

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
TOWN OF GORHAM  
MONDAY, August 15, 2011, 6:30 pm  
GORHAM TOWN HALL

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

Also present: Robin L. Frost, Town Manager

Don Provencher, Jay Holmes, Melissa Grima, *Berlin Daily Sun*

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

**2. Appointments:**

a) **Chief PJ Cyr – Department Update:** Chief Cyr was excused and will attend the August 29<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Cascade Fire Station.

**3. New Business:**

Selectman Graham was approached by Tami Hartley, who is the After School Program Coordinator at the Family Resource Center. She asked him if the Board would be willing to issue a proclamation for the Lights On Celebration. After a short discussion, **Selectman Graham made a motion to approve a proclamation for the Lights On Celebration of the After School Program, which will be held on October 20, 2011. The motion was seconded by Selectman Robitaille. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.**

**4. Old Business:**

a) **Town Common Use:** TM Frost reported that a meeting regarding this item took place on the common last Wednesday morning. In attendance were TM Frost, Superintendent Paul Bousquet, Recreation Director Jeff Stewart, Dave Witham from Primex, Ron Davies and another representative from LGC. The meeting took place on the Town Common in the area of the baseball field. The problem of wayward baseballs was discussed with both insurance companies agreeing that the advice from Town Counsel, that the Town and School are not responsible for damage incurred by play on the field, was sound. There was a strong suggestion that netting be installed on the third base line extending from the existing fence to beyond the soccer goals. This netting could be removed during the winter and the summer. Netting extending beyond the fence on the first base line was also discussed, but both insurance companies agreed that the exposure was much less there. TM Frost reported that Superintendent Bousquet is looking into the cost of the netting.

Selectman Graham stated that he is disappointed with the outcome of the meeting. He suggested that the school has inadequate insurance coverage and should purchase additional coverage. If they cannot do that, then perhaps the baseball team should find another place to play. Selectman Robitaille agrees that he is disappointed that more isn't being done, but does not want the baseball team to play elsewhere. He asked TM Frost to look into the installation of the same netting that was once installed over the home plate area. That seemed to work, but needed to be taken down before snow which was not done. This

will be looked into. Selectmen Graham asked that this be done sooner rather than later so we do not have this same concern next spring.

**b) Main Street Parking:** TM Frost reported that she has yet to hear about a schedule for the meeting she requested with DOT regarding the parking and signage issues on Main Street. She will continue to try and pin them down as soon as possible.

**5. Public Comment:** Jay Holmes said that he believes, regarding Main Street, the white line is too close to the sidewalks and makes people think that is a breakdown lane. He said that line should be moved and if the State doesn't want to do it then the Town should. He went on to say that businesses are losing customers because of this problem. He next wondered about the ad he saw in the paper for a police officer. He asked if it was for a part-time officer, He was told it was a full-time position to replace the officer who left the department. He stated that the Budget Committee sent a clear message at their last meeting that this position probably would not be funded. He was reminded that those decisions are not within the Budget Committee's purview.

Mr. Holmes continued by stated that the school should pay for any netting which is installed at the Common and there will be no plowing of the schools by the Town anymore. Again, Mr. Holmes was reminded that those are management decisions, not Budget Committee decisions.

Don Provencher once again expressed his disappointment in the outcome of the meeting about the Town Common use. He really felt that he should have received a reimbursement check by now. He is also concerned about dogs on the common and in the tennis court. He believes that people just don't care.

Mr. Provencher also was very concerned about the State sign that is on the grass across from Welch's Restaurant. He called the Town DPW and they have not yet picked it up. There is also a big hole in the pavement on Church Street.

## **6. Other Business:**

**a) Town Manager's Update:** TM Frost reported that the June Corbett has asked that the Town take back the cemetery plot that she purchased in 2000. It is in Mt. Hayes Cemetery and she paid \$1000 for it. The Board discussed whether to purchase this back or not and ultimately decided to contact her to let her know that the Town will take the lot back. TM Frost will follow up.

Chairman Oliver had contact TM Frost earlier in the week to ask for an update on issues which had been discussed over the past several months. TM Frost prepared a memo for the members to review. The items in the memo were discussed in brief with one item added by Chairman Oliver. He suggested that we need to review the placement of signs in the Cascade Flats area. The trucks are beginning to roll to the mill again and they are missing the "no trucks" sign which is at the southerly entrance to Cascade Flats. This issue will be reviewed by TM Frost, DOT and DPW Director Holmes and appropriate changes will be made.

**b) Approval of Minutes (August 1, 2011):** On a motion by Selectman Graham, seconded by Selectman Robitaille, the Board unanimously approved the minutes for the meeting of August 1, 2011 as prepared.

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

**d) Sign Abatements (if necessary):** There were no abatements for the Board to sign.

**7. Non-Public Session: RSA 91-A:3, II (a & c):** On a motion by Selectman Robitaille, seconded by Selectman Graham, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to move into Non-Public Session at 7:40 pm. Robitaille –aye, Graham – aye, Oliver – aye.

On a motion by Selectmen Graham, seconded by Selectman Robitaille, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to return to public session at 8:00 pm. Robitaille –aye, Graham – aye, Oliver – aye.

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

**8. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

**REVIEWED AND APPROVED:**

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**Terry Oliver, Chairman**

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**Paul Robitaille**

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**David Graham**