

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2013, 6:00 PM
GORHAM TOWN HALL**

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

Also present: Robin L. Frost, Town Manager; PJ Cyr, Chief of Police; Jennifer Lemoine, Gorham Police Department; Terry Rhoderick, Ron Dagesse, Don Provencher, Robert Balon, Deb Thornblad, Berlin Daily Sun

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

2. Appointments:

a) Regan Pride – North Country Council Solid Waste Study: Mr. Pride presented the Board with a Contract for the Solid Waste Study. Mr. Pride reviewed different options for the Town's solid waste, noting the full cost accounting method comparing several options. Mr. Pride asked the Board what the Town's vision and goals were for this study. After further discussion between the Board and Mr. Pride, Selectman Jackson made a motion to move forward and sign the contract, seconded by Selectman Schall, voted unanimously.

b) Chief PJ Cyr – Department Update and Town Code Revision Suggestions: Chief Cyr presented the Board with a three month snapshot of the activity of the Police Department as well as Dispatch. In addition, Chief Cyr presented the Board with some suggested amendments to the Town Code/Ordinances so the department can better enforce them. Chief Cyr reviewed the first quarter of this year stating that 3,378 calls had been taken noting that included in that amount were 73 EMS calls, 10 Fire Department calls, 36 accidents (6 injuries, 1 fatality). He also noted that 31 calls had been received for the Town of Randolph and 53 for the Town of Shelburne. Chief Cyr also informed the Board that the budgeted "on-line training course" for the dispatchers has been working out well for the dispatchers, noting that the new dispatcher, Melissa Grima, is now certified. After further discussion of the calls and training, Chief Cyr went on to review some of the current issues with items that are not clear and/or do not have a home in the Town Code or Town Ordinance. Chief Cyr went on to express that it is difficult for the department to enforce these items when neither the Code nor Ordinance is clear. Chief Cyr reviewed that included in these items for clarification is the Heavy Traffic Code, Wild Animal Ordinance, Operation or Snowmobiles, Noise Ordinance, Stop Intersections and Yield Intersections, Violations and Penalties, Winter Parking Ban. Town resident and business owner Ron Dagesse asked the Board and Chief Cyr how the noise from the truckers' engine brakes would be handled heretofore. Mr. Dagesse informed the Board and Chief Cyr that he has been videoing the intersection and has footage showing that many trucks do not stop at the light. He expressed his concern regarding the noise and speed of the trucks at the intersection (Route 2 and Route 16 traffic lights). After further discussion between the Board, Chief Cyr and Mr. Dagesse regarding the noise issue as well as the signage indicating "no engine brake use in the Town", Chairman Robitaille moved along the meeting. The Board and Chief Cyr went on to discuss the Town Code. Selectman Jackson said that revisions to the Town Code had been started several years ago, indicating that the revisions were in computer files that TM Frost should have access to. After further discussion, it was agreed that the Town Code should be looked at for revision.

3. New Business:

a) Health Insurance Rates: TM Frost informed the Board that the information they had received are the rates that the Town/Employees would be paying if we stayed with the current plan. TM Frost informed the Board that the new policy rates will be less than the amount presented. After further discussion, Selectman Jackson

expressed his concern regarding future new hires. Selectman Jackson feels that the Town really needs to look at ways to save money with respect to benefits for newly hired employees. Selectman Jackson expressed that he did not want current employees to suffer a loss, but the Town needs to look at the future and new hires. TM Frost expressed a concern for future recruitment with lesser benefits for new hires.

b) Equalization Rate: TM Frost presented the Board with the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) packet, noting that the overall equalization rate is 92.2% with a medium of 94.2%. TM Frost went on to inform the Board that while this amount is a little lower than hoped for, the Town seems to be in pretty good shape.

c) Sansoucy Contract: TM Frost stated that after she reviewed the initial contract from George Sansoucy, she noted that there were items included in the new contract that had already been completed. TM Frost asked Mr. Sansoucy to redo the contract to reflect the changes. The contract is now \$135,000 vs. the original \$145,000. After further discussion between the Board and TM Frost, it was agreed to a penalty if Mr. Sansoucy does not complete the work within the period outlined in the contract.

d) Cemetery Rules and Regulations Revision: TM Frost informed the Board that there had been an issue with a person who currently has a cemetery plot and does not plan to use it. Regulations state that the Town will buy back lots at the original price. After further discussion, it was agreed that the regulations need to be made clear that only the Town can buy back plots, and that the plots cannot be sold by private individuals to another individual.

e) Annual Concurrence of Emergency Operations and All Hazards Mitigation Plans: TM Frost presented the Board with the Annual Concurrence of Emergency Operations and All Hazards Mitigation Plans for their signature, stating that it was the usual annual plan that required the Boards signatures. After further discussion, it was agreed that Selectman Schall would be given the Plan to look at for this year and that the remaining Board members would sign. A motion was made by Selectman Jackson to sign the Annual Concurrence of Emergency Operations and All Hazards Mitigation Plans, noting that new Board member Jeff Schall be given the information to get up to date, seconded by Chairman Robitaille, voted unanimously.

f) Appointment of Alternate Library Trustee: TM Frost presented the Board with a letter from the Library requesting that once again Aaron Gorban be reappointed as Alternate Library Trustee. After further discussion, Selectman Jackson made a motion to reappoint Mr. Gorban, seconded by Selectman Schall, voted unanimously.

4. Old Business

a) NHDOT Paving Schedule: TM Frost informed the Board that Pike Industries, Inc. will be starting work on April 15th, noting that work will begin on the bridges first.

5. Public Comment: Don Provencher informed the Board that the winter parking ban notice never made it into the local paper. Mr. Provencher went on to inform the Board that he was concerned the Police Department seemed to be doing selective enforcement with regard to the parking ban. Dennis Arguin asked TM Frost and the Board what the status was of the Moose River Bank. TM Frost and the Board assured Mr. Arguin that they did not forget about him or the issue at hand. TM Frost informed Mr. Arguin that she had been in contact with Jeff Blecharczyk of the NHDES.

6. Other Business:

a) Town Manager's Update: TM Frost asked if the Board had any questions with regard to the most recent month end Budget that was forwarded to them. The Board did not have any questions. TM Frost informed the Board that the Town had received the hearing notice for Great Lakes Hydro, and that it has been set for Tuesday, September 10th at 8:30 am.

b) Selectmen's Updates: The Board and TM Frost discussed possible ways to assist the TM with the revisions to the Town Code, suggesting that a college intern may be able to assist with the task.

c) Approval of Minutes (March 25, 2013 and April 1, 2013): Selectman Jackson informed the Board that he had taken the liberty to speak with Elaine Riendeau regarding the March 25, 2013, minutes and some corrections and/or additional information he felt needed to be changed. TM Frost asked the Board to review the corrected minutes. **Selectman Jackson made a motion to approve the minutes for March 25 and April 1 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: There was no need for Non-Public Session.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 PM.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Paul Robitaille

William H. Jackson

Jeff Schall