

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
TOWN OF GORHAM  
MONDAY, March 12, 2012, 6:30 pm  
TOWN HALL CONFERENCE ROOM

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

Also present: Robin L Frost, Town Manager, Chief PJ Cyr

Norm Provencher, Bill Jackson, Don Provencher, Melissa Grima, *Berlin Daily Sun*, Tad Michaud, Bob Balon, Jay Holmes, Terry Rhoderick

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

**2. Appointments:**

a) **Jeff Tenley – NRCS:** Mr. Tenley reported to the Board that there are now federal funds available to do work on the non-exigent properties which were identified last fall. These properties are 2 and 4 White Birch Lane and 121 and 127 Glen Road. The Town would have to be the applicant on the projects and the 25% matching funds would come from the property owner. TM Frost will contact the owners to see if they are interested in the program.

**3. New Business:**

a) **National Train Day – May 12<sup>th</sup>:** Selectman Graham reported that May 12<sup>th</sup> is National Train Day and he hopes the Town can celebrate this in some fashion. Perhaps these activities can involve the schools as well.

b) **Security:** Selectman Graham suggested that each employee should have a portable security device or panic button. TM Frost agrees and feels that there is only one button in the main office and if there were ever an issue, it might be difficult for an employee to get to that button. Chief Cyr will research this issue and provide cost estimates.

c) **Noise/Idling Ordinances:** Chief Cyr is recommending that the noise ordinance be changed to allow engine brakes to be used except for during the hours of 10 pm and 6 am. TM Frost stated that she was initially skeptical of this change, but realized that it would make enforcement less of an issue and also would be fairer to the truckers, since we allow construction noise during the daytime. Selectman Robitaille was not in favor of making a decision right now and wanted additional time to consider the proposal. He continued by saying that he feels the ordinance has worked for the most part in curtailing unnecessary noise from engine brakes. The idling concern was brought to the Town by Ron Dagesse and he feels the noise is unreasonable for the number of residential properties and motels in the area. Selectman Robitaille remembers that when the Irving station came to the Planning Board for site plan review, their eventual intent was to be a truck stop. TM Frost was asked to put this on the agenda for the next meeting.

**4. Old Business:**

**a) Tupick Abatement:** This item was carried forward from the last meeting and since the Board had a chance to review the paperwork from Sansoucy, they were ready to vote on the abatement. On a motion by Selectman Robitaille, seconded by Selectman Graham, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Tupick abatement which changes the assessment of the property to \$900k for 2010, 2011 and 2012 and a refund of \$12,000 once the taxes are paid.

**b) Assessing Department/Contract Update:** The Board reviewed the specifics of the contract proposal from Skip Sansoucy for the valuation of the public utilities and the mill. The contract also provides for the review of all 2011 abatement requests as well as the ongoing abatements from prior years. The total fixed fees are \$42,000 and the estimates for abatements are \$35,000. The Board asked to table this item until next meeting to allow for TM Frost to bring the figures for what the Town paid in 2011.

**5. Public Comment:** Jay Holmes believes there is a disparity in pay grades between the ambulance personnel and other Town positions. He also feels that the public works department probably should not have been picking up snow on Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Terry Rhoderick felt that there is only one major complainant when it comes to the noise ordinance and not using engine brakes could cause safety issues. In response to Mr. Holmes' comment about the ambulance salaries, he doesn't feel any changes need to be made.

Don Provencher spoke about National Train Day and passenger rail from Portland to Montreal. He also suggested that Ron Dagesse should ride in a truck to see what the driver experiences. Mr. D. Provencher also wanted to commend Debbie Ryan on her brochure. She does a brochure for the area and more specifically Gorham and it is quite well done. He spoke about the economic committee which is starting up and also wondered what we are getting for recycling revenue.

Bob Balon asked who would be interviewing the candidates for the assessing clerk position. TM Frost responded that Denise Vallee, Grace Lapierre, she and perhaps Chief Cyr would be interviewing.

Terry Rhoderick asked about having no parking signs put near his property on Main Street. TM Frost stated that she has an email in to Bill Lambert at the State Bureau of Traffic. Once they come and look at Main Street, we can have something concrete from them to enforce.

Norm Provencher stated that no parking signs may need to be placed on either side of the entrance to Alpine Street, too.

Jay Holmes stated that once the repaving of Main Street is completed, he hopes that the striping can be done in such a way as to encourage parking in appropriate places along the road.

## **6. Other Business:**

**a) Town Manager's Update:** TM Frost called the Board's attention to a memo in their packet regarding the placement of the informational kiosk. It will be on the eastern side of the information booth but closer to the booth than the intersection. On a motion by Selectman Robitaille, seconded by Selectman Graham, the Board unanimously approved the proposed location of the kiosk.

TM Frost passed along a color copy of the Medallion Opera House logo. The Board thinks it looks very nice and approved the logo by consensus.

The Board signed an application for current use for John and Paulette Losier. They also signed the EMS Agreement with Randolph.

**b) Selectmen's Reports:** Selectman Robitaille asked Selectman Graham if he could be present to open up the voting on Tuesday. He also mentioned that during his providers meetings in Colebrook, he heard that there is an initiative for car pooling to bring people to Gorham for shopping. There is a TAC meeting on April 18<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm which Selectman Robitaille cannot attend. If someone else could, it would be appreciated.

Selectman Graham commended Diane Labbe for a job well done on the Town Report preparation. He also reported that there was a rail meeting at the Berlin City Hall the evening of March 8<sup>th</sup>. He was happy to report that Gorham was well represented and lobbied hard for a rail stop in Gorham.

**c) Approval of Minutes (February 27, 2012):** Since Selectman Graham was not in attendance at the February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting and Chairman Oliver is absent tonight, the approval was tabled.

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

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

**7. Non-Public Session: RSA 91-A:3, II :** There was no need for non-public session.

**8. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

**REVIEWED AND APPROVED:**

-----

\_\_\_\_\_  
Terry Oliver

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Graham

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Robitaille