

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2013, 6:00 PM
GORHAM TOWN HALL**

Gorham Selectmen present: Jeff Schall, Paul Robitaille, Bill Jackson
Also present: Robin L. Frost, Town Manager; Deb Thornblad, Berlin Daily Sun; Denise Vallee, Director of Finance; Jeff Stewart, Rec Director; Carol T. Porter, Town Clerk/Tax Collector; Michelle Lutz, Assessing Clerk; Chad Miller, EMS Director; Rufus Ansley & Elizabeth Thompson, Gorham Public Library; Kyle Boisselle, Tony Bolash

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

2. Appointments:

a) Kyle Boisselle and Tony Bolash – Senior Project: Kyle Boisselle and Tony Bolash presented the Board with two proposals to build a warming hut/storage/locker room. Both proposals for the building are for a 20' x 16' building, however, the footprint for use includes a locker room area in the storage area of the second proposal. The proposals include an area that people can use to warm up and/or get ready to skate during the winter months, and the boy's varsity soccer team as well as the summer parks and recreation program can use the shed area. The building will be heated with a wall mount electric heater. RD Stewart stated that his goal would be to get advertising sponsors around the rink's boards to assist with offsetting the costs to maintain the rink and electricity for lighting and heat. Further discussion took place regarding the senior project and the Board agreed that it was a good idea and that they could proceed.

3. New Business:

a) 2011 Abatement Form Correction - Jackson: TM Frost stated that it had been found that Selectman Jackson had signed the Abatement form for Bill and Germaine Jackson in error. TM Frost went on to note that during the entire abatement process Selectman Jackson had always recused himself from the conversations and voting process. It was an oversight on behalf of Selectman Jackson. Further discussion took place regarding the abatement and the Board asked TM Frost to prepare an Addendum stating that Selectman Jackson signed it in error. Selectman Jackson apologized for this error and asked TM Frost to note the Minutes date in the Addendum.

b) Sign 2013 Public Safety Agreement, Gorham/Coos County: TM Frost presented the Board with the 2013 Public Safety Agreement for Coos County. She informed the Board that this Agreement is the same as last year and that they will be renegotiating for 2014. Further discussion took place regarding the Public Safety Agreement. **Selectman Jackson made a motion to sign the 2013 Public Safety Agreement between Gorham and Coos County, seconded by Selectman Schall, voted unanimously.**

c) 2013 Encumbrances: TM Frost presented the Board with a list of 2013 Encumbrances stating that these expenses were included in the 2013 Budget and have yet to be paid. Further discussion took place regarding the list of encumbrances. **Selectman Jackson made a motion to approve and sign the list of 2013 Encumbrances, seconded by Jeff Schall, voted unanimously.**

d) 2014 Budget Review (Continued): Rufus Ansley, Treasurer of the Library Trustees, along with Elizabeth Thompson, presented the Board with the 2014 Library Budget. Mr. Ansley stated that the bottom line of the requested budget is the same as 2013; however, some of the line items have changed. Mr. Ansley went on to explain that there is an increase of 15.9% in tax appropriation this year because the funding from other Library accounts is simply not there. Further discussion took place regarding the Library budget.

The Board moved forward with discussing the proposed budget. Selectman Jackson asked if everyone had looked at the budget and further asked, what the plan is, what we are going to do. Selectman Jackson looked to FD Vallee about revenue and the trend of expenditures. FD Vallee stated that there is a decrease in revenues part of which is due to the town valuation being down, noting that she believes that the expenditures have not increased all that much. Selectman Jackson went on to say that he feels that the Board needs to offer people possible suggestions for reductions along with their ramifications at town meeting. Selectman Schall stated that he felt that, in order to reduce the budget, the town needs to change the way it does business. Chairman Robitaille stated that he realizes the town is in a tough position and that the tax rate is high, but he wants to make sure that whatever cuts are suggested and/or made that the people understand what services may be discontinued. Further discussion took place regarding the budget and what may be considered in order to reduce the budget. Selectman Schall stated that he would like to take the time to see what he can find to reduce the budget and/or change the way departments do business. It was agreed to allow Selectman Schall the time needed to complete the task and it was further agreed that the Board would meet on January 6, 2014, to discuss the suggestions.

4. Old Business:

Nothing was presented.

5. Public Comment:

Jeff Stewart asked the Board and TM Frost if the operation of the Library was the same as the Water & Sewer Department. He was informed that it was.

6. Other Business:

a) Town Manager's Update: TM Frost stated that she did not have any updates for the Board at this time.

b) Selectmen's Updates: The Board did not have any updates at this time.

c) Approval of Minutes (December 16 & 17, 2013): Selectman Schall made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 16 & 17, 2013 meetings, seconded by Selectman Jackson, approved 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 7:45 PM.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Paul Robitaille

William H. Jackson

Jeff Schall