

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, December 5, 2011, 6:30 pm
TOWN HALL CONFERENCE ROOM

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

Also present: Robin L. Frost, Town Manager; Jeff Stewart, Rec Director; Austin Holmes, Public Works Director

Don Provencher; Steve Malespini; Brian Ruel; Glen Eastman; Bill Sturdivant; Norm Provencher; Bob Demers; Bob Balon; Jay Holmes; Terry Rhoderick; John Lapierre, Sr.; John Lapierre, Jr.; Melissa Grima, *Berlin Daily Sun*; Joe Ramsay; Steve Gauthier; Francis Dalphonse.

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

2. Appointments:

a) **Presidential Range Riders Snowmobile Club** – Club members were present to hear the decision of the Board of Selectmen on the use of the sidewalks on Main Street by snowmobiles. There was pertinent discussion about appropriate signage, which the club was willing to do. Selectman Robitaille said his only concern was making sure that all were aware that pedestrians have the right-of-way. Mr. Malespini stated that they certainly do and snowmobilers know that they have to stop to allow pedestrians to pass. He also cautioned, however, that the sidewalks can be very narrow and there may be some areas where it will be tight. When all discussion had taken place and the Board was ready to act, **Selectman Robitaille made a motion to allow snowmobile use on the south side of Rt 16/Rt 2 (Main Street) between the junctions of said routes for the ensuing winter season. The motion was seconded by Selectman Graham and passed unanimously by roll call vote.** Mr. Malespini left a copy of the Club's downtown trail map for the Selectmen to review.

b) **Burke York** - Mr. York was not in attendance at the meeting.

3. New Business:

a) **Coos County Family Health Services** – TM Frost stated that Adele Woods, CEO of CCFHS has asked for written support from the Town in their efforts to purchase the building they are currently leasing in Gorham. TM Frost explained that this does not obligate the Town in a financial way at all. It is just to show the support of the community for USDA Rural Development funding. **On a motion by Selectman Graham, seconded by Selectman Robitaille, the Board unanimously agreed to support this effort.** Chairman Oliver signed the form on behalf of the Board.

4. Old Business:

a) **FEMA Update** – TM Frost reported that the work has begun on the projects and so far all is well. They are being worked on simultaneously. We have received all of the necessary easements for access through private property.

b) **2012 Budget** – TM Frost reminded the Board that the first Budget Committee meetings will take place next week on December 13th and 14th. In order for the budget to be ready for the committee,

the Board needs to finalize their recommendations on departmental requests. There was a brief discussion about some of the questions that the Board has, but it was decided to continue the discussion to two work sessions; one on Tuesday night and one on Wednesday night. The Board will review Highway, Recreation, Ambulance and Fire on Tuesday night and all others on Wednesday night. We will begin review of capital reserves on Monday, December 19th.

5. Public Comment: John Lapierre, Sr. suggested that the Town ask Berlin to contribute to the fireworks since several Berlin residents travel down to enjoy them.

Glen Eastman stood up and asked the Board not to do away with Patriotic Purposes. He feels that there is a real need for everyone, especially the Town, to show their patriotism.

Jay Holmes spoke about a suggestion that was made for the Town to sell items at the Information Booth. He feels that would directly compete with other businesses in Town. He also mentioned that using grant money to reduce the budget only helps for one year. Those items will be back in the budget the next year. He also talked about trash pickup in trailer parks. He doesn't feel the Town should be doing this at all.

Don Provencher stated that he thought the suggestion to ask Berlin to pay for some of the July 4th festivities is a good idea.

6. Other Business:

a) Town Manager's Update: The Board received a list of meeting dates for 2012. It follows the same schedule as 2011 (every other Monday night) with meetings on Tuesday night in the weeks with a Monday holiday. **On a motion by Selectman Graham, seconded by Selectman Robitaille, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2012 meeting dates as presented.**

b) Selectmen's Reports: Selectman Robitaille reported the December TAC meeting has been cancelled. Selectman Graham reported that he attended the AVRRDD meeting last week on behalf of the Town and it was decided that AVRRDD would pick up 75% of the District assessment for 2012. They picked up 50% of the assessment in 2011.

c) Approval of Minutes (November 21, 2011): **On a motion by Selectman Robitaille, seconded by Selectman Graham, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 21, 2011.**

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 8:10 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 8:35 pm. Robitaille – aye, Graham – aye, Oliver - aye.

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

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Terry Oliver

David Graham

Paul Robitaille