

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
TOWN OF GORHAM  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 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, Willis Blevins, Burke York, Becky Theberge, Denise Vallee, Director of Finance

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

Prior to going forward with the appointments, the Board took a moment to speak with Willis Blevins to thank him for his service to the Mill and Town. The Board presented Mr. Blevins with a picture/plaque as a token of appreciation.

**2. Appointments:**

**a) Regan Pride – Solid Waste Study Report:** Chairman Robitaille informed everyone that Mr. Pride was going to be late; therefore, the Board moved the meeting forward.

**b) Burke York – Lot Question, Route 2:** Mr. York informed the Board that he was there representing Becky Theberge and presented the Board with a survey/plan regarding parcels of land on Lancaster Road/Route 2 across from Gorham Brick & Block. Mr. York went on to explain that there had previously been two lots at one time and are now merged into one. Next to that lot, there is a 36' piece of land that Mr. York believes belongs to the Town. Mr. York searched the property at the Registry of Deeds as well as reviewed Town records. It appears that the Town purchased the property in the 1893 to provide access to a proposed railroad route. Since he was unable to determine if ownership changed after that, it appears that the Town still owns the property. Mr. York asked the Board if the Town would consider deeding the property to Ms. Theberge. Or if need be, would the Board consider splitting the property in half and give one half to Ms. Theberge and the abutting property owner. Further discussion took place regarding the property, and the Board asked TM Frost to investigate the matter.

**3. New Business:**

**a) Rail Meeting Report:** TM Frost told the Board that she had attended a Rail Meeting last Wednesday, noting that there were approximately 10-15 people in attendance. TM Frost went on to say that, there had been a presentation about the Hotel Train, and that everyone was in support of the proposed project. She also said that she had been given a template for the letter of support from the Town. TM Frost presented the Board with that letter for their signature. She said that she would be attending the next meeting, which is scheduled in Bethel, ME on December 10, or 11.

**4. Old Business:**

**a) 2014 Budget Progress Report:** TM Frost said that she has been working on the proposed Budget and that she hopes to be able to get it to the Board by the end of next week.

**b) Delinquent Taxes:** TM Frost presented the Board with copies of the property cards for the delinquent accounts. TM Frost informed the Board that Carol Porter, Tax Collector, is still working on them.

Selectman Jackson presented the Board and TM Frost with four handouts that broke down the properties in question into categories: land, commercial, residential and mobile homes. Selectman Jackson said that he hoped this assisted with understanding what the Town is dealing with during this process. Selectman Jackson reviewed each category breaking down taxes and interest along with assessed value. Selectman Jackson went on to express his concern regarding the mobile homes that are in trailer parks, noting that he did not want the Town to become tenants of the parks. TM Frost stated that she thought that she believes the landowners can be taxed. She will look into that matter further and report to the Board. Further discussion took place regarding the delinquent taxes.

#### **5. Public Comment:**

Burke York asked the Board how the delinquent taxes effect our current tax rate. Further discussion took place regarding the effect. Selectman Jackson told Mr. York that the short answer is that we pay more long term, but that it needs to be taken care of.

#### **6. Other Business:**

**a) Town Manager's Update:** TM Frost informed the Board that she had received a complaint on the appearance of the property located on the corner of Exchange Street. She informed the Board that she has since sent a letter to the property owner.

TM Frost reviewed previously asked questions from the Board. She said that with regard to the Fire Department radios, there were some that had never been used. She went on to say that, they are obsolete in the fact that they are not upgraded to narrow band. She reviewed the conference budget items as well as other budget lines that had been asked about. Selectman Schall asked if Assessing Clerk Lutz was able to attend the utility portion of the recent conference that they attended. TM Frost said that AC Lutz did in fact attend the class and found that equipment cannot be taxed. She went on to say that, it is a matter of waiting for the reports from Mr. Sansoucy.

**b) Selectmen's Updates:** Selectman Jackson asked what the status was of the Verizon Lease, TM Frost said that she had spoken with Attorney Boutin, and would check on it again. Selectman Jackson also asked when the State of NH planned to remove the trailer from the Fire Department property. Further discussion took place regarding the trailer and construction signs.

Chairman Robitaille stated that he too had received a complaint about the Exchange Street property and thanked TM Frost for taking care of the matter.

**c) Approval of Minutes (November 4, 2013):** Selectman Jackson made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2013 meeting, seconded by Selectman Schall, 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 Selectman Jackson, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to move into Non-Public Session at 6:55 pm. Robitaille – aye, Schall – aye, Jackson - Aye.**

**On a motion by Selectman Schall, seconded by Selectman Jackson, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to return to Public Session at 7:10 pm. Robitaille – aye, Schall – aye, Jackson – aye.**

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

**8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 PM.**

**REVIEWED AND APPROVED:**

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**Paul Robitaille**

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**William H. Jackson**

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**Jeff Schall**