

**MINUTES OF SELECTMAN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2017 6:00 PM
TOWN HALL CONFERENCE ROOM**

Gorham Selectman present: Terry Oliver, Patrick Lefebvre, and Mike Waddell

Also present: Robin Frost, Town Manager; Chief PJ Cyr; Chief Pete Morency; Deputy Chief Dan Buteau; Jennifer Cloutier; Lisa Arguin; Kirstan Knowlton, Berlin Daily Sun; Diane Bouthot; Judy LeBlanc

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Oliver at 6:02 pm.

2. Appointments:

a) Chief Peter Morency, Berlin Police Department – Chief Morency from the Berlin Police Department presented what they have so far for the Request for Proposal for Police and Dispatch Services. Morency stated that it is in the best interest of the communities and the taxpayers to regionalize services and that this practice continues to expand. Morency advised that both MRI and NHMA had recommended regionalizing services between the communities. Morency listed some of the extra services Gorham would have available if Berlin were to provide services, including a drug investigator, full-time polygraph examiner, accident reconstruction, records management, specialized training, and improve retention issues. Morency had a list of several questions that they need answers to before they can give a final price, which Chief Cyr stated he could provide answers to within a week. Morency stated that the town could save approximately \$100,000, or 10% of the current cost. He stated the number could go up to up to 20% over three years by taking advantage of grant opportunities. TM Frost asked how much the department received in grants in 2017 and Lisa Arguin stated that she would get that information to her. Selectman Waddell asked how the patrol coverage would compare to what we currently have. Chief Cyr advised that we currently have double coverage Sunday-Wednesday until midnight and Thursday- Saturday until 2am. This would provide single coverage Sunday-Wednesday and double Thursday-Saturday from 4pm-2am. Waddell asked how many less that would be and Chief Cyr advised that you would have to have less patrol hours to see any cost savings. Morency advised that if more manpower was needed, they could shift it as necessary. Morency also advised that the Board would have an advisory voice at the Police Commission meetings. Waddell asked about special events and if that would add extra cost to the contract. Morency advised that was one of the questions on the list. Morency advised that a four-year contract would give the most benefit due to the grants. Selectman Oliver stated that they would need to discuss how to handle closing the town hall at night, if it was decided to go with service from Berlin. Waddell asked about dispatch services and if they would be able to communicate with all of our departments and Jennifer Cloutier advised they would. Cloutier stated that they purchased a new console about three years ago which has room to expand. Chief Morency stated that Gorham could keep it's own emergency number and the calls would be forwarded to Berlin. Morency advised that just dispatch services would also be about a 10% cost savings, but the initial cost would be higher to set up the equipment. Deputy Chief Buteau advised that just dispatch services would not allow for the same grant opportunities. Morency advised that he will be discussing the proposal with the Police Commission at the next meeting on October 6, and could meet with the Board after that. The Board will meet with Morency on October 13 at 4pm and the Public Hearing will be held on October 16.

3. New Business:

a) Street Light Conversion Update – TM Frost advised that changing the 39 lights will be a total of \$7,485 after the Eversource rebate. An additional 20 will cost \$4,249.10 after the rebate. The rebate begins December 1, so it will start the first week of December. The total cost of \$50,254 will see a payoff after 2 ¼ years. The lights will be dark sky compliant. Selectman Oliver asked if the lights could be adjusted if there was a complaint and TM Frost advised she is not sure.

b) Draft Rules of Procedure for Selectmen's Meetings – Selectman Waddell asked what the purpose of the Rules were and Selectman Lefebvre advised that he is looking for a sense of order at the meetings. TM Frost advised that it is mostly what we already do, however it would keep a better focus on the issues in a large room of people. Comments would be limited to two minutes. It would also provide a guideline for newly elected Selectmen. Waddell suggested that it be amended to three minutes.

On a motion by Selectman Lefebvre, seconded by Chairman Oliver, the Board voted to accept the Rules of Procedure for the Selectmen's Meetings. Lefebvre and Oliver – aye, Waddell - no

4. Old Business/Updates:

a) Fairpoint Poles in Cascade - Selectman Lefebvre advised that most of the poles are gone. There is one left with two signs on it, which is possibly why it was not removed with the others.

b) Gorham Paper & Tissue Payment Agreement – TM Frost advised she is still waiting to hear back from them on how they intend to catch up on the payments they will be missing.

c) Fire Ponds in Stony Brook – TM Frost advised that the Fire Chief is evaluating the two fire ponds and the cistern. Selectman Waddell asked for a date that this will be finished and TM Frost will get that. Waddell asked if it could be completed by the next meeting.

d) Cascade Playground – TM Frost advised that there is nothing new to report.

e) Complete Road Improvement Plan – TM Frost advised that Spring Road was added for an additional cost of \$500, for a total of \$20,500. The contract was signed and returned. The work should be completed by December 1.

f) Jimtown Crosswalk Request – TM Frost advised she has heard nothing back.

5. Public Comment:

Diane Bouthot expressed concern that only allowing public comment at the end of the meeting does not give the citizens a chance to ask questions before decisions are made. Bouthot stated that she would have liked to ask questions of Chief Morency tonight. Chairman Oliver stated that no questions would have been allowed tonight, but would be at the public hearing.

6. Other Business:

a) Town Manager's Update – TM Frost advised that they are working on the Public Works personnel policy and are wondering if the Board is okay with employees continuing to float winter holidays for Civil Rights Day and Presidents Day. Employees work those days, but take two other days off during the year. Selectman Lefebvre asked if it was contractual and Frost advised they are not union employees. Selectman Waddell mentioned that he would prefer the whole town follow the same schedule, as it is

confusing when the town hall is closed, but there is still garbage pickup. Frost advised that they do include it on the schedule for garbage and recycling pickup that is handed out to residents. Frost advised that it can be a cost savings for the town, as they are available to plow if needed. TM Frost will put something together for the Board to look at.

TM Frost advised the public hearing for the additional Highway Block Grant money received, in the amount of \$53,385.76, will be on October 2 at 6:00pm.

TM Frost recognized Kirstan Knowlton of the Berlin Daily Sun, as it was her last night at the meeting. Knowlton has accepted another position at ServiceLink. Frost thanked Knowlton for her fair reporting and wished her well in her new job. Edith Tucker will be replacing Knowlton at the Berlin Daily Sun.

TM Frost advised that a quote has been received for the new sign at the corner of Exchange Street. There will be 12 panels at a cost of \$540, which is \$45 per business. Jay Guilmette advised that Presby Steel was willing to provide the signpost.

b) Selectmen's Updates – Selectman Waddell stated that an email was received from Julie Renaud-Evans from the Northern Forest Center. They were looking for a community to work with on Economic Development, and they decided to go with Lancaster. John Scarinza spoke with her and she agreed to come back and talk with Gorham. This would be in addition to the Master Plan and would include a member of the Planning Board and a member of the Board of Selectmen. The Board agreed to have Waddell talk with her and Waddell will contact her.

Selectman Waddell advised that the Randolph Withdrawal Study Committee voted to not move forward with a warrant article. They will be completing a report at their next meeting as to why that vote was made.

c) Approval of Minutes (September 5, 2017, non-public August 21 and September 5, 2017) –

On a motion by Selectman Waddell, seconded by Chairman Oliver, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of September 5, 2017, and the non-public minutes of August 21 and September 15, 2017 as presented.

d) Sign Manifest; Abatements and Exemptions (if necessary) –

TM Frost advised that an abatement was requested at 8 Mount Carter Drive. The current assessed value is \$55,300. The purchase price was \$23,800. KRT has recommended a revised value of \$32,000.

On a motion by Selectman Waddell, seconded by Chairman Oliver, the Board voted unanimously to approve the abatement at 8 Mount Carter Drive.

The abatement was signed by Chairman Oliver.

7. Non-public Session: RSA 91-A:3, II-a, d, e

On a motion by Selectman Lefebvre, seconded by Selectman Waddell, the Board unanimously voted by roll call to move to non-public session to discuss the Eversource Divestiture at 7:15 pm. Oliver – Aye, Lefebvre – Aye, Waddell – Aye.

On a motion by Selectman Waddell, seconded by Selectman Lefebvre, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to come out of non-public session at 7:40 pm. Oliver – Aye, Lefebvre – Aye, Waddell - Aye.

Minutes of non-public session are available separately.

8. Adjournment: On a motion by Selectman Lefebvre, seconded by Selectman Waddell, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Terry Oliver

Patrick Lefebvre

Michael Waddell