

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, January 17, 2011
GORHAM TOWN HALL

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

Also present: Robin L. Frost, Town Manager, Denise Vallee, Director of Finance

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM by Chairman Robitaille.

2. Appointments: There were no appointments scheduled for tonight.

3. New Business:

a) Health Insurance Options for 2011: Denise Vallee explained the health insurance rates for July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012. The Town has been quoted a not to exceed increase of 15.53%. FD Vallee was at the SAU Office last week and they indicated that they had approached the other pools to see what their insurance costs are. At this time, we don't anticipate that those costs will be less than what we are currently paying, FD Vallee distributed a spreadsheet that shows what the cost of a \$500 deductible plan would be and the savings to the Town was less than \$7400. TM Frost noted that since the employees are not receiving a wage increase this year and have not for the past couple of years, it seems a shame to make them lose more ground by passing on a deductible plan to them. This issue will continue to be reviewed.

b) Building Permit Complaint: TM Frost spoke of the complaint that was received from Robert Balon about the 16 properties on which he identified metal pole/tarp covered structures. TM Frost explained the genesis of the complaint in that Mr. Balon was responding to a request from the Town for him to apply for a building permit for his structure of the same construction. TM Frost stated that Diane Labbe had already reviewed most of the 16 properties listed by Mr. Balon and those properties would have been identified by Ms. Labbe when she was working in the field later on this year. Nevertheless, the owners of these properties will receive the same package that was sent to Mr. Balon, which requests that the owner make application for a building permit.

4. Old Business:

a) Multi-modal Route: TM Frost will attempt a certified, return-receipt letter to Mr. Woodward in this matter. If that is also unsuccessful, then steps will be taken to proceed using the alternate route which bypasses Mr. Woodward's property.

b) Family Resource Center Request: Denise Vallee and Mike Waddell were able to unearth the FRC information that the Board was looking for. It was decided that Dave Graham would review the documents and report back to the other members.

c) Shooting Range Insurance: Chief Cyr has reported to TM Frost that the shooting range will be covered by insurance as of April 1, 2011. The Town will be named as an additional insured.

5. Public Comments: No members of the public were present.

6. Other Business:

a) Town Manager's Update: TM Frost brought forward an appointment for Glen Eastman to continue as an alternate to the ZBA for another year. On a motion by Selectman Oliver, seconded by Selectman Graham, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Eastman to an alternate position on the ZBA for one year. The Board signed the document.

TM Frost then brought forward the Public Safety Agreement for Coos County. This is for specific unincorporated places near the Town of Gorham. The proposed agreement is the same as previous agreements. On a motion by Selectman Graham, seconded by Selectman Oliver, the Board unanimously approved the agreement. The Board then signed the document.

TM Frost reported that an RFP for assessing services is being sent out to at least 10 firms. Hopefully the town will receive some favorable replies.

The office at the Public Works Garage has had air quality issues for some time now. TM Frost suggests that the Town look toward fixing that issue in this year. We have an estimate for demolishing the existing offices and rebuilding new offices which was prepared a year ago. It would be prudent for us to have that person update the estimate and perhaps get a couple of other estimates.

Selectman Graham wanted to make sure that the discussion of the relocation of the Recreation Department offices is not closed. It was explained that there are still some options, including the upstairs of the library building. Discussions will ensue with the Library Trustees.

Selectman Graham wondered if the Board should take a stand on the Northern Pass utility transmission lines proposed to come down through Coos County from Canada. Chairman Robitaille stated that they are not coming near Gorham so it may not be necessary to take a stand at this time. Discussion then turned to wind turbines and the possibility of finding a place in Gorham to erect them. As the Town Forest was mentioned as one possibility, the Board then wondered if they should file another abatement application with Randolph for the assessment of the Forest. TM Frost stated that they have until March 1st to file the application.

b) Approval of Minutes (January 3, 2011): On a motion by Selectman Oliver, seconded by Selectman Graham, the Board unanimously approved the minutes from the meeting of January 3, 2011 as prepared.

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 (c): On a motion by Selectman Oliver, seconded by Selectman Graham, the Board unanimously voted by roll call to move into non-public session at 7:38 pm. Graham – aye; Oliver – aye; Robitaille – aye.

On a motion by Selectman Graham, seconded by Selectman Oliver, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to move out of non-public session at 8:00 pm. Graham – aye; Oliver – aye; Robitaille – aye.

No decisions were made in Non-Public Session.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Paul Robitaille, Chairman

Terry Oliver

David Graham