

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, February 13, 2012, 6:30 pm
TOWN HALL CONFERENCE ROOM

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

Also present: Robin L Frost, Town Manager

Steve Gauthier, Norm Provencher, Shawn Costine, Elizabeth Thompson, Rufus and Anne Ansley, Michelle Lutz, Denise Vallee, Bill Jackson, Reuben Rajala, Sue Demers, Glen Eastman, Don Provencher, Gail Scott, *Berlin Daily Sun*, Tad Michaud, Steve Roy, and others

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

PUBLIC HEARING: PETITION TO ADOPT SB2 FORM OF ANNUAL MEETING

The public hearing was opened by Chairman Terry Oliver at 6:33 pm. Since there were none of the petitioners present, TM Frost gave a very brief synopsis of the process of an SB2 Annual Meeting. There were procedural questions from the public which were answered by TM Frost for the most part. Bill Jackson stated that there are a few bills currently being considered by the legislature which would severely limit the voters' ability to amend articles and budgets. Tad Michaud mentioned that some people feel uncomfortable speaking their mind at the traditional town meeting. Michelle Lutz stated that there is still a deliberative portion of the meeting and people would still be expected to participate.

The public hearing was closed at 7:00 pm.

2. Appointments: There were no appointments.

3. New Business:

a) Award Assessing Contract: TM Frost reported to the Board that after interviewing all four companies who submitted proposals for the town-wide revaluation, her recommendation is KRT Appraisal. All of the companies would have been able to do the work, but what made KRT stand apart was their knowledge of the software which the Town of Gorham is using. The principals of KRT are former employees of Vision which produces the software. In light of Diane Labbe's resignation, this piece becomes even more important to us. The Board considered the recommendation and on a **motion by Selectman Graham, seconded by Selectman Robitaille, the Board voted unanimously to award the contract to KRT Appraisal for the sum of \$82,800.** Selectman Robitaille stated that he wanted to make sure that the company will respond quickly to any concerns from the Town and/or its property owners. TM Frost assured him that this would be the case.

b) Assessing Department Recommendations: TM Frost stated that she would like to advertise the assessing department position as soon as possible. The recommendation from TM Frost is to make that position a clerk and not an assessor. The Town could pursue a proposal with other small towns in the area for sharing an assessor in the future, but most towns of this size do not have their own in-house certified assessor. Selectman Robitaille asked if we would continue to perform cyclical assessing, ie. 25% of the Town each year. TM Frost stated that this could still be done, but using a contract assessor. The Board approved this recommendation and asked TM Frost to move along with the job posting.

c) Warrant Article Recommendations: The Board went through the warrant making recommendations on all articles with appropriations with the exception of the operating budget since the Budget Committee would be meeting to finalize their recommendations on this article on Wednesday night.

4. Old Business:

a) Tupick Abatement: Since the TM and the Board just received this information this afternoon with no time to review before the meeting, this item was tabled until the next meeting on February 27th.

5. Public Comment: Tad Michaud strongly and heatedly objected to hiring for the assessing department. He feels this is a good time to cut a position and save some money. He stated that people are not paying their taxes, a statement which was quickly refuted by TM Frost and Finance Director Vallee. In fact, 97% of all taxes have been paid.

6. Other Business:

a) Town Manager's Update: TM Frost had nothing further at this time

b) Selectmen's Reports: Selectman Robitaille stated that he would be attending the North Country Council Transportation Advisory Committee on Wednesday afternoon.

Selectman Graham mentioned that there is a meeting on March 8th at the Berlin City Hall at 6 pm regarding rail transit in NH. He hopes someone will be able to attend. He also wanted to recognize Mr. Pizza's contribution to the Recreation Department. There was a picture and notice in the Berlin Daily Sun of January 27th.

The Board reviewed the Selectmen's letter for the Town Report, which Selectman Graham drafted and presented. With a few minor changes, the Board approved the letter with the blanks filled in by TM Frost.

c) Approval of Minutes (January 17, 2012, January 30, 2012): On a motion by Selectman Graham, seconded by Selectman Robitaille, the Board unanimously approved and signed both sets of minutes.

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 8:05 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