

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, March 26, 2012, 6:30 pm
TOWN HALL CONFERENCE ROOM

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

Also present: Robin L Frost, Town Manager, Police Chief PJ Cyr

Don Provencher, Bob Demers, Ted Miller, Melissa Grima, *Berlin Daily Sun*, Dan Buteau, Rene Guay, and John Sheets.

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

Board Reorganization and Assignments:

TM Frost took nominations for Chairman of the Board. Selectman Robitaille nominated David Graham as Chairman, seconded by Selectman Jackson. **The vote was 2-0-1 in favor of David Graham as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen for the ensuing year.**

Chairman Graham welcomed everyone to the meeting and congratulated Selectman Jackson on his election to the Board.

The Board continued on with assignments to other boards and committees:

Selectman Robitaille was nominated as Vice-Chairman of the Board.

North Country Council Transportation Advisory Committee – Bill Jackson

Androscoggin Valley Regional Refuse Disposal District – Yves Zornio, Primary

Paul Robitaille, Alternate

Planning Board – Paul Robitaille

Budget Committee – David Graham

Medallion Opera House Committee – Bill Jackson

On a motion by Chairman Graham, seconded by Selectman Jackson, the Board voted affirmatively on all above appointments as a block.

2. Appointments:

a) Bob Demers – Snow Removal: Mr. Demers would like to see everyone pay their fair share of the snow removal for the school. He feels that the taxpayers of Gorham should not have to pay all the costs of the bucket loader, etc. Mr. Demers also feels that the whole district should pay for trash removal as well. It is no longer just a Gorham school district. He suggests establishing an hourly rate for these services.

It was also suggested that there should be a separate agreement for the usages of both town and school properties, so we aren't nitpicking minor issues. Perhaps a Memorandum of Understanding would be a good idea.

3. New Business:

a) **KRT Contract:** TM Frost answered questions from the Board about the contract with KRT Appraisals for the revaluation. There were several clarifications requested and TM Frost will get the answers and a special meeting will be held for the Board to execute the contract.

b) **Sansoucy Contract:** The Board reviewed the proposal from Sansoucy for the valuation of the utilities and the mill. A contract will be drafted up for their signature, as there were no further questions regarding the proposal.

At this time the Board of Selectmen from Shelburne came in to discuss the Police Services Contract.

The Boards talked about the contract that went to Shelburne for \$14,000 for police services beginning April 1, 2012 through March 31, 2013. The Shelburne Board is having difficulty explaining how the amount for the contract was calculated. The calculation that was done by TM Frost based on population percentages calculated at almost \$70,000. Knowing that this was a huge jump over what Shelburne had been paying for services, it was decided to ease into this and the \$14,000 figure was submitted. Selectman Stan Judge from Shelburne stated that while he agrees that there needs to be some consideration given to overhead and such, he feels that doing a calculation based on population would be unfair to the Town of Shelburne. Since there was obviously so much more to discuss with regard to the contract, it was decided to execute the contract as is for this year and continue to meet in workshops to discuss how to go forward from the expiration of the new contract.

c) **Banners/Flags:** CEO John Scarinza has asked TM Frost to obtain direction from the Board of Selectmen as to how to handle banners and flags which are cropping up at businesses throughout the Town. The Board agreed that the issue needs to be addressed, but asked that the Planning Board look at this issue for the coming year to perhaps suggest an amendment. Meanwhile, the Board suggests a reasonable approach to the enforcement of the ordinance. Asking the business owners for their input for any changes which may be proposed for the next Town Meeting would be a good way to get some new ideas on how to make this work for everyone.

4. Old Business:

a) **Noise/Idling Ordinance:** Chief Cyr explained his plan for enforcement of the ordinance at the upper junction of Routes 16 and 2. There will be a public notice in the newspaper and then the department will start dedicated patrols during the night to enforce the noise ordinance. Selectman Jackson stated that he feels the responsibility for the enforcement should be with the State. All agree that the truckers need to be able to use their engine brakes coming down Gorham Hill. It was also suggested that a letter should go to the State from Chief Cyr asking for better highway enforcement activities. Ron Dagesse said that the ordinance was put in place to quiet down the Town and it needs to be enforced. Ted Miller said that the ordinance is working, but he does not support a change to the timeframe for the use of engine brakes.

5. Public Comment: Robert Demers stated that he feels the Town of Shelburne should pay their fair share of the police department expenses.

Don Provencher stated that he called PWD Buddy Holmes to check on the lights on the common. He feels that there could be vandalism on the common if the lights are not on.

6. Other Business:

a) Town Manager's Update: TM Frost stated that Doug Currier is now able to send all monies received by him for rent to the Town to pay towards his back taxes. He did, however, indicate that one of the tenants is very slow in paying their rent.

The Board signed an appointment form for Paul S. Cyr, Jr. to the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

The Board signed the MS2 State of Appropriations which will now be sent to the NH Department of Revenue.

On a motion by Selectman Robitaille, seconded by Selectman Jackson, the Board unanimously approved the agreement for police services with the US Forest Service.

TM Frost reported that the heating system in the Public Works Garage is in need of replacement. An estimate has been received from Kevin Rines of just under \$5000. The Board approved this expenditure by consensus.

b) Selectmen's Reports: Selectman Robitaille suggested that the Board start reviewing fees which are charged by the Town for various applications, including building permits, planning board. He also suggests the Board talk soon about residential inspection.

Selectmen Jackson received a letter regarding WMCC having an advisors meeting. This meeting is the same night as the rivers meeting in the Medallion Opera House.

Selectman Graham mentioned security of the town offices and was told that there was a proposal coming from Pope Security. He also asked about NRCS and TM Frost responded that there are still four properties in the works. We are working with Town Counsel to create a form for the property owners to sign which will assure their commitment to the project.

Selectman Graham has a copy of an Androscoggin River Report which he will pass on to the other Board members. Selectman Robitaille stated that he is working with Dick Huot on identifying spots for river access in Gorham.

Selectman Graham mentioned the next issue of the Gorham gazette and said that if anyone had any news of interest, please contact the Gilman's to get it in that paper.

Selectman Graham will be attending a regional selectmen's dinner in Bethel on Wednesday, March 28th. And He also wanted to know if the other Board members wanted to hold a meeting in cascade and perhaps at the Gorham Fire Station this year as well. The other members agreed this would be a good idea.

Selectman Jackson asked about the paving of Main Street, to which TM Frost replied that it is scheduled for early fall.

Selectman Jackson asked about parking distances from entrances to businesses. TM Frost said that she would be meeting with NHDOT representatives regarding Main Street parking. PWD Holmes would be joining her as well as Chief Cyr.

Selectmen Jackson reported that the front door needs polyurethane.

c) Approval of Minutes (March 12, 2012): On a motion by Selectman Robitaille, seconded by Chairman Graham, the Board voted 2-0-1 to approve the minutes as presented. Since Selectman Jackson was not yet a member of the Board for this meeting, he abstained from voting.

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 c : On a motion by Selectman Robitaille, seconded by Chairman Graham, the Board voted by roll call to move into non-public session at 8:55 pm. Jackson – aye, Robitaille – aye, Graham – aye.

On a motion by Selectman Robitaille, seconded by Chairman Graham, the Board voted by roll call to return to regular session at 9:10 pm. Jackson – aye, Robitaille – aye, Graham – aye.

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

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

David Graham

Paul Robitaille

William Jackson