

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
TOWN OF GORHAM  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2016 6:00 PM  
TOWN HALL**

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

Also present: Robin Frost, Town Manager; Kirstan Lukasak, Berlin Daily Sun; Mike Waddell, Ron Donato, Dana Horne, John Sheets, Pat Lefebvre, Arthur Perry, Adam White, PJ Cyr, Police Chief; Aaron Gibson, Jonathan Woodworth, Mike Turgeon, Cagney Hatch, EMS; Rick Eichler, Fire Chief; Rob Esty

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

**2. Appointments:**

**a) Chief PJ Cyr – New Officer Introductions:** Chief Cyr introduced the two newest police officers that have been hired, noting that they were both fully trained and only needed to learn the Town. Jonathan Woodworth and Aaron Gibson both come to the Town with advanced training. John Woodworth started on January 4<sup>th</sup> and Aaron Gibson started on February 15<sup>th</sup>.

**b) Ron Donato – Jimtown Road:** Mr. Donato asked the Board how much the Town is willing to compromise safety in the town and on its streets. Mr. Donato stated that the first snow storm that we had received 6-7 inches of snow, Jimtown Road was not plowed until about 1:30pm. Last week when the bulk of the Town received a dusting, Jimtown Road received 3-4 inches of snow and had not been plowed when he left for work in the morning. He asked what the standard operating procedures are with regard to road patrol during snow storms. Jimtown Road receives different weather than other places in Town. He is concern for residents' safety especially by the Girl Scout Camp. He said that he went to talk to PWD Holmes regarding the matter and he was told that the Town only had two plows. He wondered if the Board would be able to look into this matter. The Board stated that his concern had been duly noted and they will look into the matter.

**c) John LaPierre – Fire/EMS Merger:** Selectman LaPierre stated that he will come at a later date.

**3. New Business**

**a) Coos County Public Safety Agreement:** TM Frost stated that this is the annual agreement that provides dispatch services to the unincorporated townships. The agreement amount is \$12,600 with an additional amount in reserve for repeater maintenance. The Board signed the Coos County Public Safety Agreement.

**b) 2016 Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program:** TM Frost stated that the 2016 Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program is calling for letters of intent for 2016 grants. She said that EMD Miller is suggesting that the Town apply for a grant to create a plan and identify which areas are problem areas. This material is for informational purposes.

**4. Old Business**

**a) Further Fire/EMS Merger Discussion – Information Requests:** Chairman Schall said that at the previous meeting, the Board said that they would make a decision on the merger after the Public Hearing at this meeting. He asked if the Board would like to make a decision regarding this matter and if they would like to have further discussion. Selectman LaPierre said that she thought the Board was going to postpone the decision until further

information is received from the committee. **Selectman LaPierre made a motion to table the Board's decision regarding the merger, seconded by Selectman Oliver, the matter was opened for discussion.** The Board outlined the following information that they would like to see from the committee before moving forward with the decision: detailed job description for a Fire Chief/EMS Director, a breakdown of costs for replacement of the current fire chief and keeping the department status quo, hiring a part time chief and keeping the department status quo, or moving forward with the merge and hiring a Fire/EMS chief. Regardless of which scenario all costs will need to be included in the costs breakdown, such as training, overhead, etc. It was also agreed that the Board will consider the merge once the information is received and will not automatically vote it down. The Board has asked the committee to give the Board this information as well as a recommendation with regard to the job description and residency requirement (if any). The Board has asked the committee to get this information together as quickly as possible. **The Board voted to approve the motion unanimously.**

**5. Public Comment:**

**6. Other Business**

**a) Town Manager's Update:** No updates.

**b) Selectmen's Update:** No updates.

**c) Approval of Minutes (February 8, 2016):** Selectman LaPierre made a motion to approve the Minutes for the February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting as presented, seconded by Selectman Oliver, voted unanimously.

**d) Sign Manifest:** All manifests were signed.

**e) Sign Abatements and Exemptions (if necessary):** TM Frost presented the Board with the abatements for Arthur Couture's properties, which have all been previously approved, for their signatures. The Board signed the abatements.

**7. Non-Public Session: RSA 91-a:3, II d:** On a motion by Chairman Schall, seconded by Selectman LaPierre, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to move into non-public session at 6:37 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 6:47 pm. Schall – Aye, LaPierre – Aye, Oliver - Aye.

**8. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 PM.

**REVIEWED AND APPROVED:**

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Jeff Schall

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Grace LaPierre

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Terry Oliver