

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
TUESDAY, October 9, 2012, 6:30 pm
GORHAM TOWN HALL

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

Also present: Robin L Frost, Town Manager; Jeff Stewart, Director of Recreation

Robert Balon, Don Provencher, Luke Kinney, Scoutmaster, Jeff Schall, Henry Sanschagrín, Elaine Bernier

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

2. Appointments:

a) **Luke Kinney – Eagle Scout Project:** Mr. Kinney explained his plans for the gazebo/bandstand on the Town Common. He plans to repair the roof, remove the tarps and place plexiglass-type material in the back and construct decking around the sides and front. The decking on the sides will be more of a step at one foot deep and in the front the deck would be four feet deep. Mr. Kinney distributed an estimate which was done by White Mountain Lumber. All the work will meet current code requirements. Labor will be supplied by local volunteers, Boy Scout Troop members and family and friends. Mr. Kinney expects the work to be completed during the weekend of October 20 and 21. Director Stewart stated that the Booster Club has agreed to donate \$2500 to the project. The Selectmen approved the plan and the timeframe for completion and congratulated Mr. Kinney on his initiative.

b) **Jeff Stewart – Dugouts, Bullying Policy:** Director Stewart explained that he is planning on a storage unit on the dugout adjacent to Park Street. The storage unit would be a solid 6' addition to the dugout. **Selectmen Jackson stated that he thought this discussion should be postponed until the next meeting when a full Board was present. He made this into a motion which was seconded by Chairman Robitaille. Motion passed unanimously**

Regarding the bullying policy, Director Stewart stated that he feels the Town needs a policy that spells out our intolerance for this behavior. This proposal clearly explains what steps would be taken with the different types of behavior. TM Frost stated that the proposal is currently at the attorney's office for review. **On a motion by Selectman Jackson, seconded by Chairman Robitaille, the Board voted unanimously to approve the proposed policy pending Town Counsel review.** Chairman Robitaille asked Director Stewart if he was seeing more incidents lately. Director Stewart stated that the incidents may not have increased but they are becoming more serious. The Board commended Director Stewart for addressing this subject.

c) **Henry Sanschagrín – Presidential OHRV Club Request:** Mr. Sanschagrín read a letter which was provided to the Board members, asking for the Town to contact Chris Gamache of the Bureau of Trails asking him to attend a meeting of the Board of Selectmen to discuss the possibility of OHRV use on certain public roads in Gorham. Chairman Robitaille asked Mr. Sanschagrín where the use was proposed. He replied that it would be from the parking lot on Route 2 to Moe's at the intersection of

Routes 2 and 16 and then north to the overhead bridge. He also would propose travel by OHRV's south on Route 16 to Bangor Street, then up Bangor Street 200-300' to the trail in the woods. There is then an approved snowmobile trail on Yankee Forest land which would take them behind the T&C. Mr. Sanschagrín stated that he has signatures from 42 businesses who would like to see this approved. He also has over 400 signatures from OHRV enthusiasts. He feels this would be a good opportunity to bring people into Gorham. The Board agreed by consensus to send a letter to Chief Gamache inviting him to a future meeting.

3. New Business:

a) Glen Road Residents' Request for No Passing Zone: The Board reviewed a letter sent to them by several Glen Road residents. The letter expresses their concern with the no passing zone between Jackknife Field and Third Hole. There are several residences along that stretch of road and this poses a hazard for the residents and their guests when trying to pull out of the driveways. The Board agreed that the potential for an accident is high. **On a motion by Selectman Jackson, seconded by Chairman Robitaille, the Board voted unanimously to support this request by sending a letter to the appropriate NHDOT bureau.**

b) Gourds of Gorham Contest: TM Frost reported that this contest has started and the Board of Selectmen is requested to judge the contest on either October 22nd or October 23rd. Selectman Jackson asked if there was a prize for the winner. TM Frost explained that there is no prize, but the winner's name will be placed on a plaque. The winner will be announced at the Fire Department breakfast on October 28th. The Board members agreed to meet at 5 pm on October 22nd (before the regular Selectmen's meeting) to travel to the entrants' properties and judge the contest.

4. Old Business

a) NRCS Projects Update: The projects are almost complete. We expect the two projects on Glen Road to be complete this week. The project on White Birch Lane may take a bit longer, but we are requesting an extension of time for that project.

b) Fur, Feather and Fin Building: The sign from the building has been taken down and Agnes Breault would like to have it. She and her husband, along with several others, were instrumental in forming the club. The Board agreed by consensus that she can have the sign. There may be other items in the building that should be saved. TM Frost will speak with Director Stewart. The building is scheduled to be burned by the Gorham Fire Department on Saturday, October 20th.

5. Public Comment:

Don Provencher wanted to highly commend Luke Kinney for his planning and other efforts to refurbish the bandstand on the common. He hopes the fountain might come back as well. Selectman Jackson offered the Board's sympathy on the recent passing of Mr. Provencher's mother.

Elaine Bernier asked if she could have a copy of the river study which was done by the State,. The Town has not yet received a copy of the study, but TM Frost will contact Shane Csiki to see if the report is completed. Ms. Bernier will receive a copy as soon as the Town receives one. Ms. Bernier also had some

concerns about the riverbed. She feels it is filling in more rapidly than before and wonders if the uprooted tree which is now in front of her property may be responsible for some of the extra deposits.

There was a short discussion about tax rate setting and TM Frost informed everyone that DRA is not yet setting rates for any municipalities.

Jeff Schall asked when we might find the new tax cards on the Town's website. TM Frost will look into getting this done as soon as possible.

Henry Sanschagrín reported that quite a few of the tax maps that can be accessed through the Town's website are upside down. He feels that when we pay for a service, it should be right.

Don Provencher mentioned that there was an article in the Union Leader about Town welfare and TM Frost was quoted. He feels we should be able to call our State Rep to ask for relief in this area.

6. Other Business:

a) Town Manager's Update: TM Frost reported that she will place delinquent taxes and PILOT agreements on the agenda for the next meeting. Selectman Jackson asked for an updated list of properties with delinquent taxes.

The Board has received a letter from Clermont and Gracienne Drouin asking for relief on the assessment of the former Red's Auto Body property since they had removed everything from the building before April 1st. Their letter had statements from those who had done the work from them attached to it. TM Frost suggested that the Board instruct the Drouin's to file an abatement form when they receive their final 2012 tax bill. This is the process to follow when asking for relief from taxes, or when an assessment is incorrect. The Board agreed.

TM Frost reported that it is time to renew the North Country Fire Mutual Aid Agreement. The proposed agreement is the same as signed in previous years. **On a motion by Selectman Jackson, seconded by Chairman Robitaille, the Board unanimously approved the agreement.** The agreement was then signed.

The Board signed the warrant for the General Election to be held on November 6th at the Gorham Town Hall from 8 am to 7 pm.

TM Frost reported that the MS1 has been filed with the State and the total assessment of the Town for 2012 is \$273,677,600, which is a decrease of approximately \$35M from the 2011 assessment.

b) Selectmen's Update: Selectman Jackson asked if TM Frost had met with John Scarinza about the building permit fee schedule. TM Frost reported that this will happen this week. She will have information for the next Board meeting. Selectman Jackson would also like to make sure the Mr. Donato's concerns with his neighbor's animals has been resolved.

Selectman Jackson would like to attend the LGC Conference for one day. He will not ask to be reimbursed for mileage, but there is money in the budget to pay for registration. Chairman Robitaille stated that he might like to go as well.

Selectman Jackson asked about the status of Grace Lapierre's employment in the Town Clerk's office. TM Frost stated that she will work until the general election is over.

Chairman Robitaille reported that he has received compliments, either directly or indirectly, from tourists visiting Gorham regarding the neatness and cleanliness of the Town.

There are several upcoming meetings. Selectman Jackson will be attending the TAC meeting at North Country Council on October 17th. There is a Budget Committee meeting on October 17th at 6:30 pm. The annual meeting for the Gorham Community Learning Center will be held on October 17th at 5:30 pm. Both Selectman Jackson and Chairman Robitaille plan to attend. In addition, the NCIC Annual Meeting will be held on October 18th and the North Country Council Annual Meeting is on October 23rd.

c) Approval of Minutes:

1. September 10, 2012
2. September 19, 2012
3. September 24, 2012

On a motion by Selectman Jackson, seconded by Chairman Robitaille, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of September 10th, September 19th and September 24th as prepared.

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

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

7. Non-Public Session: RSA 91-A:3, II (e): On a motion by Selectman Jackson, seconded by Chairman Robitaille, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to move into non-public session at 7:35 pm. Jackson – aye, Robitaille – aye.

On a motion by Selectman Jackson, seconded by Chairman Robitaille, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to move out of non-public session at 8:00 pm. Jackson – aye, Robitaille – aye.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

David Graham

Paul Robitaille

William H. Jackson