

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2013, 6:00 PM
GORHAM TOWN HALL**

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

Also present: Robin L. Frost, Town Manager; Michelle Lutz, Assessing Clerk; Jeff Stewart, Rec Director; Deb Thornblad, Berlin Daily Sun; Ryley White, Brian Veazey

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

2. Appointments:

a) Ryley White and Brian Veazey – Senior Project: Ryley White and Brian Veazey presented the Board with a packet of information for the creation/erection of a skating rink down by Libby's Pool at the old Fur, Feather and Fin Club location. Messrs. White and Veazey explained to the Board that they are working on this as their senior project. They went on to explain to the Board that they have two different scenarios the first being a more permanent structure noting that the side boards would be left up year round with posts that are in the ground to hold them up. While the second option has the boards that are built, so it can be taken down after the winter months. Selectman Robitaille asked if the rink was a regulation size hockey rink. Mr. Veazey said that it is a little smaller. The Board asked RD Stewart which option he would like to see, and Mr. Stewart told the Board that he would prefer to see something permanent. Selectman Jackson asked Brian and Ryley if they knew how far away from the river the rink would be situated, noting that they may want to make sure that it is adequate because of water/flooding issues in that area. Selectman Robitaille asked them how they were planning to fund the project. Ryley and Brian indicated that they were going to approach some of the local businesses for donations. The Board also recommended that they speak with the Booster Club to see if they may be able to help with the funding. RD Stewart said that he had given contact information for the Booster Club to them. Further discussion took place, and the Board unanimously agreed that they thought the project was a great idea and that it should move forward.

3. New Business:

Prior to moving to the first agenda item, TM Frost asked the Board if they could discuss the KRT Appraisers' decision for the Schall Abatement. Selectman Jackson and AC Lutz discussed the fact that the Kardells did not want KRT Appraisers to go back to their house for an inside review, however they did revisit the Schall property. Selectman Schall recused himself from the Board for this portion of the meeting. Chairman Robitaille read the following Memo from KRT Appraisers: To the Board of Selectmen, Town of Gorham; From Rob Tozier KRT Appraisal; dated July 23, 2013; RE Abatement for Parcel ID# U30/19. April 23, 2013 – I have completed a review of the information for the Abatement. The property owner submitted a few properties as comparables with lower assessments. After review, the properties submitted were deemed to be not comparable in quality and don't have a similar garage with finished space above. Recommendation: Denial of abatement.

July 23, 2013 – I was asked by the Board to perform an interior inspection of the subject property. Upon inspection, the data was found to be accurate and listed correctly. I also reviewed other properties in the neighborhood to verify that they were treated equitably and that consistent methodology was applied. Upon a second review, it was found that within the neighborhood, similar properties had the same grade adjustment (the only subjective portion of the data) and the same land neighborhood adjustment. Therefore, the only conclusion that can be drawn from a mass appraisal stand-point is that the assessment is fair and equitable. Recommendation: Denial of abatement.

Selectman Jackson wanted to state for the record that if the Board goes along with KRT Appraisers' recommendation, that Mr. Schall understands what his recourse is. Further discussion took place regarding this action and it was noted that Mr. Schall would need to file an appeal with either the BTLA or Superior Court no later than September 1, 2013. The Board then asked Mr. Schall if he had any comments. Mr. Schall stated that he still does not see the back-up data from KRT Appraisers, and that he still believes that it is still assessed too high. AC Lutz explained that the data was carried forward by one comparable sale in that neighborhood for \$394,000 and that land assessment was based on two sales. Chairman Robitaille made a motion to go with the proposal of KRT Appraisers and deny the Schall abatement request, seconded by Selectman Jackson, voted Jackson – Nay; Robitaille – Aye. The motion failed and no position was taken by the Board.

AC Lutz reiterated to the Board that she had spoken with Lisa Kardell regarding her abatement, and that Mrs. Kardell stated that she would pursue the issue via other means.

a) Health and Human Services Grant - Ventilator: TM Frost presented the Board with a Homeland Security Grant that started in the Federal Fiscal Year 2008. The grant will cover the cost of a portable ventilator system for EMS. The Board asked if there was any cost to the Town, and TM Frost indicated that there was not. Further discussion took place regarding replacement cost and life expectancy of the equipment. **Selectman Jackson made a motion for the following resolution: That the municipality agrees that portable ventilators, provided by the State of New Hampshire, acting through its Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services for the benefit of the municipality in emergency situations, be granted directly to Town of Gorham Emergency Medical Services to be stored, maintained and deployed as necessary, seconded by Selectman Schall, voted unanimously. Selectman Jackson also made a motion for an additional resolution: That Robin Frost, Town Manager, is hereby authorized on behalf of this Municipality to approve said agreement with the State and to execute any and all documents, agreements, and other instruments; and any amendments, revisions, or modifications thereto, as she may deem necessary, desirable, or appropriate, seconded by Selectman Schall, voted unanimously.**

b) Recycling Program Violations: TM Frost informed the Board that PWD Holmes has been noticing that several residents have not been recycling properly, and that trash has been left at the curb because of this. Further discussion took place regarding notification to the residents and whether or not there were any additional recycle bins available. Chairman Robitaille also noted that he has noticed that once again residents were leaving their trash out too early, noting that this may cause problems with bears. It was agreed that a notification system should be in place, and that the resident should be given notification with their trash, after three notifications the Selectmen will send a letter to them.

c) No Parking Signs on Railroad Street (E of Glen Road): TM Frost informed the Board that she had spoken with a resident on the furthest portion of Railroad Street. This resident expressed concern regarding parking along the street. While the resident that had been living/renting this home (second house) has moved out, there will be other tenants that will eventually rent. The resident explained that there is a gate on the driveway for this home and while the tenant had visitors, they would keep the gate closed which would force the street side parking. TM Frost went on to explain that resident that spoke with her is not trying to make problems, they were just concerned because the street is narrow and can be very difficult to maneuver, especially during winter months. TM Frost also noted that she had spoken with PWD Holmes about erecting "no parking" signs on this street and he stated that it is a good idea. The Board asked TM Frost if she had spoken with Chief Cyr about this situation. TM Frost said that she should speak to him and get his feedback on the matter.

d) Dump Truck Repairs: TM Frost informed the Board that the Highway Department's 1974 or 1976 10 Wheeler needs approximately \$10,000 of repair. TM Frost said that this truck is primarily used in the yard for the wood recycling. She went on to say that, PWD Holmes feels that it is time to retire the truck and put it out to bid and simply get rid of it. PWD Holmes does not see a need to replace it. Further discussion took place and it was agreed that the truck would go out for bid.

3. Old Business:

a) Delinquent Taxes: TM Frost and the Board reviewed the delinquent property tax report, which encumbers 2010, and prior years. TM Frost noted that the properties in the report are subject to tax deeding this year. Further discussion took place regarding the properties on the list. TM Frost went on to tell the Board that she was quite sure they would be offered deeds this year. She said that it was her intention to look at the properties with Code Enforcement Officer Scarinza to see if there are issues, as well as take pictures.

Chairman Robitaille asked if there were any further matters for old business. Selectman Jackson said he had a couple of items. He asked TM Frost what the status of the Verizon Lease is that was spoken about at an earlier meeting. TM Frost said that it was still in the attorney's hands and that she would call to check on it. Selectman Jackson noted that on the Town's website there are the proposed ordinances that Chief Cyr with regard to ATV usage. Selectman Jackson asked if they should be taken down because the Board has not yet approved them. Further discussion took place regarding the new ATV traffic and curfews. Selectman Jackson also asked TM Frost if a report had been received from Regan Pride, she said that as of yet she had not seen anything, but would give him a call. Selectman Jackson also inquired on the status of the report NHDES relative to the Arguin matter, TM Frost stated that thus far the only report received to date from NHDES pertained to the portion of the Moose River by Gateway Trailer Park. He also asked about the Town Forest signs and it was noted that all signs had been fixed.

5. Public Comment:

6. Other Business:

a) Town Manager's Update: TM Frost informed the Board that all of the Fire Department members had signed a seatbelt pledge. TM Frost also informed the Board that during the week of September 22 thru September 25 she would be away at an ICMA Conference, which she has received a scholarship for to pay for her attendance. Further discussion took place regarding this matter, and was decided that the Board meeting scheduled for Monday, September 23, would be rescheduled until September 30.

TM Frost presented a spreadsheet to the Board that outlined the oil bids for the 2013/2014 winter heating oil; noting that Irving came in at \$3.367 per gallon and that Rymes came in about \$0.10 per gallon more. However, Rymes propane price was better than Irving. Further discussion took place regarding the winter pricing and it was agreed that the Town would use Irving Oil for the winter oil and Rymes for winter propane.

b) Selectmen's Updates: Chairman Robitaille stated that he has noticed the flea market on the Town Common seemed to be getting more vendors, noting that Phil Ross has worked hard at getting more vendors to participate in the event. Chairman Robitaille also said that he has noticed since the ATV trail through town has been in effect, that the local hotels/motels seem to be sold out on weekends. He went on to say that, it seems to be helping the local economy.

c) Approval of Minutes (July 15, 2013, August 5, 2013): Selectman Jackson made a motion to approve the July 15 and August 5 minutes, seconded by Selectman Schall, voted unanimously.

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.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 PM.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Paul Robitaille

William H. Jackson

Jeff Schall