

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, October 25, 2010
GORHAM TOWN HALL

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

Also present: Robin L. Frost, Town Manager; Chad Miller, EMS Director (12/6/10)

Craig Lyons, *Berlin Daily Sun*
Don Provencher

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

2. Appointments:

a) **Chad Miller – Gorham EMS Director (12/6/10):** TM Frost introduced Mr. Miller to the Board and explained that he will begin the position on December 6th. Mr. Miller is highly qualified for this position and is looking forward to working with the squad and building the pool of volunteers. The Board welcomed Mr. Miller and wished him well. Chairman Robitaille stated that he hoped he would be available for quarterly reports to the Board and the Board would be available to him if need be. Mr. Miller stated that he is looking forward to starting the new position and invited the members of the Board to stop by anytime.

3. New Business:

a) **Health Insurance Questions:** Two questions have cropped up with health insurance. The first is whether retirees who have declined to stay on Town of Gorham insurance decide later that they would like to pick up the option would be allowed to do so. The Board agreed that as long as there is no direct cost to the Town, they would be allowed to come on to the Town's retiree insurance. The second question pertains to the new regulation that children of subscribers who are 26 or younger must be allowed to stay on their parent's insurance if the parent so desires. The question is whether the Town will pay for any added expense associated with that coverage. The Board decided that unless the child in question is a full time student, the Town will not pay for the added expense.

4. Old Business:

a) **Report on Bethel Rail Service Meeting:** Selectman Graham reported that he and Don Provencher went to the meeting in Bethel about transportation. They spoke with several people about rail service through to Montreal. Both Selectmen Graham and Mr. Provencher were very encouraged by the meeting and would like to schedule a community meeting to have Tony Donovan, President of the Maine Rail Transit Coalition speak on the Coalition's vision for rail service in the future. Further meetings will also take place in Bethel. Selectman Graham will keep the Board apprised of any new developments.

b) **Noise Ordinance:** TM Frost reported that work continues on a draft ordinance. The focus is on a more general ordinance rather than one that relies on decibel meters. It was agreed that starting in this way would be the best course.

c) **Discussion of Possible Revenue Sources:**

1. Recycling Items: There may be an opportunity to tweak the fees for items for which people are paying. We may also want to add further items to the list. It is important that people disposing of the items be responsible for the recycling fee rather than the general public.

2. Time Warner Meeting: The meeting with Melinda Poore of Time Warner will take place on November 8th at 10:30 am in TM Frost's office. Selectman Graham will also attend.

5. Public Comment: Chairman Robitaille wanted to take this opportunity to express his concern about the mill situation. If the worst happens and a dismantling company is the successful bidder for the mill, he would like this Board to stand firm that they do not want that location to be left as a rubble-filled toxic waste dump. It should be left in its pre-1900 pristine farmland state. It was agreed that the Board would send letters to the appropriate officials stating this concern/requirement.

Mr. Provencher said that was well-stated. He also wanted us to relay to Time Warner that his pet peeve is the cost of franchise fees. He realizes that is really a Town issue since the Town sets those fees. Further, Mr. Provencher reiterated previous comments of his regarding an Economic Development Committee with a Rail Task Force. Chairman Robitaille stated that the Board would keep that in mind.

6. Other Business:

a) Town Manager's Update: TM Frost reported that PWD Holmes is hoping to purchase a used truck to replace the 1992 or 1993 truck he is currently using. His truck is in rough shape and it was scheduled to be replaced a couple of years ago. He has found a truck in Town that would cost approximately \$11,500. There are funds in the CRF that would be used for the purchase. **On a motion by Selectman Oliver, seconded by Selectman Graham, the Board unanimously authorized the Town Manager to purchase a truck for the PW Department not to exceed \$11,500.**

TM Frost showed the Board the numbers of hours that were volunteered for the Information Booth. The total number of hours is 432.5 with Conrad Deutsch volunteering 189.5 of those hours. Others who have volunteered hours are Dorothy Ferrante, Sally Tourangeau, Bea Wheeler, Denise Vallee, and Carole Hockmeyer. The Board requested that thank you notes be prepared for them to sign and send to the volunteers.

Lee Carroll has given the Town his bill for services recently rendered. The original cost was \$5140.50 and Mr. Carroll has donated \$3,140.50 of that leaving the Town with a bill of \$2000. This is just a part of the donation that Mr. Carroll has given to this project. The Board members all agreed that this is very generous and signed a thank you card to Mr. Carroll.

The tax rate has been set at \$23.95. This is an increase of \$1.10 over the 2009 rate. The bills are being printed and readied for mailing.

On a motion by Selectman Graham, seconded by Selectman Oliver, the Board unanimously voted to adopt the following; Resolved to hereby accept the offer of New Hampshire Public Risk Management Exchange (Primex3) to enter into its Workers' Compensation 7.5% Multi Year Discount Program as of the date of the adoption of this resolution, and to be contractually bound to all of the terms and conditions of Primex3 risk management pool membership during the term of the of the Workers' Compensation 7.5% Multi-Year Discount Program. The coverage provided by Primex3 in each year of membership shall be as then set forth in the Coverage Documents of Primex3. The Chairman then signed the resolution.

Pat MacQueen, City Manager of Berlin sent a letter thanking the Town for the services of Austin Holmes and Denise Vallee at different times for their hiring processes. Mr. MacQueen expressed his appreciation for their time, assistance and professionalism.

TM Frost is still working on getting a student intern in place for after the first of the year. More to come...

A conference call with representatives of Senator Shaheen will take place tomorrow morning regarding the recent news that Berlin/Gorham's application was not funded.

Senator Shaheen will be at the Gorham Town Hall at 11:15 Thursday morning. She will take a quick tour of the theater and then meet with Town officials regarding any concerns, comments or questions they may have. It was decided that the topics that the Board would like to discuss will be Route 2, reviving the rail system and forest fragmentation. She will only be here around 45 minutes, but we will use that time to discuss important issues with her.

Selectman Graham encouraged the promotion of Gorham as a place to reside when the Federal Prison opens up. He believes that we should have a presence if they hold informational sessions for prospective employees.

Selectman Graham has noticed that the double billboard coming into Gorham on Route 16 from the south is deteriorating. He felt that there could be contact with the owner to have them fix that up since it is right as you enter the village.

He mentioned that he still has not received an answer about the insurance for the shooting range. TM Frost apologized for the lack of information and said it would be on hand before the next meeting.

Selectmen Graham had a copy of the most recent AAA magazine in which there is an article that mentions Gorham as a good quick getaway.

b) Approval of Minutes (October 12, 2010): On a motion by Selectman Oliver, seconded by Selectman Graham, both sets of minutes(regular sessions and non-public session) from October 12, 2010 were unanimously approved as prepared.

c) Sign Manifest: The Board signed the latest accounts payable manifest.

d) Sign Abatements (if necessary): There were no abatements to sign.

7. Set Date for Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 8, 2010 at 6:30 pm.

8. Non-Public Session: RSA 91-A:3, II (a): The Board voted unanimously by roll call to go into non-public session at 7:45 pm to discuss a personnel matter. Graham – aye, Oliver – aye, Robitaille – aye.

The Board voted unanimously by roll call to return to regular session at 8:35 pm. Graham – aye, Oliver – aye, Robitaille – aye. No decisions made in the preceding non-public session.

9. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Paul Robitaille, Chairman

Terry Oliver

David Graham