

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2014, 6:00 PM
GORHAM TOWN HALL**

Gorham Selectmen present: Jeff Schall, Grace LaPierre

Also present: Robin Frost, Town Manager; Kirstan Lukasak, Berlin Daily Sun; Robert Balon, Ron Donato, Mike Waddell, Steve Malespini, Glen Eastman, David Graham, Jay Holmes, Lee Carroll, Ted Miller, Michelle Lutz, Assessing Clerk; PJ Cyr, Police Chief; Rich McClure, Police Officer

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

2. Appointments:

a) Board of Selectmen Vacancy Candidates: Chairman Schall started by stating that Mr. Balon was in attendance for this meeting, while Mr. Oliver was still not available to attend the meeting because of personal reasons. Chairman Schall went on to say that he knew both candidates and feels that the Board does not need to proceed with the interview process. He said that he feels that Mr. Balon should not be considered for the position because he has a conflict of interest. At this time, he feels that he would like to appoint Mr. Oliver to fill the position through March 31, 2015. Selectman LaPierre agreed with Chairman Schall. **Chairman Schall made a motion to appoint Terry Oliver as the Board's interim Selectman until March 31, 2015, seconded by Selectman LaPierre, voted unanimously.**

b) Town Forest Committee: Glen Eastman stated that the Committee would like to negotiate with the Town of Randolph with regard to the assessment value of the Town's Forest located in Randolph, and asked the Board if they would agree to this. The Board thanked the Town Forest Committee for handling this matter on behalf of the Town. **Selectman LaPierre made a motion to allow the Town Forest Committee to negotiate with the Town of Randolph with regard to the town's forest assessment value, seconded by Chairman Schall, voted unanimously.**

3. New Business

a) Town-acquired Property Auction Contract: TM Frost stated Paul McInnis, Inc. will be performing the auctions for the four town properties located at 459 Main Street (Currier Building), 1 Tees Road (land adjacent to Currier Building), 26 Spruce Street (Land) and 15 Main Street (House). The auction will start at 11:00 am on October 22, 2014, and will be an "absolute" auction. All four properties' auctions will take place at 459 Main Street. TM Frost will be meeting with Paul McInnis tomorrow at 10:30 am to review all the properties.

b) 2015 Budget Preparation Update: TM Frost stated that she has completed her first meeting with all department heads. A draft budget has been prepared and she is in the process of reviewing it. Chairman Schall asked her about the time line for the budget, and she stated that she is still shooting to get the budget to the Board by November 1st. TM Frost stated that the Police Department Union Contract negotiation process is under way and that they will be meeting again on October 6th at 10:00 am. She believes they will be able to wrap up negotiations on this date. Because Chairman Schall will not be able to attend that meeting, Selectman LaPierre will attend the meeting.

4. Old Business

a) Public Works Roof: TM Frost stated that there was a walk through last Friday, however, only one person showed up. She said that they have scheduled a second walk through in two weeks. USDA has been notified of the second walk through and are fine with the Town doing so.

b) Town Hall Windows: TM Frost stated that FD Vallee has still not received the requested information from the window company. FD Vallee is pushing to get additional information.

TM Frost informed the Board that the building's air conditioning is fixed. TM Frost stated that a plan for building maintenance was being worked on.

c) Netting on Common: TM Frost said that all the netting material for the fence on the common along Main Street has come in. The Town and School have been in contact with one another with regard to the installation. If they cannot get the project completed this fall, it will be completed prior to the spring baseball season.

Other old business:

Chairman Schall said that he has seen the letter that Lt. Jen Lemoine wrote to Chief Cyr with regard to shutting off additional street lights. Because he did not see this letter until the start of the meeting, he would like to pass over this matter until the next meeting and asked Selectman LaPierre if she had any thoughts with regard to Lt. Lemoine's recommendations. Selectman LaPierre stated that she had concerns about safety for residents. There are lights on lower Main Street that should be turned back on as well as Jimtown Road. She said that for the small amount of money that the Town may save isn't worth the safety of the residents.

5. Public Comment:

Ron Donato stated that last July he asked TM Frost about getting the Public Works crew to fill-in/patch Jimtown Road. When he did not see anything fixed, he asked again in August. At that time TM Frost indicated that the crew had been busy. To date, Mr. Donato stated that the road has still not been fixed. Chairman Schall instructed TM Frost to get PWD Holmes to look at the road and take care of what can be taken care of.

Jay Holmes asked the Board what was going on with the Portland Pipeline abatement. TM Frost stated that oral arguments took place at the Supreme Court in April. While the Town has still not received the result from the Court as of yet, she said that she hoped that the decision would be made any time now. Mr. Holmes also asked about where the Town stood with regard to the Walmart abatement. The Board said that they will be looking to mediate the matter with Walmart. He asked if the tax rate had been set yet and if it has not yet, how will the results of the Portland Pipeline and Walmart abatement cases affect the tax rate. TM Frost stated that all information for the tax rate setting process has been forwarded to the State. Mr. Holmes also asked about the Town owned properties. TM Frost explained which properties were up for auction and that they were absolute auctions, noting that depending on how they went, it may assist with the tax rate. Mr. Holmes expressed concern about the direction that the Town is heading in with taxes rising at

the rate that they have been. Chairman Schall stated that the budgeting process for the next year was just starting.

Ron Donato questioned Police Chief Cyr on why he felt that the department needed to order eight – M4 223 tactical weapons, and what size clips will they have. Chief Cyr explained that the department will have 30 round clips for the guns, and he stated that the reason that they ordered as many weapons as they did was so that each officer would have their own weapon. Chief Cyr stated that not everyone has the same stance and therefore would need to sight the gun in a manner that would shoot best for them. Each officer will take care of their own weapon and according to Town safety regulations would need to properly store their weapon. Further discussion took place regarding current events and why Chief Cyr felt it was a necessary fact of life to upgrade the department's weapons.

6. Other Business

a) Town Manager's Update: TM Frost had no updates.

b) Selectmen's Update: The Board had no updates

c) Approval of Minutes (September 8, 2014): The Board passed over the approval of the minutes so they would have adequate time to review them.

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 e: On a motion by Chairman Schall, seconded by Selectman LaPierre, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to move into non-public session at 6:43 pm. Schall – Aye, LaPierre – 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 7:07 pm. Schall – Aye, LaPierre – Aye.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 PM.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Jeff Schall

Grace LaPierre