

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, January 6, 2014
GORHAM TOWN HALL

Selectmen present: Paul Robitaille, Chairman; Bill Jackson; Jeff Schall.

Also present: Robin L. Frost, Town Manager, Denise Vallee, Finance Director; Jeff Stewart, Recreation Director; Lt. Jen Lemoine; Michelle Lutz, Assessing Clerk; Elaine Riendeau, Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Carol Porter, Town Clerk/Tax Collector; Police Chief Paul Cyr; Debra Thornblad, *Berlin Daily Sun*.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairman Paul Robitaille.

Selectman Schall distributed a spreadsheet that outlined his suggested changes to the budget. He felt that across all departments, the supply lines could be reduced. Other areas noted were the heating oil budgets for the Town Hall and the Public Works garage; Cascade Station (close this station) which would also eliminate a fire truck; and Emergency Management could be reduced as well. Selectman Schall also had concerns with the amount of money budgeted to pay Fire and EMS members to attend meetings. He finalized his list with his belief that the Town should not be funding or running the information booth. Both Chairman Robitaille and Selectmen Jackson felt that the information booth is an important part of the Town and there is no other entity that could run it as well as it is being run right now. RD Stewart stated that he is researching how other info booths are run and will get that information back to the Board.

Selectman Schall also stated that he feels the Town should do away with curbside recycling. He did not provide any estimate of savings for this, but thought it should be looked into. Chairman Robitaille thought that this needed to go on the Town Meeting floor for a vote.

Chairman Robitaille wanted to hear from Fire Chief Eichler before he makes a decision on the Cascade Station. TM Frost stated that Chief Eichler did check into the ISO rating question asked by Selectman Jackson and the rating would not change significantly, if that station were closed. TM Frost will ask Chief Eichler to attend the next Selectmen's meeting to answer questions and give his opinion.

FD Vallee stated that the most up-to-date figures are in for the Town's unemployment and workers' compensation insurances and they are lower than the original budgeted amount by \$31,642, collectively.

Selectman Jackson stated that though he found some places where the budget could probably be reduced, they were small amounts. He noted that \$400 in the Highway Rentals/Leases line could probably go away, since the repeater has been reestablished elsewhere.

TM Frost asked the Board for their opinion on the establishment of the Ambulance Revolving Fund, considering the current proposed budget reflects the removal of lines that would subsequently be paid from this account.. Chairman Robitaille and Selectman Schall are in favor of establishing the Ambulance Revolving Fund, and Selectmen Jackson is not.

Selectman Jackson suggested that as the Board's representative to the Budget Committee, he bring all three differing opinions to the committee when he meets with them. To that end, he asked Chairman Robitaille to write out his thoughts on the budget as it currently stands.

As there was no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Paul Robitaille, Chairman

William H. Jackson

Jeffrey Schall