

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, May 7, 2012, 6:30 pm
TOWN HALL CONFERENCE ROOM

Selectmen present: Chairman David Graham, Paul Robitaille, Bill Jackson.

Also present: Robin L Frost, Town Manager

Mike Waddell, Reuben Rajala, Chief PJ Cyr.

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 by Chairman Graham.

2. Appointments:

There were no appointments per se, but Chairman Graham moved the FIRM Protest item from Old Business to now. Mike Waddell was on hand to explain to the Board why he feels the proposed Flood Insurance Rate Maps are inaccurate. He produced data on the flow of the Androscoggin River and pictures of several "high water" events that show the Androscoggin River is very stable, due to the regulatory structures and not prone to flood conditions. He is very concerned that the Ed Fenn Elementary School is now in the flood zone. We have not yet identified all of the properties that have changed status one way or the other. It was agreed that we need to get our US Senators on board and have them come to a presentation by Mr. Waddell. TM Frost will coordinate this meeting.

3. New Business:

a) Alternate Meeting Locations: Chairman Graham has suggested holding meeting in other locations again. The past two years, the Board has had a meeting at the Cascade Fire Station, which has been fairly well received. This year they will hold a meeting at the Gorham Fire Station on June 18th and the Cascade Fire Station on July 16th. TM Frost will post accordingly.

4. Old Business:

a) Informational Kiosk Placement Update: Chairman Graham made some suggestions as to where the kiosk might be placed. TM Frost stated that she discussed changing the placement of the kiosk with Gerry Pons who is under contract with NCIC for the installation and he will see if the solar panels can be placed on another structure and then be wired to the kiosk. Once he makes that determination, he will set up a meeting with the Board to discuss on site

b) Train Day Proclamation: Chairman Graham drafted a proclamation for the Board to approve. It designates Saturday, May 12th as Train Day in Gorham and the week of May 7th through May 13th as Train Week in Gorham. **On a motion by Selectman Robitaille, seconded by Selectman Jackson, the Board unanimously approved the 2012 Train Day Proclamation.**

c) Assessing Update: TM Frost reported that the revaluation is going very well and on schedule. We have had very few phone calls from citizens.

5. Public Comment: There was no public at the meeting at this point.

6. Other Business:

a) Town Manager's Update: TM Frost stated that Josephine Bellville from NHDR has been assisting Michelle Lutz with verification of exemptions for the 2012 tax year. There may be some elderly exemptions which have been approved in the past in error. The Board determined that the first issue billing should continue to have those exemptions included. If the review concludes that the exemption was in error, the second issue bill will reflect that change. Meanwhile, the Town will send letters to those property owners who might be affected to let them know that more information is needed and they could possibly lose their exemption.

TM Frost reported that the interviews for the Fiscal Assistant position have been completed and we had six very qualified people who interviewed with us. TM Frost will discuss more in non-public session at the end of the meeting.

We received five IT proposals and they range from a very inclusive service to responding on an as needed basis. EMS Director Chad Miller and TM Frost will review them to make a recommendation.

Mike Guay contacted TM Frost to ask what was ever decided regarding his request to allow dogs on the common and erect stations with plastic bags for owners to use to pick up after their dogs. The Board members were not in favor of changing the ordinance to allow dogs on the common, mostly based on past experience with owner not picking up after them as well as dog fights and people being allergic to them. Selectman Jackson also mentioned that he has received a concern from a citizen regarding the area of the swinging bridge. It is a popular place to walk dogs and people do not pick up after them. He suggests placing a dog clean-up station in that area.

TM Frost stated that the Budget Committee will be meeting tomorrow night, Tuesday, May 8th at 7 pm.

b) Selectmen's Reports: Selectman Robitaille attended a roundtable discussion about transportation at North Country Council with Senator Shaheen. NCC Interim Director Jeff Hayes spoke about the 10 year plan and said that Route 2 improvements are on the horizon. They may not all be in this 10 year plan, but they are still being contemplated.

Selectman Jackson asked if anything was happening with the John Losier situation. TM Frost stated that she will address this issue with John Scarinza.

Selectman Jackson asked (again) for the written documentation from DRA for the revaluation and the scope of the FEMA river stabilization projects. TM Frost forgot to provide this information, but stated that she would get that together for him.

Regarding the river projects, Selectman Jackson walked around at Libbys and viewed the White Birch Lane projects. He noted that White Birch Lane seems to be complete, with the exception of the pavement. He itemized several concerns at Libby's, to which TM Frost explained that these items were in the process of being addressed.

Selectman Jackson asked that someone check all of the appointments for Boards and Committees to make sure they are current and all appointees have been sworn in.

Regarding the furnace at the Town Garage, Selectman Jackson stated that he would like to see the air quality issue in the office addressed. This will be addressed this year, along with other items in the energy audit which was completed last fall.

Selectman Jackson would like to make sure that the abatements are being reviewed timely. He also would like a letter to go out to Coos County Family Health Services to congratulate them on their recent grant award and to express the Board's appreciation for all their efforts in and around Gorham.

Chairman Graham mentioned the Budget Committee meeting, which is scheduled for Tuesday night. He feels that there are some areas that need to be reviewed for increases, such as the election workers. TM Frost reminded the Board that they had approved an increase in 2013 for the Police Department and it was her understanding that if the union received an increase, other employees did as well. The Board members agreed that this has been past policy.

The Board asked TM Frost to send a plant to Yves Zornio to express the Town's sympathy in the loss of his father.

Selectman Jackson had some questions regarding the demolition permits requested by Gateway Trailer Park. These were then approved and signed by the Board members.

c) Approval of Minutes (April 23, 2012): On a motion by Selectman Robitaille, seconded by Selectman Jackson, the Board voted unanimously to approve both sets of minutes as presented.

c) Sign Manifest: The Board signed the manifest as prepared.

d) Sign Abatements (if necessary): There were no abatements.

7. Non-Public Session: RSA 91-A:3, II (a) : On a motion by Selectman Jackson, seconded by Selectman Robitaille, the Board moved into non-public session at 8:25 pm by unanimous roll call vote. Robitaille, Aye, Jackson – Aye, Graham – Aye.

On a motion by Selectman Robitaille, seconded by Selectman Jackson, the Board came out of non-public session at 8:43 pm by unanimous roll call vote. Robitaille – Aye, Jackson – Aye, Graham – Aye.

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

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 pm.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

David Graham

Paul Robitaille

William H. Jackson