

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
TOWN OF GORHAM  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 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, Denise Vallee, Director of Finance; Austin "Buddy" Holmes, Public Works Director; Mike Waddell, Paul Bousquet, Michael Scala

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

**2. Appointments:**

**a) Paul Bousquet – Fence for Common Ball Field:** Superintendent of Schools, Paul Bousquet came in and presented the Board with two proposals for extending the fencing along Main Street to assist with foul balls. It was noted that due to the electrical wires that are located along Park Street, the Town/School is not able to address the fencing there.

Mr. Bousquet told the Board that Dave Goyette and Jeff Stewart have been working together to come up with ideas to deal with balls going into the street and/or damaging private property. He went on to say that, he is looking to open talks with the Board to be able to work with the Town for a 50/50 split for the cost. Mr. Bousquet presented the Board with two options. The first was to install additional netting on top of the existing fence for approximately 140', which costs approximately \$7,784. He stated that this netting is a more permanent option. Mr. Bousquet also presented a second option for a portion of netting that would include approximately 60' of netting that is not permanent. He noted that at this point in time, he did not have a cost for this option as Mr. Goyette had just presented it to him. Further conversation took place regarding the fencing/netting along with the insurance issues and it was agreed that the Board would work with the School District on this matter.

**b) 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.

**3. New Business:**

**a) 2014 County Budget:** TM Frost presented the Board with a copy of the 2014 County Budget for their information. She informed the Board that there is going to be a public hearing on this budget on Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> in Berlin. TM Frost stated that she plans to attend this meeting. Further discussion took place regarding the County Budget.

**4. Old Business:**

**a) 2014 Budget:** TM Frost presented the Board with the first draft of the Town's Budget. TM Frost informed the Board that the budget is down approximately \$140,000 from last year, noting that it was primarily due to moving some recreation and ambulance department expenses into revolving funds respectively. She also noted that assessing services would be going out to bid this year. Skip Sansoucy also told her that the Town could forgo any changes to

utilities for next year. Selectman Jackson stated that he felt that the time line for the Board to review the Budget was unacceptable. Selectman Schall stated it is what it is and that they would have to make it work. Further discussion took place as to the schedule for the Budget Committee and the following schedule of Budget Review meetings was created: December 9<sup>th</sup> Police/Fire/EMS/Rec Depts.; December 16<sup>th</sup> Highway/Finance/Capital Reserves. Mike Waddell, Chairman of the Budget Committee expressed his concern about this year's budget review. Further discussion took place regarding the budget.

## **5. Public Comment:**

Mike Scala stated that he was at the meeting to listen to any federal concerns anyone may have, noting that he was there to do what is best for the people.

## **6. Other Business:**

**a) Town Manager's Update:** TM Frost passed out a spreadsheet of the properties in danger of being taken by tax deed. She stated that as of November 19<sup>th</sup> the tax balance for these properties is \$358,696.35, noting that the bulk of this balance belongs to the Currier Sales & Service property. Further discussion took place regarding the tax deeding process.

TM Frost presented the Board with an Aid to Firefighters Grant for SCBA's. The Grant allows the department to get 28 in total. The Town's match for this grant is \$6,875, which will be taken from the department's equipment capital reserve fund. The grant includes equipment for both Shelburne and Randolph, which will require each town to pay their portion as well. Further discussion took place regarding the grant monies. **Selectman Jackson made a motion to approve the acceptance of the Aid to Firefighters Grant with the condition that the Town receives confirmation in writing from both the Town of Shelburne and Randolph that they will pay their portion of the match, seconded by Selectman Schall, voted unanimously.**

**Regan Pride – Solid Waste Study Report:** Mr. Pride presented the Board with the Full Cost Accounting Study as well as a Solid Waste Operations Study for the Town. Mr. Pride informed the Board that the bottom line is that the Town of Gorham spends \$583,073 per year for solid waste. Mr. Pride also presented recommendations to the Board in his Operations Study, noting that he would recommend that the Town think about contracting curbside trash pickup and/or implement a pay-as-you-throw system. Further discussion took place regarding the Town's solid waste operation.

**b) Selectmen's Updates:** Selectman Jackson asked about the State trailer at the Fire Department, and TM Frost informed him that the State had requested Pike Industries to remove it from the property. Selectman Jackson spoke to the Board and TM Frost about some of the signs in Town and their condition, asking Chairman Robitaille how the Planning Board wanted to handle them. Selectman Jackson also questioned some line items on the Monthly Budget Reports. Further discussion took place regarding these items.

Chairman Robitaille told PW Director Holmes, that the resident on Cascade Hill is happy with the dead end sign that had been installed on their street and thanked him for taking care of that matter.

**c) Approval of Minutes (November 18, 2013):** Selectman Jackson made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 18, 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-e:** There was no need.

**8. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM.

**REVIEWED AND APPROVED:**

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**Paul Robitaille**

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**William H. Jackson**

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**Jeff Schall**