

# Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

## TOWN OF GORHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Monday, July 13, 2009

Town Hall Meeting Room 2nd Floor  
(Handicap accessible)

In Attendance: Selectmen

Yves Zornio, Chairman

Paul Robitaille

Terry Oliver

William H. Jackson, Town Manager

Denise Vallee, Director of Finance & Administration

Member of the Press

1. Call To Order (6:00 PM)
2. Non-Public Session (RSA 91-A:2, 1) (RSA 91 -A:3, II (a), (b), (c), (d), (e)). (6:00 PM)
3. Public Session Agenda (6:35 PM)
  - a. The Chairman announced that no action had taken place in non-public session.
  - b. The Board approved the minutes of June 22, 2009.
  - c. The Board signed the weekly manifest.

Agenda Items -

- ↳ **Hanger Lease (Lettre)** - The Town Manager brought the Board up to date on the latest iteration of the lease for maintaining a hanger on Town Property. The Town's Attorney has reviewed the "marked-up" lease from Mr. Lettre. The Attorney's major concern centers on the refusal of Mr. Letter to provide the Town with liability insurance. (a normal request from the Town.) The Water & Sewer Department has reviewed the proposed lease and asks only that the containment vessels be large enough to accommodate the fluid that could possibly leak from above each unit. The Selectmen requested that his matter be dealt with expeditiously.
- ↳ **26 Spruce Street - Fire Cleanup** - The Town Manager updated the Board on the action being taken to remove the burned structure from this location. He told the Board that the Berlin District Court had approved the removal of the burned building under RSA 159-B:9 action. He also stated that an environmental assessment of the building had been finished by Morrissey Environmental. The approximate clean-up costs were in the \$5,000 range not including the removal of the structure and its disposal (approximately \$13,000). The biggest problem now is that the Town does not have access any funds to do the work. This is primarily due to the loss of \$332,000 dollars in State Revenue Sharing Money. The TM told the Board he would continue to search for funds.
- ↳ **Sign MS-5 for DRA** - Denise Vallee, Director of Finance & Administration requested the Board to sign the annual MS-5 report for the State. This was approved on a motion from Selectmen Robitaille with a second from Selectman Oliver. All voted in the affirmative
- ↳ **New Hampshire State Council on the Arts** - Denise Vallee, informed the Board the an application for funding that she had applied for to finish the balcony in the theater had been approved by the Council on the Arts in the amount of \$17,000 **The Board thanked Denise for her continued efforts on behalf of the Town Hall Renovation Project.**
- ↳ **Impact of the State Budget on Cities and Towns** - The Town Manager presented each of the Selectmen with a number of reports that illustrated the "downshift" of costs the State Budget is attempting to shift down onto the Cities & Towns in NH. One of the biggest impacts to the Town's Budget itself is the immediate loss of approximately \$332,000.00 in Revenue Sharing money that cities and towns have depended on since at least 1969. Coupled with this loss are the huge increases in registration for motor vehicles from the family car to snowmobiles. There are approximately 80+ new taxes and fees that have been added by the current legislature. These losses to the Town's Revenue stream will cause

havoc in next year's budgets. The Town will need to face the decision on what programs they will want to suspend or completely discontinue. This decision will require the presentation of "both sides" of the picture..."You will give up \_\_\_\_\_ as a town expense with the full understanding that the following costs must be picked up by the taxpayers in Town and that some costs will not be able to be shifted due to current legislation.

The Governor is recommending that the local Municipal Legislators (schools & towns) should meet and discuss the possibilities between the two municipal corporations. Chairman Zornio recommended that the Board seek to enter into discussions with the Selectboards of Shelburne and Randolph in addition to representatives of the GRS School Boards and Committees. There was a consensus that we move forward on this issue.

4. **Other Business: Police Department Cruiser** – The Board voted to purchase a new cruiser using the Ford Lease Program as approved at the 2009 Town Meeting in March. **The motion for the purchase was made by Selectman Robitaille with a second from Selectman Oliver. All voted in the affirmative.**
5. **Public Comment:** None
6. **Date for Next Meeting:** July 20, 2009
7. **Non-Public Session:** (RSA 91-A: 2, 1) (RSA 91 -A: 3, II (a), (b), (c), (d), (e)). [Not Required]
8. **Adjournment** - On a motion from Selectman Robitaille with a second from Selectman Oliver, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM. All voted in the affirmative.