

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2013, 6:00 PM
GORHAM TOWN HALL**

Gorham Selectmen present: Chairman David Graham, Paul Robitaille, Bill Jackson
Also present: Robin L. Frost, Town Manager; Denise Vallee, Director of Financing; PJ Cyr, Chief of Police; Jennifer Lemoine, Lt. Gorham PD; Michelle Lutz, Assessing; Jeff Schall, Don Provencher, Chris Gamache and Clinton Savage, Jr. State of NH; Tom Brady and Jennifer Fish, County of Coos; Terri Colarusso, Gorham House Florist; Deb Thornblad, Berlin Daily Sun as well as several other local people

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

2. Appointments:

a) Tom Brady – County Budget: Mr. Brady began with informing the Board that both he and Jennifer Fish, the new County Administrator, are in the process of bringing the County to the Towns as the start of a new leaf. Selectman Robitaille asked Mr. Brady if he could present a brief overview of the County Budget. Mr. Brady explained that the bulk of the expenses in the budget are for the two County Nursing Homes. Mr. Brady informed the Board that both of the Coos County Nursing homes are in the top ten nursing homes in the State. However, obviously this comes at a price. Mr. Brady also indicated that the County is receiving less funding from State, Federal level, indicating that there is a real problem in the revenue line. Mr. Brady also went on to say that while in the past the delegation representatives and the commissioners previously have not always worked well together; both parties are trying to work better in the future. At this point, Mr. Brady and Ms. Fish believe that there will be no increase in the upcoming budget.

b) Chris Gamache – OHRV Use on Main Street: Mr. Gamache started with updating the Board on the OHRV trail system, explaining that the State feels that by June or July of this year, OHRV riders will be able to park at the Route 2 parking lot and head east over trestle bridge and enter a regional trail system. This trail system will allow riders to go from Gorham/Berlin to Success, Errol, Colebrook and on up to Pittsburg. Mr. Gamache said that Senate Bill 250 allows the State to open State Roads for OHRV traffic, but the State will not do that without the support from the Town. Mr. Gamache went on to explain that Gorham has the most facilities needed to accommodate the riders. Mr. Gamache asked the Board if they would be opposed to the possibility of allowing OHRV traffic into Town from the Route 2 parking area so they can access the facilities and regional trail system. Selectman Robitaille expressed concern over safety issues for the riders because Route 2 is a major east/west highway and the amount of truck traffic on this road. Selectman Jackson indicated that he felt that four-wheelers were no different than a motorcycle, stating that the Town's businesses needed to tap into that economy. Selectman Jackson went on to say that he was concerned with the Police Department being overburdened, but that he felt he was more open to the idea than Selectman Robitaille. Chairman Graham expressed concern regarding the driving age for an OHRV rider and being on a public way. The Board then opened the floor to the public for feedback. Rene Boutin said that maybe someone could check to see how other clubs handle situations such as ours, indicating that maybe the Hatfield & McCoy area may be able to give us some ideas. The owner of Absolute Powersports informed the Board that he had done 400 tours this past summer, which equates to approximately 125 rooms. The Board asked Chief Cyr what his thoughts were and Chief Cyr indicated that there should be some rules in place with regard to the age of riders on the roads, stating that riders should be 16 years of age with a valid driver's license. Chief Cyr went on to say that all of Main Street should be open to keep it fair for all businesses. Mr. Gamache explained to the Board and Chief Cyr that

Representative Theberge of Berlin introduced a bill that states no OHRV shall be operated on a paved road unless operator is 16 years old with a license. Mr. Gamache said that a curfew could also be established to keep the riders off the road at later hours in the evening. Further discussion went on regarding possibilities of different trails and/or options to get the riders from the Route 2 parking lot into town. Mr. Gamache said that some of the next steps that needed to take place include a public hearing that would be held by the State. Mr. Gamache also said that he would do land research in the area to get the other possibilities together and would get that information back to the Board within 2 to 3 weeks.

c) Chief PJ Cyr – Shelburne Contract: Chairman Graham asked Chief Cyr if he wanted to do this service for the Town of Shelburne. Chief Cyr told the Board that he felt that at this time, the Department could not do it. Chief Cyr explained that at least 3 days per week there is only one officer on duty. Therefore, the coverage for both Towns on those days would be inadequate, stating concern for the Gorham residents. While Chief Cyr wants to be a good neighbor, he feels that it is not in the best interest for his staff or the Town of Gorham. The Board thanked Chief Cyr for his time in preparing for this matter and asked TM Frost to prepare a letter to the Town of Shelburne that states at the end of the current contract, the Town of Gorham will not be renewing a contract for our services.

d) Terri Colarusso – Exchange Street Parking: Ms. Colarusso came before the Board to ask about comments that she saw in the local newspaper regarding parking on Exchange Street. Ms. Colarusso indicated to the Board that before she moved into her current location on Exchange Street, that she checked into the spot that is considered “no parking” in front of her store. Ms. Colarusso has been told by Roger Guilmette that the spot had been marked as no parking so that it could be used as a loading and unloading zone. Besides herself, Ms. Colarusso stated that UPS and FedEx use the spot to make deliveries to all the businesses on Exchange Street. After further discussion with the Board, it was decided that a sign would be placed in front of the area indicating “No Parking Loading Zone”.

3. New Business:

a) Emergency Expenditure: Director of Finance, Denise Vallee, presented the Board with a list of outstanding payables that need to be paid and present an over-budget issue. DF Vallee indicated that between the mistake in calculating the number of payroll weeks, and the amount of money needed to pay the outstanding payables it has created a need for the request of emergency expenditure of \$57,000. **After further discussion, Chairman Graham made a motion to approve the request as presented, seconded by Selectman Jackson, approved unanimously.**

4. Old Business

a) Public Works Office Building Update: TM Frost indicated to the Board that to date she has received 2 proposals for the project. However, TM Frost told the Board that at this point in time she has a couple of questions on the proposals so opted not to present the information at this time. TM Frost and FD Vallee spoke with the Board about the employees’ health insurance proposal. DF Vallee informed the Board that with the tax rate increases, as well as the 50% funding of the deductible, Town Employees will be backwards, even with the 2% increase in wages. It was discussed that in the future, the Town needed to look at how it would handle new hires with regard to health insurance benefits. **After further discussion, Selectman Jackson made a motion to keep the health insurance funding as is, funding the FSA at 100%, seconded by Selectman Robitaille, approved unanimously.**

b) Cemetery Budget: Chairman Graham wanted to make sure that the Board realized that after their last budget meeting to review the cemetery, the part-time position that Public Works Director Holmes had included in the budget was still there even with the 2% wage increase. While Chairman Graham was not in favor of leaving the part-time position in the budget, Selectmen Jackson & Robitaille were both in favor of keeping the position in the budget, as it would be less expensive to keep a lower paid, part-time employee on to help in the summer months.

5. Public Comment: There was none.

6. Other Business:

a) Town Manager's Update: TM Frost informed the Board that she had been working with Attorney Boutin on the way past due tax bills and felt that she would have a better idea/update soon. TM Frost also told the Board that the Norgaard property at 115 Glen Road is upside down, stating that therefore, the Town will not see any of the lien money. Selectman Jackson asked TM Frost for an update on the Railroad Street railing, TM Frost informed him that Denise was still awaiting an answer from the insurance company.

b) Selectmen's Updates: Selectman Robitaille spoke about the upcoming Governor's Ball this weekend at the Mount Washington, indicating a ticket price of \$100 per person.

c) Approval of Minutes (December 17, 2012): Selectman Jackson made a motion to approve as presented, seconded by Selectman Robitaille, approved unanimously.

d) Sign Manifest: All manifests were signed.

e) Sign Abatements (if necessary): None presented for signature.

7. Non-Public Session: RSA 91-a:3, II e: On a motion by Selectman Jackson, seconded by Chairman Graham, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to move into Non-Public Session at 7:50 pm. Jackson –aye, Graham – aye, Robitaille – aye.

On a motion by Selectman Jackson, seconded by Chairman Graham, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to return to Public Session at 8:04 pm. Jackson –aye, Graham – aye, Robitaille – aye.

There were no decisions made as a result of the non-public session.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

David Graham

Paul Robitaille

William H. Jackson