

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

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

Also present: Robin L. Frost, Town Manager; Deb Thornblad, Berlin Daily Sun; Don Provencher, Jay Holmes, Pat Murphy

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

2. Appointments: There were no appointments scheduled.

3. New Business:

a) Tax Rate Setting Timeframe: TM Frost reported that the timeframe for tax rate setting is back on track after a delay was posted by the Department of Revenue Administration due to the Department of Education's delay in providing figures to them. We should have our tax rate in a timely manner although the County has not been apportioned out to the municipalities as yet.

5. Old Business:

a) Multi-Modal Route Easement: TM Frost informed the Board that this is moving forward with a meeting between her, Howie Wemyss of Gorham Land Company, and Burke York of York Land Services. The meeting is being held on Thursday of this week and TM Frost expects that Burke York will move forward with the necessary paperwork to secure the easement from Gorham Land Company for the part of the multi-modal route over a certain parcel. TM Frost will keep the Board updated on this matter.

b) OHRV Trip: As reported last week, the department heads went on an OHRV ride to the warming hut in Jericho Mountain State Park. We met the department heads from the City of Berlin and were able to speak with our counterparts in the hopes of establishing a way to work more collaboratively in the future. Clinton Savage from the NH Bureau of Trails gave us an overview of the trail systems and what still is being worked on. We returned to town by 12:30 pm. It was a beautiful day and the time was well spent.

6. Public Comment: Patrick Murphy is interested in an open position on the Zoning Board of Adjustment. He was recommended by PJ Cyr who is the Chairman of that Board. Chairman Cyr was told that Mr. Murphy would have to submit a letter of interest. Mr. Murphy wondered why he had to do that. Chairman Robitaille stated that the Board likes to have a letter on file. TM Frost stated that the Board of Selectmen ask anyone seeking appointment to a Board or Committee to come to a Selectmen's meeting to meet the Board. Mr. Murphy has no problem with doing that.

Jay Holmes asked Debra Thornblad of the Berlin Daily Sun why the picture she took of the new police officer had not yet been in the paper. He also wondered why other stories related to the last Selectmen's meeting had not been in the paper yet. She replied that she had been busy covering stories, but they should be in the paper within the next day or two. He also questioned the utility and large commercial assessment discussed at the last meeting. While he jumbled the numbers a bit, TM Frost was able to explain the changes to his understanding.

Don Provencher stated that taxes are going up and people are on a fixed income. He wondered why we can't do quarterly billing. He also stated that he doesn't need half of the services we provide and he thinks that is not a comfortable feeling.

7. Other Business:

a) Town Manager's Update: TM Frost reported that she along with Recreation Director Jeff Stewart, Public Works Director Austin Holmes, and Chief Cyr met with the organizers of the Easter Seal Ride-In to discuss the 2014 event. This will take place on February 7-9th and home for the events is the Town & Country. They would like to hold a few events on the Common this year, weather permitting.

b) Selectmen's Updates: Selectman Schall wondered when Regan Pride would be coming back to present the completed Solis Waste Study. TYM Frost stated that he is scheduled for the next Selectmen's Meeting on October 21st. He also expressed concern with the amount it costs to defend the utility values. The values are hard to understand and that leaves us somewhat at a loss. Selectman Schall also asked if we were moving forward with the application to become an Appalachian Trail Community. TM Frost stated that the application process is beginning. Finally, Selectman Schall wanted an update on the skating rink progress. It seems to him that the project is more extensive than what he believed.

c) Approval of Minutes (September 30, 2013): As TM Frost forgot to bring the minutes with her, the Board will review and approve at the next meeting.

d) Sign Manifest: The manifest was signed.

e) Sign Abatements and Exemptions (if necessary): There were no abatements or exemptions.

8. Adjournment: As there was no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Paul Robitaille

William H. Jackson

Jeff Schall