

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
TOWN OF GORHAM  
MONDAY, January 30, 2012, 6:30 pm  
TOWN HALL CONFERENCE ROOM

Selectmen present: Chairman Terry Oliver; David Graham; Paul Robitaille. .

Also present: Robin L Frost, Town Manager

Doug Currier, Norm Provencher, Bill Jackson, John Scarinza, Shawn Costine, Tad Michaud,

**1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:30 by Chairman Oliver.

**2. Appointments:** Doug Currier was present to discuss his tax situation. He reported that a pending sale of his Groveton property fell through which put him even further behind since he was not able to pay off his obligation to the bank. He has new interest in that building which looks very promising. Selling that building would allow him to pay \$3950 per month towards his back taxes. He is asking for 60 to 90 days in order to get the sale completed. The Board asked how the building is being used and he replied that Cross Machine rents about half of the building and the other half is used by the business he is running, but does not own. He employees 22 people and is planning to add two more. Chairman Oliver stated that Town wants to work with him and doesn't want to take the property. Selectman Robitaille echoed that sentiment, but he added that he would like to see Mr. Currier stay in touch with TM Frost to keep the Town apprised of the progress. Selectman Graham asked about the vacant lot situated beside the occupied lot. Mr. Currier stated that he has had no interest or offers on either lot. **On a motion by Selectman Robitaille, seconded by Selectman Graham, the Board voted unanimously to defer the acquisition of the Currier property for 90 days to see if the property in Groveton can be sold and therefore allow Mr. Currier to begin more regular and substantial payments on his delinquent taxes.**

John Scarinza was present to discuss a building permit for an outside wood fired boiler at a Gorham Heights residence. Mr. Scarinza, the interim Code Enforcement Officer, had a complaint by a neighbor of the subject property that there was significant smoke associated with this boiler and it was setting off the smoke detectors in his house. The boiler was second hand and does not meet the new DES requirements. Upon inspection and research, Mr. Scarinza was able to come to a suitable arrangement that satisfies both the NH DES and the neighbor for the boiler. Mr. Scarinza stated that since he has had a professional relationship with Mr. Cote, who installed the boiler, he was asking the Board of Selectmen to sign off on this permit. The Board agreed by consensus to issue the permit on the condition that it meets the setback requirements for the chimney.

**3. New Business:**

a) **Assessing Firm Appointments:** TM Frost asked if the Board wanted to be in attendance at the appointments with the assessing firms who provided proposals for the 2012 revaluation. The Board members will try to attend, but instructed TM Frost to go ahead and get the appointments scheduled and the interviews conducted.

**4. Old Business:**

a) **Currier Property – See above appointment.**

b) **FEMA Projects Update** – The projects have all been obligated by FEMA and there is an additional amount which will be required for the Town’s 25%. We will be asking the voters to appropriate this amount at Town Meeting. We have asked HEB to review the obligation letters from FEMA to assist in the calculation of the remaining 25%.

c) **Warrant Article Review** – The Board has a draft of the warrant articles which have so far been received. They will make their recommendations at a later time when the warrant is complete.

**5. Public Comment:** Norm Provencher asked if there were any time restraints for open burning. Shawn Costine answered that the hours are from 5pm to 9 pm.

**6. Other Business:**

a) **Town Manager’s Update:** TM Frost reported that the proposals for the printing of the Town Report were in and the recommendation of Diane Labbe, who has spearheaded the project for several years, is to go with Smith & Towne for a cost of \$1610. **On a motion by Selectman Robitaille, seconded by Chairman Oliver, the Board voted unanimously to award the printing of the town report to Smith & Towne for a cost of \$1610.**

**On a motion by Selectman Robitaille, seconded by Selectman Graham, the Board voted unanimously to sign the contract with Shelburne for dispatch services.**

**On a motion by Selectman Robitaille, seconded by Selectman Graham, the Board voted unanimously to sign the contract with Coos County for public safety services for the southern unincorporated places.**

b) **Selectmen’s Reports:** Selectman Graham mentioned that he attended the budget hearing at the school. They are struggling, too. The total budget increase was \$12,000, but due to a reduction in revenue, the tax rate for the school is expected to increase \$1.18. Selectman Graham also mentioned that he read an article in the paper that the Town of Littleton is looking to hear from the “quiet majority” so they have a better sense of what services are important to them.

Selectman Robitaille has spoken with Rep. Bill Hatch regarding SB337. He is willing to support the Town in their efforts to see that this bill passes, but wanted more information. Selectman Robitaille, after conferring with TM Frost, has put Rep. Hatch in touch with Mike Waddell.

Tad Michaud asked why the Town Manager’s letter about the tax rate went into the paper the day people got their tax bills. He stated that people would have liked to know so they could have saved for their taxes. TM Frost explained that the tax rate is set approximately a week to ten days prior to the mailing of the tax bills and as such, there is little time to get the word out before the bills are in the mail.

c) **Approval of Minutes (January 17, 2012):** TM Frost did not have the minutes on hand and therefore the Board deferred this approval until the meeting of February 13<sup>th</sup>.

c) **Sign Manifest:** The Board signed the manifest as prepared.

**d) Sign Abatements (if necessary):** There were no abatements.

**7. Non-Public Session: RSA 91-A:3, II (a):** On a motion by Selectman Robitaille, seconded by Selectman Graham, the Board went into non-public session by roll call vote at 7:28 pm. Robitaille –aye, Graham – aye, Oliver - aye.

**On a motion by Selectman Robitaille, seconded by Selectman Graham the Board returned to public session by roll call vote at 7:56 pm. Robitaille – aye, Graham – aye, Oliver - aye.**

No decisions made as a result of non-public session.

**8. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 pm.

**REVIEWED AND APPROVED:**

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**Terry Oliver**

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**David Graham**

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**Paul Robitaille**