

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2013, 6:00 PM
GORHAM TOWN HALL**

Gorham Selectmen present: Jeff Schall, Paul Robitaille, Bill Jackson
Also present: Robin L. Frost, Town Manager; Deb Thornblad, Berlin Daily Sun; Steve Gauthier, Francois Rebello, Tony Donovan

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

2. Appointments:

a) Francois Rebello – Passenger Rail: Mr. Rebello and TM Frost presented the Board with a packet of information on a proposed passenger rail train between Montreal, Quebec and Boston via the St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad (SLR). Mr. Rebello stated that the service that he is looking for support from the Town on is to start with a three-month trial period. Because the current SLR track is rated for freight, Mr. Rebello informed the Board that the current proposed passenger service would depart Montreal just before dinner, with an anticipated arrival time of 9:00 am in Boston. Further discussion took place regarding the importance of passenger rail service. **Selectman Jackson made a motion to direct TM Frost to prepare a letter from the Town in support of passenger rail service to Governor Hassan with copies to SLR and other appropriate parties, seconded by Selectman Schall, voted unanimously.**

3. New Business:

a) Official Tax Rate: TM Frost told the Board that the official tax rate has been set at \$31.98, and that it had been put in the local newspaper as such. TM Frost said that the Town's increase is due to the lack of a fund balance and the size of the overlay needed. Further discussion took place regarding the current budget and tax rate status. It was agreed that the budget should be broken down into more warrants so the Town residents can vote more effectively with regard to what they would like to see for services and what should be cut. TM Frost went on to tell the Board that she met with the department heads to do the initial review of the budgets, and she is currently working on them.

b) Deputy Treasurer and ZBA Appointments: TM Frost presented the Board with Appointment Certificates for Wayne Flynn as Deputy Treasurer, noting that the current Treasurer, Patricia Flynn, has selected him as her deputy. TM Frost went on to say that, usually the Treasurer selects their Deputy. **Selectman Jackson made a motion to appoint Wayne Flynn as Deputy Treasurer, seconded by Selectman Schall, voted unanimously.**

TM Frost also presented the Board with an Appointment Certificate for Patrick Murphy for the open Zoning Board position, noting that Mr. Murphy had come in a couple of meetings ago to express his interest in the position. **Selectman Jackson made a motion to appoint Patrick Murphy for the Zoning Board, seconded by Selectman Schall, voted unanimously.** The Appointment Certificate had an error as presented; the Certificate will be corrected and given back to the Board for their signature.

4. Old Business:

a) Safety and Health Plan: TM Frost asked the Board if they were okay with the changes on the Safety and Health Plan that had been previously submitted for their review and approval. Further discussion took place regarding the Plan and changes. **Selectman Schall made a motion to approve the current Safety and Health Plan with the changes, seconded by Selectman Jackson, voted unanimously.**

b) Delinquent Taxes: TM Frost informed the Board that a full packet of information on delinquent properties would be forthcoming at the next meeting. She said that it would help prepare them for making the necessary decisions when Carol Porter, Tax Collector, presents the Board with a list of properties to be taken.

5. Public Comment:

TM Frost apologized to the Board for her attitude at the last meeting.

6. Other Business:

a) Town Manager's Update: TM Frost told the Board that Tax Collector, Carol Porter had asked her about receiving prepayment of taxes from residents. Further discussion took place regarding the acceptance of prepayment of taxes. **Selectman Jackson made a motion to authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of real estate taxes, seconded by Selectman Schall, voted unanimously.**

TM Frost told the Board that Regan Pride had called her at 5:00 pm. Mr. Pride had told TM Frost that he had emailed the Solid Waste Study to her via his personal email and that he promised to attend the November 18 meeting. TM Frost has still not received the Study. Further discussion took place regarding the Study.

TM Frost asked the Board if they had signed off on the Sales Report that Michelle Lutz, Assessing Clerk, had given them, noting that this report is what the State use when setting the equalization rate. TM Frost informed the Board that this Report needed to be into the State by November 15.

TM Frost presented the Board with a Pole License from Fairpoint Communications for a new pole to be placed at 449 Main Street, noting that it appears to be a new pole. **Further discussion took place, Selectman Jackson made a motion to approve and sign the Pole License Agreement, seconded by Selectman Schall, voted unanimously.**

TM Frost presented the Board with information from Health Trust, noting that they were guaranteed a maximum rate increase of 8% for 2014-2015.

TM Frost presented the Board with the new Warrant in the amount of \$4,705,471.10, for the signatures.

b) Selectmen's Updates: Selectman Schall asked TM Frost about the LGC Conference scheduled for that Wednesday and Thursday. TM Frost told him that she was attending as well as Denise

Vallee, Director of Finance, and Michelle Lutz, Assessing Clerk. Selectman Schall suggested a few discussion topics that they may want to attend.

Selectman Jackson asked about getting detailed information on PILT. TM Frost told him that she would ask DF Vallee to get that information together for them.

The Board informed TM Frost that they would like to make sure that she make herself available for rail meetings heretofore.

c) Approval of Minutes (October 7, 2013 and October 21, 2013): Selectman Schall made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2013 October 21, 2013, meetings, seconded by Chairman Robitaille, approved 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: On a motion by Selectman Schall, seconded by Chairman Robitaille, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to move into Non-Public Session at 7:34 pm. Robitaille – aye, Schall – aye, Selectman Jackson recused himself from the Session.

On a motion by Selectman Schall, seconded by Chairman Robitaille, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to return to Public Session at 7:45 pm. Robitaille – aye, Schall - aye.

There were no decisions made as a result of the non-public session.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 PM.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Paul Robitaille

William H. Jackson

Jeff Schall