

**MINUTES OF SELECTMAN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2017 6:00 PM
TOWN HALL CONFERENCE ROOM**

Gorham Selectman present: Grace LaPierre, Terry Oliver, Patrick Lefebvre

Also present: Robin Frost, Town Manager; Chief PJ Cyr; Sgt Mark Santos; Off Brian Lamarre; Off Jonathan Imperial; Off Jonathan Woodworth; Off Michael Turgeon; Off Patrick Riendeau; Kirstan Knowlton, Berlin Daily Sun; Matt Saladino; Bronson Leclerc; Joel Fortier; Steve and Kristine Roy; Michael Waddell; Steve Regan; Gina Saladino; Nicole Eastman; Steve Jackson; Suzie Santos; Mary Jo Landry; Richard McClure; Deidre Blair; and others.

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

2. Appointments:

a) Sgt. Mark Santos – Police Department Update – Chief PJ Cyr and Sgt Mark Santos presented Lifesaving Awards to Off Jonathan Imperial, for his actions after an OHRV accident last July, and Off Brian Lamarre, for his actions while working at Loudon last July. They were congratulated by all present.

b) Matt Saladino/Bronson Leclerc – Bikes Not Bombs Kiosk Placement – Matt Saladino and Bronson Leclerc were present to discuss the Bikes Not Bombs Kiosk placement. TM Frost advised that the Kiosk has been approved to be placed at the back of the parking lot on the right side of the library building. TM Frost advised that the public works department has checked it and it will not interfere with snow removal. Selectman Lefebvre believes the slab that was poured will be able to be moved and Saladino and Leclerc will be in contact with him in the spring to do that. Steve Roy asked about the containers in back of the high school and what is held in them. Saladino advised that baseball nets, desks, and other items are stored there. Steve Regan expressed concern that the building would be an eyesore in the neighborhood. Leclerc shared the plans with him and Saladino assured him that it would be maintained.

c) Nicole Eastman – Ed Fenn Water Fountain Request – Nicole Eastman was present from the CARE Committee at Ed Fenn School to request the town's assistance in purchasing a new water fountain for the gym at the school. The Committee felt that since the Recreation Department uses the gym for the basketball season, that they may be willing to help with the cost. Eastman advised that she received two quotes, one from JD Plumbing for \$1790, and one from Lowe's Heating for \$2400. Chairman LaPierre advised that the Board had received a letter from Jeff Stewart stating that he did not recommend spending for the request. Stewart felt that the program could run safely without the added cost, and that the Recreation Department had already contributed \$8000 toward the gym repairs. Eastman advised that the CARE Committee can contribute \$1000 from the fundraising they have done, and requested the town assist with the balance. Chairman LaPierre suggested that the town and school split the cost of the remaining balance of \$790. **On a motion by Chairman LaPierre, seconded by Selectman Oliver, the Board voted unanimously to approve \$400 from the Recreation Revolving Fund for the purchase of a water fountain for the gym at the Ed Fenn School.**

3. New Business:

a) Easter Seal Ride-In – Parade Judge – TM Frost advised that the Easter Seal Ride-In is scheduled for the weekend of February 3. Chairman LaPierre volunteered to be the judge for the parade. Steve

Jackson asked if the town was going to be making snow roads for the snowmachines on the sidewalks. TM Frost advised that the snow roads would just be from the Town & Country to the common.

b) Munce Properties – TM Frost advised that the deeds for the Munce properties would be processed on January 12. Chairman LaPierre asked how long the town needs to wait before advertising and TM Frost advised it was 30 days.

c) Assessing RFP – TM Frost gave the Board a copy of the Assessing RFP for their review.

d) Pittsburg Selectman – The Board discussed a letter received from the Pittsburg Selectman in reference to local control of municipal roads. Mike Waddell cautioned the Board about supporting the letter stating that it is not exactly what it appears to be, stating that is a house bill that would allow any community to stop transmission systems. Selectman Lefebvre asked TM Frost what her recommendation was and she advised that they can decline to take a stand as no response is needed. **On a motion by Chairman LaPierre, seconded by Selectman Oliver, the Board voted unanimously to not respond to the letter from the Pittsburg Selectman.**

e) Filing Period for Local Officials – TM Frost advised that the filing period for local officials is January 25-February 3, 2017. TM Frost advised that Carol Porter would be getting a list together of which positions are up for re-election.

f) Budget Committee Schedule – TM Frost shared the Budget Committee schedule for FY2017. The first meeting will be tomorrow night, January 10, at 6:00 pm at the Recreation Department. TM Frost advised that the public hearing on the school budget will be January 25 at 7pm at GHS. The town budget hearing will be February 9 at 6:30pm at the Medallion Opera House. Town meeting is scheduled for March 14 at 7:00pm in the high school gym.

Mike Waddell made a request on behalf of the budget committee for the job descriptions of all of the department heads. Selectman Lefebvre asked how these would assist the committee in helping with the budget for this year. Waddell stated that there is some confusion as to who is responsible for what. Selectman Lefebvre recommended that the committee ask the department heads at the budget meetings for any clarification needed, and advised that the information on job descriptions is available to the public in the town office. Waddell also requested copies of the road studies and worksheets for the town roads that bids were received for. TM Frost advised that one is available on the website and the others are available for him to view in the town office. Waddell also requested a copy of the Emergency Management Plan for river maintenance. TM Frost will forward this information to Waddell.

g) 10 Year Road Plan – North Country Council – TM Frost shared the list from the North Country Council of the state's ten year road plan for roads in the area. Selectman Oliver volunteered to attend the next meeting of the Council on January 19 in Littleton. State roads in town that could use work were discussed, with the only concern being the corner by Libby Pool on Route 16. Selectman Oliver and TM Frost will fill out the Project Proposal Form for the state to consider this road in future plans. Chairman LaPierre asked about the sidewalk grant and if the town would reapply this year for work on Route 2. TM Frost advised that the town would reapply, and the letter of intent would be submitted this summer.

h) Exchange Street Sign – Chairman LaPierre requested that the Board pass over this item, as Mike Chabot has a meeting scheduled tomorrow with TM Frost on what he would like to have done. The Board agreed.

i) Estimate on Truck for Recreation Department - TM Frost advised that an estimate was received for a truck for the Recreation Department to use. The estimate was for \$37,776. Selectman Oliver requested that Jeff Stewart obtain more estimates from other dealerships before it is considered.

j) Budget approval – TM Frost asked the Board if the budget was approved to be submitted as it is to the Budget Committee. The Board agreed that it was. Chairman LaPierre and Selectman Lefebvre asked for updated copies for their records. TM Frost will be sure they get them.

k) Assessing Contract – TM Frost gave the Board a copy of the contract with George Sansoucy for settlement agreements with PSNH, Fairpoint, Eversource, Time Warner Cable, and Walmart. The total cost for the contract is \$32,000. **On a motion by Chairman LaPierre, seconded by Selectman Oliver, the Board voted unanimously to accept the contract with George Sansoucy.** The Board members signed the contract, which was witnessed by TM Frost.

4. Old Business/Updates:

a) Cascade Railroad Crossing – TM Frost advised that she received the order for the crossing. The next step will be for DOT to put up the signs, which will most likely be in the spring.

b) Fairpoint Poles in Cascade – TM Frost advised that they are still waiting for a line crew to move the lines.

c) Public Works Building – TM Frost advised that Buddy Holmes has moved into his office in the new building. There is no internet yet, so Lisa White will move into the building next week. TM Frost advised that the heater that was installed was not quite enough on really cold nights to keep the building warm, so an electric heater will also be used when necessary.

d) Eversource Dam/Dike Update – TM Frost advised that she spoke with Shawn Southworth about the encroachment issues. He advised in reference to the snow storage and water and sewer easements, the town will need to provide survey information and they will draw up the easements. In reference to the debris pile, they first want to be sure there is no contamination before granting the easement. TM Frost advised that she did mention that the town may be interested in purchasing some of the property in question, and he advised that it would probably not be possible. TM Frost also spoke with Eversource about the dike. They stated that the FERC boundary does include the dike and they will send the updated maps. They also advised that they are still planning to cut the trees on the dike, but are looking for another logger, as the first one hired backed out. Mike Waddell asked about the drainage easement, and TM Frost advised there has been no movement on that yet. Mike Waddell also asked about money in the budget should it be needed for any of the easements requested, and TM Frost advised she would not recommend setting aside any in the budget for this, as if it is needed, they could have a special town meeting.

e) Exposed Cellar Hole – TM Frost advised that the tape has been put up to warn people of the hole.

f) Trails Committee – Joel Fortier advised that everyone he has spoken with about the committee is enthusiastic. Fortier stated that in addition to Selectman Lefebvre, the others that have committed to the committee are Chief Cyr, Chris Gamache, and Preston Baillargeon. Fortier is also hoping to contact Bill Hatch. TM Frost advised that she has contacted the owners of the Top Notch Inn and Lou Anne Pelkey, and is hoping to contact Liz Jackson. Selectman Lefebvre again suggested that Fortier contact someone from the Sheriff's Department and Fish and Game.

g) Fire Department Equipment – TM Frost advised that Chief Watkins has ordered the secondhand bottles to replace the ones that expired in 2016. Watkins was able to purchase the bottles from the 2016 budget for about half of the initial price.

5. Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

6. Other Business:

a) Town Manager's Update – TM Frost advised that the UNH Cooperative Extension is offering a program called NH First Impressions, which was piloted in Littleton and Rochester. The program takes a look at towns as others would see it for the first time and offers recommendations. TM Frost will contact them to see if it is a free program or available for a nominal fee.

TM Frost also advised that Gorham Paper and Tissue has been paying regularly per their agreement. Frost advised that they are currently paying on the 2014 lien and on the 2016 taxes.

b) Selectmen's Updates – Selectman Lefebvre mentioned again that the mill was supposed to deed the property to the town, which has not been done. Lefebvre also asked again about a sign for the trucks about the truck route to keep them out of Cascade Flats. TM Frost will look into this.

Selectman Lefebvre also mentioned that he would like to see the town hire someone either a full or part-time for economic development, to help with bringing in new businesses to the area. TM Frost agreed that this would be a good idea. Selectman Lefebvre stated that he would like to see it added to the budget for this year.

Selectman Lefebvre advised that he checked on the school zone signs that were mentioned in the last meeting. Shelli Fortin advised that she had emailed the school about this, and due to the location of the Edward Fenn School, which is set back from the road, it is not posted on Main Street the same as Gorham High School. Dave Goyette advised that the locations of the signs were set by the state years ago.

Chairman LaPierre asked about the property at 8 Gordon Avenue and if John Scarinza had looked into the unregistered vehicles there. TM Frost will look into this, and again advised that even if the law states that only one is allowed, if they are planning to fix them for use, they can have more than one.

Chairman LaPierre also asked if the town had received a response about the letter that was sent to Jeana Apling reference the property on Lary Street. TM Frost advised that Apling did not respond, but the residents did, and were not happy about the town sending the letter.

Selectman Lefebvre mentioned the building codes and International Property Maintenance Codes. Kirstan Knowlton asked if the codes would cover single family rental properties. TM Frost advised that the International Property Maintenance codes would cover multi-family properties, but the town was working on an ordinance to cover single family. Frost advised that it would not matter if it was a rental property or not. The ordinance would be approved by the Board but code enforcement would be responsible for enforcing it.

c) Approval of Minutes (December 12, 2016) - On a motion by Chairman LaPierre, seconded by Selectman Oliver, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of December 12, 2016 as prepared.

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

There were no abatements.

7. Non-public Session: RSA 91-A:3, IIa

On a motion by Chairman LaPierre, seconded by Selectman Oliver, the Board unanimously voted by roll call to move to non-public session at 7:47 pm. Lefebvre – Aye, Oliver - Aye, LaPierre – Aye.

On a motion by Selectman Oliver, seconded by Selectman Lefebvre, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to come out of non-public session at 8:21 pm. Lefebvre – Aye, Oliver – Aye, LaPierre - Aye.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Grace LaPierre

Terry Oliver

Patrick Lefebvre