

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, April 25, 2011
GORHAM TOWN HALL

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

Also present: Robin L. Frost, Town Manager, EMS Director Chad Miller

Don Provencher, Robert Balon, Ron Donato, Shawn Costine, Jay Holmes, Craig Lyons, *Berlin Daily Sun*

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM by Chairman Oliver.

2. Appointments:

a) **Peter Chapel – Local Government Center:** Mr. Chapel outlined the services that NHMA and LGC provide to the Town. The possibilities are wide and varied depending on the coverage the Town has with LGC. We will be switching our health coverage to them in July of this year. Therefore, our wellness programs will come from them as well. They are also a strong advocate for municipalities throughout the legislative process. There are leadership and supervisor trainings as well as several other types of seminars and training opportunities. They also provide legal services to their member communities. Inquiries can be made by phone or email and are answered in a timely manner. The town pays annual dues to LGC; 2011 dues were \$1994.78.

b) **Chad Miller, EMS Director:** Chad Miller was invited in by the Board to update them on the activities of the EMS Department. He distributed a report for the first quarter of 2011. He believes that their billings are up as well as the revenues. He explained that there are contractual obligations which sometimes limit the payments for ambulance services; ie. Medicare/Medicaid. He is researching third party billing services to see if that is a better alternative for the department. There were 18 transfers in the first quarter and eight more were turned down due to staffing issues. Director Miller reported that he and Shawn Costine are working on a full department inventory of equipment and supplies. An Explorer post has been reinstated and there are approximately 8 people who have signed up. The first meeting is on Wednesday night. Derek Palmieri is the lead advisor for the group.

The Board thanked Director Miller for his detailed report. Selectman Graham indicated that he has been concerned about the past write-offs for the ambulance billing and hopes we can get a better handle on those. A couple of members of the public in attendance asked if they could ask questions. Chairman Oliver allowed them. Jay Holmes asked if other departments would be coming in to meet with the Board. The answer is yes, all department heads will come before the Board at some point. Don Provencher asked Director Miller if weekend coverage was still a problem. He also wondered if EMS was responding unnecessarily to some calls. Director Miller stated that weekends are typically more difficult to staff than weekdays, but since the schedule now provides for full-time employees to work on the weekends as well as weekdays, it has gotten better. He feels they are responding appropriately to calls.

TM Frost stated that the department is really becoming more organized since Director Miller has been able to devote his full time attention. He is truly an asset to the department and the Town as a whole.

3. New Business:

Selectman Graham reported that there is an AVRDD meeting this Wednesday which he will be attending. This is the annual meeting and Yves Zornio is unable to attend.

4. Old Business:

a) **Noise Ordinance – Date for Work Session:** Just a reminder that the Board will hold a work session to discuss the noise ordinance on Monday, May 2nd at 6 pm.

b) **Grand Opening for Auditorium:** TM Frost reminded the Board of the Open House on May 7th for the Auditorium. It will be from 1 pm to 4 pm. There will be entertainment and light refreshments.

5. Public Comments: Jay Holmes spoke about the burned building at 2 Glen Road. He is concerned about the condition of the building. He mentioned that the Town can put a lien on the property. He knows a person in Berlin who could help us with the process.

Robert Balon presented the Board with a list of his concerns. He declined to read this into the record. The Board will review and take under advisement.

Don Provencher stated that there is now increased activity on the common in the evening. He hoped that the Town would make sure the lighting was fixed and is operational as soon as possible. He also had some concerns about the tower clock not chiming correctly.

Jay Holmes commented on Jack Piattoni's concerns from the last meeting. Mr. Holmes also has gotten comments from people who come over from Maine to his business. They are glad they made it through town without getting stopped.

6. Other Business:

a) **Town Manager's Update:** PWD Holmes is looking into the paving projects for this year. It seems likely that we will be able to at least get a base coat down on Fieldstone Road. The wear coat may have to wait until 2012.

The Gorham Historical Society will be in at the next meeting to discuss their tax bill.

TM Frost has accepted an appointment to the AVER Board. They will meet at least quarterly and will keep a close eye on economic developments opportunities in the region.

The 4th of July Committee is looking for approval to close Railroad Street from Route 16 to Park Street from June 30th through July 4th. The Board approved this by consensus.

TM Frost reported that she is working with Planning Board Chairman Mike Waddell to streamline the application process by having one clerk serve the Board's needs. The sooner this can be accomplished, the better.

Chief Eichler has prepared a grant application for a pellet boiler at the Public Work Garage. **On a motion by Selectman Graham, seconded by Chairman Oliver, the Board voted to approve the submission of this grant.** The match for the grant will come out of the Building Maintenance and Repair CRF.

TM Frost showed the Board a sample of the framed certificate of appreciation to be given out at the Open House for the Auditorium. Denise Vallee prepared this for their review. The Board thought it was well done.

Selectman Graham reported that he has spoken with Ray Bergeron regarding the Winterfest idea. He is very interested in collaborating. He is also speaking with Ron Dagesse and will include Jay Holmes as another businessman. Mr. Holmes reported that when this was tried before, the temperature ended up being about 20 below. Needless to say, it didn't work very well.

Selectman Graham mentioned that he has researched information on National Train Day on May 7th. It is also the 40th anniversary of AMTRAK. **On a motion by Selectman Graham, seconded by Chairman Oliver, the Board voted to declare May 7th Gorham Train Day and present a letter to AMTRAK congratulating them on their 40th anniversary.**

Chairman Oliver asked about the Budget Committee schedule for meetings. Both Jay Holmes and Robert Balon reported that John Losier is planning on convening a meeting of the Budget Committee in mid-May.

Selectman Graham suggested that people who are being appointed to boards and committees should come to a Selectmen's meeting. They may have questions and can be informed of the expectations.

b) Approval of Minutes (April 11, 2011): Selectman Graham wanted to make sure that the motion for the letter to be sent to Maine DOT regarding the lack of a rail stop in Gorham was included in the minutes. **On a motion by Selectman Graham, seconded by Selectman Oliver, the Board unanimously approved the minutes for the meeting of April 11, 2011 as amended.**

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

d) Sign Abatements (if necessary): There were no abatements to be signed.

7. Non-Public Session: RSA 91-A:3, II (a & c): There was no need for a non-public session.

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

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Terry Oliver, Chairman

Paul Robitaille

David Graham