

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
TOWN OF GORHAM  
MONDAY, July 18, 2011, 6:30 pm  
GORHAM TOWN HALL

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

Also present: Robin L. Frost, Town Manager, EMS Director Chad Miller, Chief PJ Cyr

Don Provencher, Michael Waddell, Burke York, Superintendent Paul Bousquet, Principal Keith Parent, Dan Gorham, Norm Provencher, Melissa Grima, *Berlin Daily Sun*

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

**2. Appointments:**

a) **SAU 20 – Superintendent Bousquet, Principal Parent:** The issue on the table is the baseball damage that was done during the high school baseball season. Superintendent Bousquet stated that he is very aware of the problem and is willing to pursue any viable options. The school's policy has always been that there would be no admission of responsibility for reimbursement. State law reads that political subdivisions are not responsible for any damages caused by use of their properties. The catch here is that the property is owned by the Town, but used by the School. The attorney's opinion is that the Town and School bear no responsibility, nor should they assume any. Burke York asked if it might be as simple as bringing girls softball to the common and having the boys play at Libby's, but Libby's field is not big enough to accommodate boys baseball. Principal Parent stated that this situation is standard practice in other places, such as Berlin. Selectman Graham suggested reconfiguring the ball field with home plate over by the tennis courts. Athletic Director Dan Gorham stated that option was explored, but was found to be not an appropriate option. Mike Waddell spoke about netting that was used previously that worked okay, but it was not taken down before snow and was destroyed by a heavy, wet snow storm. Don Provencher said that the batting cage keeps the balls on the field, but that cannot be used during a game. Mr. Waddell suggested using the netting attached to cable that can be raised and lowered as need be.

Selectmen Graham spoke about the draft use policy that he had distributed at the last meeting. The Superintendent has the policy and will review it. Meanwhile, it was decided that the Superintendent, Town Manager, Principal and the insurance companies will meet at the site to discuss what might be done to alleviate the concerns.

Selectman Robitaille spoke about NHIAA charging for playoff games at the common. He indicated that since the Town took federal money for the common, they cannot charge people to attend functions. Superintendent Bousquet has done some research and said that the last time this happened, they estimated the attendance and paid the fees to NHIAA themselves. This will be the policy from now on.

b) **EMS Director Chad Miller- Quarterly Report:** Director Miller distributed his quarterly report and reviewed it with the Board. The service is on track for 650 calls this year. He reported that we will be on board with Comstar Billing as of August 1<sup>st</sup>. He is pleased to make this transition for better accountability and reporting. There are a few staff changes within the service such as a resignation from

Captain Paul Gagne, the promotion of Karen Eichler to Captain to fill the vacant position and the appointment of Wanda Tanguay to Lieutenant. The Explorer Post is developing nicely and he expects some of the Explorers to be riding on the ambulance by the end of this summer.

Further, Director Miller has suggested some changes to the billing rates to coincide with the move to Comstar. The rates have been low for some time and after checking with other services, Director Miller suggests a base rate of the 2011 Medicare Fee + 75%. We will also be seeking a Specialty Care Transport for certain paramedic transfers. The Board approved the new rates as proposed.

The Board members thanked Director Miller for his report. They feel he gives them all the information they are looking for and they appreciate his level of detail.

### **3. New Business:**

**a) Library Payment Agreement:** TM Frost presented a payment agreement for the library appropriation. It calls for quarterly payments of the annual appropriation. The Library Trustees have approved signed the document already. **On a motion by Selectman Robitaille, seconded by Selectman Graham, the Board unanimously approved the payment agreement.** The Board signed the agreement.

On another matter, the Library Trustees received and accepted a resignation from Todd Butler as a member of their Board. Subsequently, the Trustees are requesting that the Board of Selectmen appoint Todd Lukazewski to fill that vacancy. **On a motion by Selectman Graham, seconded by Selectman Robitaille, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Todd Lukazewski to the Board of Library Trustees until March 2012.**

**b) Assessing Contract:** The Board approved a contract with Skip Sansoucy for the utility assessment and oversight of all other assessments for 2011. The attached fee schedule for all other work including attendance at meetings, negotiations, BTLA hearings, etc. is a range of \$100 per hour for clerical personnel to \$250 per hour for senior appraisers. This contract has been approved by DRA.

**c) Coos County Family Health Proclamation:** **On a motion by Selectman Robitaille, seconded by Selectman Graham, the Board officially proclaimed August 7-13, 2011 as Health Center Week in Gorham and urge the citizens to recognize the important contributions of Coos County Family Health Services in safeguarding health and improving the quality of life for the people of Gorham.** The proclamation was signed by the Board members and the Town Manager.

### **4. Old Business:**

**a) Multi-modal Path:** TM Frost met with Greg Bakos at VHB last Thursday and he outlined the work to be done this year. We will get preliminary studies and plans in order to make further decisions regarding the completion of the path. He is sending a contract along for signature. They will probably get started in the middle of August.

Selectman Graham mentioned holding meetings in different locations. He suggested holding the August 15<sup>th</sup> meeting in Cascade. TM Frost asked if that could be the August 29<sup>th</sup> meeting instead and the Board agreed. Therefore, the August 29<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held in Cascade at the Fire Station at 6:30 pm.

**5. Public Comment:** Don Provencher commended Director Miller on his report. He had a few questions for him as well. Mr. Provencher asked the Board members to save September 14<sup>th</sup> for attending

the Rail Rally in Bethel Maine. He stated that Tony Donovan was successful in securing a Tillotson grant in the amount of \$5000 for the Rail Rally. Selectman Graham suggested that we send out the flyer for the Rail Rally to the mailing list that was generated from the meeting at the T&C.

Selectman Robitaille reported that he received a call from a resident of Lilac Lane who was very pleased with the work done by the DPW in the area near his driveway. This will be passed on to the DPW.

Norm Provencher asked that the Board do something about the parking on Main Street at the intersection of Alpine Street. It is very hard to see oncoming traffic with the cars parked so close to the intersection.

Don Provencher asked about the signage for the engine brakes. They are in the works.

## **6. Other Business:**

**a) Town Manager's Update:** TM Frost reported that the Tillotson Fund did not approve the grant for \$20,000 to finish the auditorium space. The auditorium is fully functional, but there are some finishing touches left to be done. Denise Vallee is searching for other sources of this funding.

**b) Approval of Minutes (July 5, 2011):** On a motion by Selectman Graham, seconded by Selectman Robitaille, the Board unanimously approved the minutes for both the regular and non-public sessions of the meeting of July 5, 2011 as prepared.

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

**d) Sign Abatements (if necessary):** The Selectmen signed one abatement.

**7. Non-Public Session: RSA 91-A:3, II (a, c & e):** On a motion by Selectman Robitaille, seconded by Selectman Graham, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to move into Non-Public Session at 8:20 pm. Robitaille –aye, Graham – aye, Oliver – aye.

**On a motion by Selectmen Graham, seconded by Selectman Robitaille, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to return to public session at 9:10 pm. Robitaille –aye, Graham – aye, Oliver – aye.**

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

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

**REVIEWED AND APPROVED:**

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**Terry Oliver, Chairman**

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**Paul Robitaille**

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**David Graham**