

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, January 17, 2012, 6:30 pm
TOWN HALL CONFERENCE ROOM

Selectmen present: Chairman Terry Oliver; David Graham; Paul Robitaille. .

Also present: Robin L. Frost, Town Manager

Elaine Bernier, Robert Balon, Don Provencher

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

2. Appointments: There were no appointments.

3. New Business:

a) **Warrant Article Draft Review** – There were a few articles to review. There is a petition for rescinding the adoption of RSA 32 otherwise known as the Municipal Budget Act. This will go to the Town Meeting and will be voted on by paper ballot with the polls open for at least one hour. Androscoggin Valley Home Health Services is requesting \$17,500 which is the same amount requested in 2011. Chairman Oliver asked if we could suggest to them that they reduce this amount. Since they have provided a petition, we cannot make any changes to the article.

b) **SB 337 Update** – This bill would allow for watershed property owned by a Town, but situate in another Town, to be placed in current use. This bill is scheduled in committee tomorrow January 18. The Board asked that we contact the committee members to express our recommendation to pass this bill.

c) **Assessing Proposals** – The proposals for the town-wide revaluation came in and they range from a low of about \$60,000 to a high of just under \$100,000. These have not yet been reviewed by the Town Manager, but will be done soon in conjunction with our DRA monitor.

d) **Street Lighting** – PSNH has informed us of a program to install photo sensors in street lights so that they would be on during dusk and up until midnight at which time they would turn off. Since the Board has been discussing the possibility of turning off certain lights, they agree that this could be another option to look at.

4. Old Business:

a) **26 Spruce Street** – The Board feels that it is time to have Grace deed the property at this location to the Town. TM Frost suggested that the Board should review whether they wish to sell the property to an abutter and at what price. The Town has about \$30,000 invested in the property either by taxes and interest or the costs to remove the hazardous structure.

b) **Delinquent Taxes** – The Currier situation was reviewed by the Board. They all agree that something needs to be done. **On a motion by Chairman Oliver, seconded by Selectman Graham, the Board voted 2-1 (Robitaille) to begin the process of taking the Currier property.** Selectman Robitaille stated that he voted against this motion because there is a new business starting up there and he would like to see the business succeed.

c) **FEMA Projects Update** – The projects are wrapping up and though there will be more work that has to be done in the spring, they will leave and then come back. Elaine Bernier was present and expressed her concern that the berm ends at a place where she believes when the river rises again, it will transect her property.

5. Public Comment: Robert Balon asked for a copy of the petition to rescind the Municipal Budget Act. He was directed to the office during business hours and one would be made for him.

Don Provencher stated that there is a rail meeting at the Chamber of Commerce in Bethel on Thursday. He also mentioned that the POW and State flags are in darkness on the common.

6. Other Business:

a) **Town Manager's Update:** TM Frost asked the Board to sign the paperwork for the fire mutual aid district.

TM Frost reported that she and John Scarinza met with representatives from the mill to work out a plan for the building permit process for preparations for the new tissue machine.

Sergeant Lamarre has announced his plan to retire from the Gorham Police Department as of January 31, 2012.

TM Frost reviewed an application for a communications grant in the amount of \$35K, which the Board then signed for submission.

b) **Selectmen's Reports:** Selectman Graham mentioned that Max Makaitis is talking to people in the community about developing an economic development committee. He will be speaking with the Board soon as well.

Denise Vallee spoke about the Chamber's plans to place a kiosk near the Information Booth. This is all part of the NH Grand initiative. One wall will have general Coos County information as well as NH Grand info. There will be a wall dedicated to Gorham businesses and attractions. All of the Selectmen were in favor of the kiosk and were even more in favor of there being no Town funds required.

c) Approval of Minutes (December 19, 2011): On a motion by Selectman Robitaille, seconded by Selectman Graham, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 3, 2012.

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 Robitaille, seconded by Selectman Graham, the Board went into non-public session by roll call vote at 8:00 pm. Robitaille –aye, Graham – aye, Oliver - aye.

On a motion by Selectman Robitaille, seconded by Selectman Graham the Board returned to public session by roll call vote at 8:35 pm. Robitaille – aye, Graham – aye, Oliver - aye.

No decisions made as a result of non-public session.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Terry Oliver

David Graham

Paul Robitaille