

APPROVED

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, May 23, 2011, 6:30 pm
GORHAM TOWN HALL

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

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

Henry Sanschagrin, Clint Savage, Ray Bergeron, Elaine Belanger, Chad Miller, Jeff Stewart, Mike Waddell, Glen Eastman, Steve Malespini, Michelle Lutz, Corinne and Josh Bergeron, Norm Provencher, ~~Don Provencher~~, Craig Lyons, *Berlin Daily Sun*

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

2. Appointments:

a) Elaine Belanger – North Country Health Consortium: Ms. Belanger was present to discuss the Public Health Network and the work that is being done. They have established POD's (Points of Distribution) for different areas. Berlin is our closest POD. There is a plan in case of a public health event, but nothing is completely cast in stone. Hospitals, schools and doctors' offices currently keep track of communicable diseases. She gave the Board lots of information about the network. Selectman Robitaille expressed that a lot of people do not understand how important this initiative is and he is glad to see this work being done. Ms. Belanger explained that disease can spread very fast so we need to be prepared.

b) Clint Savage – NH Bureau of Trails: Mr. Savage is here on behalf of the State to request the use of a 300 foot section of the NE corner of the Town Forest for an ATV trail. He showed a map of where the trail will go. If they receive this approval, they will begin work on the construction of the trail this summer. He has already met with the Water & Sewer Commissioners and they have no objection to this proposal as long as all other parties are also in agreement. Members of the Forestry Committee were also on hand and they have no objection to this proposal. **On a motion by Selectman Robitaille, seconded by Selectman Graham, the Board voted unanimously to approve the request of the State Bureau of Trails for a 300 foot crossing for an ATV trail in the NE corner of the Town Forest for one year.** They will reevaluate at that time.

Ray Bergeron was present and asked about the railroad bed along Route 2 through Pike Industries. He felt that using this as an ATV trail would be advantageous to the business owners in Town since the riders could get food deliveries and perhaps even parts deliveries. Dust on the trail could potentially be controlled with wood chips. He acknowledged that there might be some problems, but said the ATV Club would have to police the trail. Mr. Savage stated that the State already uses calcium on the trails to mitigate dust problems. The Board asked for more information on this proposal and Mr. Savage said he could have it ready for the next Selectmen's meeting on June 6th.

c) Jeff Stewart – Fur, Feather & Fin Building: Recreation Director Jeff Stewart explained that the Fur, Feather & Fin building was in disrepair. Code Enforcement Officer Rick Eichler inspected the building and though he feels it is mostly structurally sound, he also feels that before anyone occupies it, there needs to be a lot of work done. He indicated that the fuel tank needs to be removed and the

furnace should not be used. Steve Malespini said that the snowmobile club uses it still, but he agreed that it is in disrepair. The Board asked for more information such as the cost of asbestos/lead paint abatement and the cost of demolition and moving the Rec trailer to that spot. Chairman Oliver commended Recreation Director Stewart on working with Berlin High School's tennis team and allowing them to use the tennis courts on the common.

3. New Business:

a) **Relay for Life Request:** The Relay for Life organizers have asked if Railroad Street could be closed down from Park Street to Route 16 or at least to the tennis courts during their event. It begins on Friday, June 17th and ends on Saturday, June 18th. The Board unanimously approved this request.

b) **D.A.R.E. Graduation:** TM Frost reported that this year's graduation is on Wednesday, May 25th at 6:30 pm. It is taking place in the auditorium and if any of the Selectmen are able to attend, they would be most welcomed.

4. Old Business:

a) **Multi-modal Route:** TM Frost reminded VHB that we are still waiting for an estimate for the engineering on this project. It was expected to be in for this meeting, but has not yet been received. TM Frost will push for the next meeting.

b) **Gorham Historical Society Abatement Request:** The Board discussed whether to accept the abatement request of the Gorham Historical Society. TM Frost reminded them that the deadline was March 1st. Selectman Graham stated that he is not happy with this situation. Selectman Robitaille understands and is also not happy with the situation, but wondered what we might be able to do to help them out. Mike Waddell spoke in favor of the Historical Society and told the Board that they are all volunteer and just a few are doing all the work. **On a motion by Paul Robitaille, seconded by David Graham (for purposes of discussion), the Board voted 2-1 (Graham) to accept the application.** However, the Board decided to ask the Historical Society to come back in to discuss their finances.

c) **Winter Fest Update:** Selectman Graham reported that there had been no real movement yet, but there is certainly a lot of interest. Rec Director Stewart said he would help with it. Ray Bergeron mentioned that he believes it should be combined with Sledfest, which was a success this past winter. Mr. Bergeron commended Selectman Graham for this idea.

d) **GPA Shooting Range:** Selectman Graham asked Chief Cyr about the insurance and the use of the property. Chief Cyr stated that the quote for the insurance was \$750 and is \$2M coverage over several lines. He is hoping to be able to pay the premium soon and have the insurance in force. The Chief assured the Board that no one would use the range until insurance was in effect.

e) **Website:** TM Frost reported that a contract has been signed with Virtual Town Hall and we will have a meeting to discuss content and setup in the next couple of weeks.

5. Public Comment: It was suggested that there be some kind of way to reach all residents in the event of a widespread emergency. There are several ways to try and accomplish this, but none are perfect. Selectman Robitaille suggested the horn be used again.

Henry Sanschagrin thanked the Board for giving their permission for the ATV trail. He also said he was excited about the website changes.

Cascade Playground was mentioned and we need to do something about the playground equipment. It is in serious disrepair.

Norm Provencher told Rec Director Stewart that he was against the basketball court when it was constructed, but he sees it being used a lot. He admits it was a good idea and thinks Jeff is doing a great job. He also commended Chief Cyr on his department.

Henry Sanschagrín agreed with Mr. Provencher's comments and also said that the Fur-Feather & Fin building is in bad shape.

Don Provencher said that he has seen speeding cars on Railroad Street. He hopes they can be made to slow down.

6. Other Business:

a) Town Manager's Update: TM Frost reported that she, Denise Vallee and Chad Miller met with a representative of Comstar, an ambulance billing company. They were very accommodating and it looks good for a transition to them for all our ambulance billing in the future. They have all types of reporting capabilities and have a process for collection that is as in depth as the Town would like it to be. TM Frost has worked with Comstar in the past and found them to be very efficient and professional.

The Town is looking at purchasing a new 14-passenger bus. This means that the Moose Tours will have to take two buses considerably more times, but it also means that we can keep the cost of rec trips down. The money for the new bus comes from the moose tours revenues which end up in a CRF. No new tax dollars are spent on this bus.

TM Frost will be out for the next two and one-half days at the Coos Symposium. This is an opportunity to network with others in business and local and county governments throughout Coos County.

TM Frost reported that she will be meeting with Ryan Brooks from Brooks Communications this Friday to see if we can make some changes to the phone system. The phones are currently being answered in person and it takes a significant amount of time from each person's day. We will try having the phone answered automatically and directing the caller electronically to the correct person. Though not all of the Board was in favor of this move, TM Frost asked them to be patient and see how it goes.

b) Approval of Minutes (May 9, 2011): On a motion by Selectman Robitaille, seconded by Selectman Graham, the Board unanimously approved the minutes for both the regular and non-public sessions of the meeting of May 9, 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 (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 8:35 pm. Robitaille –aye, Graham – aye, Oliver – aye.

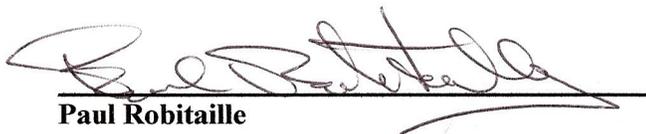
On a motion by Selectmen Graham, seconded by Selectman Robitaille, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to return to public session at 8:53 pm. Robitaille –aye, Graham – aye, Oliver – aye.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm.

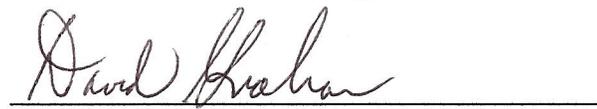
REVIEWED AND APPROVED:



Terry Oliver, Chairman



Paul Robitaille



David Graham