

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2014, 6:00 PM
GORHAM TOWN HALL**

Gorham Selectmen present: Jeff Schall, Grace LaPierre, Terry Oliver – excused absence
Also present: Robin Frost, Town Manager; Denise Vallee, Finance Director; Kirstan Lukasak, Berlin Daily Sun; PJ Cyr, Police Chief; Janet Nadeau, Tom Cote, Rich McClure, Mike Waddell

Prior to the Public Hearings and meeting, the Board moved into non-public session pursuant to **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 5:40 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 5:52 pm. Schall – Aye, LaPierre – Aye.

No decisions were made as a result of the session.

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

Public Hearing: Proposed Bedbug Ordinance

Chairman Schall read the following to the public:

Chapter 40 Public Health, Section V, Gorham Bedbug Bulky Waste Policy – Authority: NH RSA 147 authorizes the Board of Health (Board of Selectmen and Health Officer) towns to make regulations relative to sanitary and health conditions.

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to outline the responsibilities of a property owner to utilize proper procedures when disposing of bulky waste infested with bedbugs to prevent the spread of bed bug infestation by trash pickers.

STATEMENT OF POLICY:

1. If it is determined that a residence, single or multi family dwelling, is infested with bedbugs, the owner/landlord shall be responsible for the disposal of any and all items that are deemed to be trash related to the infestation.
2. Said items shall be removed from the property and not be put to the curb for pickup. All items need to be bagged if possible and clearly marked “Bed Bugs” on the outside. Items shall be disposed of at the Gorham Public Works Garage or Androscoggin Valley Regional Refuse Disposal District facility.
3. Any person willfully violating such regulations shall be guilty of a violation, which could carry a fine of up to \$500 per violation. Each complaint could constitute a separate violation of this ordinance.

Chairman Schall asked if anyone had any questions or comments on the proposed new ordinance. Tom Cote asked the Board what happens if a tenant does not make the landlord aware of the situation and does not handle the disposal correctly. The Board stated that the intent is there in the statement of policies, #3. Mr. Cote expressed concern with regard to trying to prove whether or not a landlord is notified or not. The Board and Mr. Cote discussed this matter further, and the Board

decided that they would look into trying to include language to deal with this situation. The Board closed this public hearing at 6:07.

Public Hearing: Proposed Street Light Removal

Chairman Schall stated that the proposed street lights for removal list had been advertised on the website, and notification had been placed in the local newspaper. He asked the public for any comments.

Janet Nadeau said that she looked at the pole list and found it somewhat confusing because some of the numbers did not match up. However, when walking through her neighborhood, she took note of the poles that had been marked with the orange tape. Mrs. Nadeau informed the Board that she walks regularly. Because she works during the day, she walks in the evening when it is dark. She is concerned that if lights are removed, it will leave the neighborhood too dark and feels this is a safety concern.

Mike Waddell stated that he felt that there was not adequate advertising of the matter and that there will be complaints when the lights are removed.

A Wilson Street resident stated that like Mrs. Nadeau, she too walks during the evening hours. She is also concerned for the safety of pedestrians if street lights are removed. She also asked if the Town considered looking into LED lights.

The Board thanked everyone for their comments and will be taken under consideration. This matter will be placed on the next meeting for further discussion. Chairman Schall closed this public hearing at 6:17 pm.

2. Appointments:

a) Chief PJ Cyr – Police Budget: Chief Cyr stated that as asked by the Board, he had prepared a budget that would leave the department at five officers versus replacing the current open position that Lt. Lemoine left. He reviewed salary, benefits and overtime and noted that overall the bottom line of the budget would decrease by approximately \$78,000. He also presented the Board with the last several weeks of schedule for the department, and reviewed the schedules noting that he has spent a great deal of time in the shift rotation. He said that through conversations with his department members, while making sure the schedule is adequately covered, the officers are doing that with the idea that there will be an additional member to assist with coverage. Chief Cyr explained to the Board that if they decided to cut back to a five member department, he is concerned about being able to keep the department intact. He went on to note that his original budget is down 5% from the previous budget. The Board thanked Chief Cyr for going through the exercise and would take his concerns and comments under advisement.

3. New Business

a) 2014 Encumbrances: TM Frost presented the Board with a list of 2014 Encumbrances. She stated the encumbrances included \$759.00 to Dean & Allyn for sprinkler work that would take place in the spring, as well as \$3,600 to East Milan Landfill for Monitoring and \$3,500 to the Cates Hill

Closure. **Selectman LaPierre made a motion to accept the 2014 Encumbrances as presented by TM Frost, seconded by Chairman Schall, voted unanimously.**

b) Budget Committee Meeting Schedule: TM Frost presented the Board with the 2015 Budget Committee meeting schedule and stated that the only change is that the Rec Department budget will be moved to the January 8th meeting.

c) Community Facilities Grant: TM Frost presented the Board with an additional grant application that FD Vallee had prepared for the Public Works Garage roof. She stated that if the Town is awarded the grant monies, these monies would be in addition to the original grant. FD Vallee was able to apply for additional grant monies because the scope of the project had changed and the overall project cost had increased. **Selectman LaPierre made a motion to apply for the Community Facilities Grant for the Public Works roof project, seconded by Chairman Schall, voted unanimously.**

4. Old Business

a) Hazard Mitigation Plan Update: TM Frost stated that the first meeting for updating the Plan had taken place last week. She said that FEMA likes to see a member of the Board at these meetings. Future meetings will be taking place on January 9, January 23, February 6 and March 6 at 9:00 am in the Emergency Operation Center. Selectman LaPierre stated that she will attend the meetings on behalf of the Board.

b) 2015 Budget Finalization: The Board elected to pass over this matter because Selectman Oliver was absent.

TM Frost spoke to the Board with regard to presenting the Boston Post Cane to Sophie Riendeau, and decided that the Board would present the cane on Monday, December 22, 2014. The Board stated that they would start the meeting at 5:00 pm, present the cane to Mrs. Riendeau at 5:30 pm and continue their business after. The Board and TM Frost agreed to include the cane presentation, the budget finalization, street lights and bed bug ordinance on the meeting agenda.

c) Update on Sale of 459 Main Street: TM Frost informed the Board that she expected to close on this property prior to the end of the year. She said that there have been notification glitches that needed to be straightened out as well as the need for an affidavit from Ledyard Bank. She will keep the Board updated on the matter.

5. Public Comment: Mike Waddell asked the Board if they had reviewed the entire budget and whether or not there were any big changes. Chairman Schall stated that they had and that there would be a warrant article for Tinker Brook and maybe another one for the building next door as well as one for the police contract. Also, Engine 2 replacement with the possibility for grant money to cover a portion of the purchase will also be a warrant article.

Mr. Waddell also asked about the changes to the Public Works garage roof and the change in the scope of work. TM Frost stated that the Board wanted to look at a better R rating than originally proposed. Dave Laurin worked with the Town to create an updated scope of work as well as review of bids and acceptance of them

6. Other Business

a) Town Manager’s Update: TM Frost presented the Board with a proposed 2015 meeting schedule. The Board stated that it looked okay to them.

b) Selectmen’s Update: There were no updates.

c) Approval of Minutes (December 1, 2014 and December 8, 2014): Selectman LaPierre stated that there were two grammatical errors on page 2 of the December 1 minutes. **Selectman LaPierre made a motion to approve the Minutes of the December 1 minutes with the noted grammatical changes, and the December 8, 2014 meetings as presented, seconded by Chairman Schall, voted 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, d, 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 7:15 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 8:00 pm. Schall – Aye, LaPierre – Aye.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 PM.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Jeff Schall

Grace LaPierre
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Terry Oliver