

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
TOWN OF GORHAM  
MONDAY, July 12, 2010  
CASCADE FIRE STATION

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

Also present: Robin L. Frost, Town Manager

Craig Lyons, *Berlin Daily Sun*  
Approximately 14 community members

**1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Robitaille.

**2. Non-Public Session:** RSA 91-A:3,II c

**3. Public Session Agenda:** 6:30 PM The Chairman announced that there were no decisions made in non-public session. Chairman Robitaille also mentioned that Fred Corrigan did a terrific job cleaning up the common following the carnival. The Board will send him a letter.

**Sign Manifest:** The manifest was signed.

**Sign Abatements:** There were no abatements for the Board to sign.

**Approve Minutes of 6/28/2010:** On a motion by Selectman Graham, seconded by Selectman Oliver, the Board unanimously approved the minutes as prepared. On a motion by Selectman Oliver, seconded by Selectman Graham, the Board unanimously approved the non-public minutes of July 28, 2010. The Board signed both sets of minutes.

**Approve and Sign Warrant for Special Town Meeting:** Chairman Robitaille read the warrant for the special town meeting. He explained that there was a procedural defect in the wastewater control panel article from March even though the entire warrant was approved by DRA before it went to the voters. The article was unanimously approved by a standing vote and a ballot vote was required. This special town meeting seeks to ratify the vote by having a ballot vote on the issue. No new money will be appropriated.

**EMS Update:** TM Frost explained that the deadline for applications for the Director's position was last Friday, July 9<sup>th</sup>. We have received approximately 10-12 applications, some of which look promising. Current Director Karen Eichler will be reviewing those applications and then interviews will begin. Selectmen Oliver suggested that we include a citizen on the interview panel.

**Time Warner Revenues/Contract:** TM Frost clarified that the annual revenue from Time Warner is approximately \$36,000. Selectman Graham has suggested that the Board consider appointing a committee in the future to deal with cable and other communications and technology issues. He also suggested that we move forward to try and secure a contract with Time Warner. Both Chairman Robitaille and Selectman Oliver stated that the Board needed to remember that the franchise fees that the Town receives are directly paid by the subscribers in Gorham. They are not a share of Time Warner's profits. The Board directed the Town Manager to communicate with Time Warner to start contract negotiations.

**Discussion of Possible Revenue Sources:** Selectmen Graham wondered whether there were any town-owned properties which could be sold. All agreed that this was worthwhile looking into and the Board asked the Town Manager to review any town-owned properties to determine the potential for disposal.

#### **4. Other Business:**

TM Frost mentioned the Town Forest and the results of the abatement application the Town filed with Randolph. The Town of Randolph did adjust the property assessment, but not to where the Town of Gorham had hoped. TM Frost suggested that since the most current appraisal done on the property was in 1993, it might be advisable to hire an appraiser to review and update the report. **On a motion by Selectman Graham, seconded by Selectmen Oliver, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the Town Manager to hire an appraiser to perform an appraisal on the Town Forest property.**

TM Frost brought an article to the Board's attention that was in the Conway Daily Sun. This article reported on a meeting in Conway regarding the bypass. TM Frost noted that there was no notice or invitation to anyone from Gorham to attend. The article stated that the interest in the bypass from the northern communities had waned since the paper mills had closed. It goes on to report that Councilor Burton also was of the opinion that the bypass was not as important to the North Country. He stopped short of saying that he was not in favor of the project, but he thought that more research was needed. TM Frost asked the Board what their feelings were about this news. Chairman Robitaille stated that he felt the bypass was still as important as ever for this area. He suggested that letters be sent to Councilor Burton, Governor and Council and DOT (Don Lyford.) As the other Board Members concurred, the letters will be prepared for the Board's and TM's signatures.

**5. Public Comment:** Norm Provencher asked the Board to pass on a compliment to the Water/Sewer Department for the work they are doing on Willis Place. He feels they are doing a great job.

Laura Skaradosky expressed concerns about truck traffic along the Cascade Flats Road, where they are prohibited, odor from the mill lagoons, rough roads and sidewalks. Others also expressed the same concerns. They would like to see more of a police presence in the area. It was mentioned that stopping some of the trucks that are traveling on the prohibited way might take care of the bulk of that problem. Better signage would also be a great help. Chairman Robitaille suggested that TM Frost call Willis Blevins at the Mill to talk about this issue as well as the odor. It was not known the last time the lagoons were cleaned out. Chairman Robitaille also mentioned putting a road improvement plan together. Funding of the plan could then be discussed, with bonding a possibility. The community members present reported that they feel the Public Works Department does a great job, but they would like to have some of the money that is appropriated each year spent in Cascade.

The neighbors on either side of the property at 2 River Street are very concerned about the condition of that property. They reported that there are rats, mice, cats and snakes in and on the property and they are spilling over to their properties. The grass has grown very high as well. Though there isn't much that can be done about the grass, the Town can inspect the property to see if it is a health hazard. It seems that Chief Eichler is already familiar with the property and he will be asked to review it again.

Deborah Ackerman asked if we could erect a sign on the road that reads "Special Needs Child at Play". She was informed that we would get a sign to that effect and put it up.

All agreed that the truck traffic was the biggest issue.

Norman Demers spoke about the Johnson Fuel business across from his house on Route 16. He says that they are not following the conditions placed on the property by the Planning Board. He would like to have a copy of the tapes that were recorded of the meeting. He believes that it was around 10 years ago or so. TM Frost stated that she would look for the tapes, but once the minutes are completed, the tapes are usually erased. Regardless, the situation will be researched and reviewed with appropriate action to be taken.

**6. Date for Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on **Monday, July 19, 2010 at the Town Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room.** There will be a public hearing for the special town meeting at 6:30 pm and then a regular business meeting will take place, if needed.

**7. Non-Public Session:** No need for an additional non-public session.

**8. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

**REVIEWED AND APPROVED:**

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**Paul Robitaille, Chairman**

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**Terry Oliver**

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**David Graham**