

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, February 27, 2012, 5:30 pm
TOWN HALL CONFERENCE ROOM

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

Also present: Robin L Frost, Town Manager

The Board of Selectmen, Town Manager Robin Frost and Police Chief PJ Cyr traveled to Shelburne for a joint meeting with the Shelburne Board of Selectmen and Administrative Assistant Jo Carpenter. Also present was Melissa Grima, *Berlin Daily Sun*.

The discussion was about the 2012 contract for Police services. The Shelburne Board of Selectmen is looking for more information regarding the increase in the contract. TM Frost explained that the Gorham PD is on call for Shelburne 24/7. This on-call service is not reflected in a calculation based the number of calls. Gorham has experienced, well-trained individuals ready to respond when needed and the cost to provide the training and all other overhead items is borne by the Gorham taxpayers. This new contract is meant to better distribute a portion of those costs. TM Frost stated that the usual way of calculating the costs for contracts such as this is by population. That calculation was done with the result being somewhere in the neighborhood of \$60k. TM Frost and Chief Cyr realized that this would be unfair to spring on the Shelburne taxpayers all at once. A lesser cost of \$14k has been proposed. Shelburne Selectman Stan Judge stated that he does not necessarily disagree with an increased cost of the contract, but he needs to base his explanation on numbers and he is having trouble reconciling to the \$14k number. The Selectmen from Shelburne stated that they have heard arguments on both sides of the increase. Some of their residents feel it is still reasonable, but others have indicated that they would rather depend on State Police. The Board is taking it to the Town Meeting for discussion and a decision. They have also placed the 14k in their operating budget, just in case. It was left that we would attempt to get the Shelburne Board more information which would assist in their discussion at Town Meeting. The meeting was recessed and we left Shelburne at 6:20 pm.

Back at Gorham Town Hall at 6:37 pm. Present were Chairman Terry Oliver, Paul Robitaille and TM Robin Frost.

Also present were: Denise Vallee, Steve Gauthier, Norm Provencher, Bill Jackson, Reuben Rajala, Mike Waddell, Don Provencher, Melissa Grima, *Berlin Daily Sun*, Tad Michaud, Steve Roy, and others

1. Call to Order: The meeting was reconvened at 6:38 by Chairman Oliver.

2. Appointments:

a) **Joanne Roy – Androscoggin Valley Chamber of Commerce:** Ms Roy brought the model of the informational kiosk which the Chamber is funding for the Town of Gorham. It is expected to be placed on the Town Common, somewhere near the information booth. The structure has four sides and there is an opportunity to have historical information on one side, Gorham information on one side, NH Grand on another side and general information on the fourth side. Ms. Roy explained that there will be several of these placed around the county. This will be at no cost to the Town except for the ongoing electricity, which should be minimal. The Board felt that this will be a nice addition to the Common and thanked the Chamber for funding the construction. The Board also thanked Ms. Roy for her presentation.

b) Mike Waddell: Mr. Waddell asked to speak with the Board about the article on the warrant to rescind the Municipal Budget Act in Gorham. He feels that there should be an amendment to this article to establish an advisory budget committee. He believes that the oversight of the budget is important, but the current makeup of the budget committee has problems. His suggestion would be to have an advisory committee with 6 at-large members and the other members as follows: one member of the Board of Selectmen, one member of the School Board, one member of the Water & Sewer Commissioners, one member of the Library Trustees and one member of the Planning Board. Selectman Robitaille asked if it was legal to amend a petitioned article such as this. TM Frost stated that there are a couple of questions that arise out of the Mr. Waddell's suggestion and there has been a call placed to LGC to get answers to those questions.

3. New Business:

a) Assessing Department Updates: TM Frost reported that the ad will be placed in the newspaper for an assessing clerk. Also, the activity of the department is starting to pick up since the abatement applications are due on March 1st. These will be sent on the Skip Sansoucy for his review. The new assessing firm is working on the contract for the revaluation. This will be completed and ready to sign if approval of the funds is obtained at Town Meeting.

4. Old Business: Nothing at this time.

5. Public Comment:

Tad Michaud felt that Mike Waddell is trying to control the people.

Reuben Rajala stated that he thinks it is important to have a Budget Committee.

Norm Provencher believes we are losing people from the PD at an alarming rate. He wonders if there is any way to tell why people are still leaving even after the Town adjusted the pay a few years ago. TM Frost stated that in the past couple of years, there has been little turnover. She believes that the department is well-run and officers are fairly satisfied. The last officer who left the department retired and did not leave to go to another department. There is another instance last year of an officer leaving that cannot be discussed as it is a personnel issue.

6. Other Business:

a) Town Manager's Update: TM Frost reported that Doug Currier has been keeping her up to date on his progress in selling his Groveton property. He reported last week that he has a signed purchase and sales agreement on the property.

b) Selectmen's Reports: Chairman Oliver stated that he was impressed with Mr. Currier's efforts to get himself out of debt. He is working with the Town to start paying a more significant amount each month on his delinquent taxes.

Selectman Robitaille reported that he attended the Chamber dinner last Friday night and there are good things happening in the area. The speakers at the dinner told of their experiences in rebuilding businesses or starting new businesses in the area. The speakers included John Halle from Cate St. Capital (Burgess Biomass), Willis Blevins, Gorham Paper and Tissue, and Deborah Schult of the Federal Prison. He also

reported that there is a rail meeting in Berlin on March 8th. This is also the night of the Annual School Meeting.

c) Approval of Minutes (February 13, 2012): On a motion by Selectman Robitaille, seconded by Chairman Oliver, the Board unanimously approved and signed the minutes.

On a motion by Selectman Robitaille, seconded by Chairman Oliver, the Board approved and signed a transfer from the Emergency Disaster CRF.

The Board signed an Intent to Cut form for John Losier (R8-L7). The Board signed the 2012 Fire Mutual Aid Pact, which they had signed before, but apparently had to be redone.

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 Chairman Oliver, the Board went into non-public session by roll call vote at 7:15 pm. Robitaille – aye, Oliver - aye.

On a motion by Selectman Robitaille, seconded by Chairman Oliver, the Board returned to public session by roll call vote at 7:45 pm. Robitaille – aye, Oliver - aye.

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

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Terry Oliver

David Graham

Paul Robitaille