mileage and hours on all vehicles and equipment. The Board asked if the recycling was still being weighed when brought up to AVRRD, and PWD Holmes stated that it was. The Board and PWD Holmes also discussed Capital Reserve accounts.

Chief Cyr reviewed the Police and Dispatch budgets with the Board noting that he had made some changes that are not on their copies of the proposed budget. Chief Cyr said that he has changed the full-time positions to six instead of seven and has included two part-time positions. He said that Brian Lamarre and Rich McClure would fill/hold the two permanent part-time positions. Chief Cyr went on to say, that he has changed duties within the department because of the staffing change. Further discussion took place regarding the Police budget and it was noted that there is a proposed 1.6% increase. Chief Cyr also reviewed the Dispatch budget, noting that the bottom line budget for Dispatch this year is proposed at \$176,577. The Board and Chief Cyr also reviewed Capital Reserve items as well as proposed revenue lines.

The Board and TM Frost decided based on the time that they would discuss the remaining balance of the Finance budget at the next meeting.

4. Old Business:

Nothing was presented.

5. Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

6. Other Business:

a) Town Manager's Update: TM Frost stated that she did not have any updates for the Board at this time.

b) Selectmen's Updates: The Board did not have any updates at this time.

c) Approval of Minutes (December 2 & 9, 2013): Selectman Schall made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 2 & 9, 2013 meetings, seconded by Selectman Jackson, approved 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-e: There was no need.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 PM.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Paul Robitaille

William H. Jackson

Jeff Schall