

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2014, 7:00 PM
GORHAM TOWN HALL**

Gorham Selectmen present: Jeff Schall, Paul Robitaille, Bill Jackson

Also present: Robin L. Frost, Town Manager; Denise Vallee, Director of Finance; Michelle Lutz, Assessing Clerk; Steve Gauthier, Rick Eichler, Fire Chief; Dana Horne, Shawn Costine, Norman Demers, Warren Johnson, Arthur Perry, Patrick Sanschagrin, Norman Laganiere, Paul Gleason

1. Call to Order: Prior to the meeting, the Board met with the Berlin City Council and Counsel in Berlin. Such session is not considered a meeting under RSA 91-A. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Chairman Robitaille

2. Appointments:

a) Meet with Berlin City Council in Non-Public Session (RSA 91-A:3, II(e):

3. New Business:

a) Town Report Bids: TM Frost stated that five bids had been received for the preparation of this year's Town Report. The prices ranged from \$1,610 to \$3,193.56. TM Frost noted that the lowest bid was from Smith & Town Printers with highest from Sherwin Dodge. Further discussion took place regarding the bids. **Selectman Jackson made a motion to approve Smith & Town Printers bid for preparation of the Town Report, seconded by Selectman Schall, voted unanimously.**

b) Relay for Life 2014 – Railroad Street Closure: TM Frost stated that once again the Relay for Life is looking to close the portion of Railroad Street from Park Street to the tennis courts. She went on to say this is what the Town has done for them in the past for safety reasons. Relay for Life is looking to close the street starting at 4:00 pm on Friday, June 13 until Saturday, June 14 at 6:00 am. Further discussion took place regarding the street closure. **Selectman Jackson made a motion to approve the proposed street closure, seconded by Selectman Schall, voted unanimously.**

c) Northern NH Fire Mutual Aid Pact: TM Frost presented the Board with the 2014 Northern NH Fire Mutual Aid Pact stating that the Town has always been a part of it. She went on to say that, the annual dues total \$500; of which \$250 is for the plain membership and the other \$250 is for HazMat. Chairman Robitaille wondered if the Town of Gorham is providing the burden for this mutual aid. TM Frost informed the Board that this agreement is not the same agreement as Randolph and Shelburne. Selectman Jackson asked who was part of the mutual aid pact, while Selectman Schall asked about the data for the participating towns and what they have available for equipment. TM Frost stated that she would look into those concerns. Further discussion took place regarding the mutual aid pact. **Selectman Jackson made a motion to approve the Northern NH Fire Mutual Aid Pact, with the notion that the stated concerns regarding the list of municipalities and what they have for equipment and services, seconded by Jeff Schall, approved unanimously.**

4. Old Business:

a) Finalize 2014 Town Budget: Selectman Jackson stated that he had requested information for the Budget Committee and asked Chairman Robitaille if it had been prepared. Chairman Robitaille and Selectman Schall stated that they would like to be able to agree upon things prior to bringing anything to the Budget Committee. TM Frost stated that Rick Eichler, Fire Chief, would be attending the meeting as soon as the Fire Department's officers' meeting was done. FD Vallee presented the Board with a proposal for a 2% increase to the Town's Employees wages. Selectman Jackson stated that he felt that this item could not be discussed until the Board spoke about the Budget. He went on to say that, he has reviewed the budget line by line, and while a number a lines could be looked at, there is not a lot of "skin" in the budget. Selectman Jackson stated that the biggest loss for the Town is the valuation. Further discussion took place regarding the Budget. **Selectman Jackson made a motion to approve the Budget as presented, seconded by Chairman Robitaille, voted Jackson – Aye; Schall – Nay; Robitaille – Aye.**

Chairman Robitaille asked FC Eichler about the proposed closing of the Cascade Fire Station and how it may affect local insurance rates. FC Eichler stated that he spoke with ISO and they ran calculations on different scenarios. Based on those scenarios it did not look like it would substantially affect the Town's ISO ratings. FC Eichler explained the benefits of keeping the Cascade Station along with Truck 2. Further discussion took place regarding the Department's response time.

5. Public Comment:

Norman Demers told the Board that he owns a home in Cascade, and he would like to see the Station stay there. He feels that the response time is prudent to fighting a fire in that area.

Patrick Sanschagrin stated his concern about the Station closure as well noting the incident that occurred last year when the power line was pulled down on Main Street by VIP Auto and Route 16 was closed until it was repaired. He went on to say that if the Station was not there and another incident like that took place closing Route 16, there would be nothing available for the incident north of the Main Street Station. He stated that he is concerned for public safety.

Warren Johnson stated that he is a Cascade resident and he too would like to see the Station remain open. He went on to thank the Board for approving the budget to include the Station.

6. Other Business:

a) Town Manager's Update: TM Frost asked the Board if they wanted to talk about the 2% wage increase for the Town Employees as presented by FD Vallee. Chairman Robitaille spoke asking the other members of the Board about discussing this. Selectmen Schall and Jackson stated that they had put in their final vote on the Budget, and informed Chairman Robitaille that he could always make a motion to reopen the issue. **Chairman Robitaille made a motion to reopen the discussion of whether or not a 2% wage increased should be discussed; the motion was not seconded and died.**

b) Selectmen's Updates: Selectman Jackson asked TM Frost about the Verizon Lease. TM Frost informed him that Chief Cyr and Lynn Sabeau had been working with Verizon and needed a copy of the Prime Lease in order to move forward. He also asked if TM Frost had heard from DES regarding

the modification for the riverbank in the Gateway Trailer Park. TM Frost informed him that she had not heard from DES on any of the outstanding matters. Selectman Jackson asked if there was going to be an RFP for Assessing. TM Frost informed him that she and Assessing Clerk, Michelle Lutz, had put together a proposal and sent them out. TM Frost stated that she would get a copy to the Board.

FD Vallee informed the Board that the Assessing Capital Reserve money had not been placed in the actual Budget that the Board approved, noting that \$75,000 had been inserted in the Capital Reserve worksheet only. Further discussion took place regarding the Assessing Capital Reserve Fund. **Selectman Jackson made a motion to include \$75,000 in the Assessing Capital Reserve Fund in the budget, seconded by Selectman Schall, voted unanimously.**

c) Approval of Minutes (December 26 & December 30, 2013 & January 6, 2014): Selectman Schall noted that in the December 26 Minutes, it was noted that Selectman Jackson made a motion for, however, he was the one that made the motion. He also stated that in the January 6 Minutes that it was noted that he stated that he would like to discontinue curbside trash pick-up, however he stated that he wanted to eliminate curbside recycling pick-up. Further discussion took place regarding the minutes and it was noted that minutes for the December 9, 2013, meeting were also presented for signature. **Selectman Schall made a motion to approve the minutes with the noted corrections for the December 9, December 26, December 30, 2013, and the January 6, 2014 meetings, seconded by Selectman Jackson, approved unanimously.**

TM Frost stated that she would make the necessary corrections and place the minutes in their mail.

d) Sign Manifest: All manifests were signed.

e) Sign Abatements and Exemptions (if necessary): None were presented.

7. Non-Public Session: RSA 91-a:3, II a-e: There was no need. However, the Board and TM Frost discussed that at the next meeting they would plan to enter into Non-Public session so they could discuss the utility litigation matters.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Paul Robitaille

William H. Jackson

Jeff Schall