

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, August 29, 2011, 6:30 pm
CASCADE FIRE STATION

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

Also present: Robin L. Frost, Town Manager, EMD Chad Miller

Don Provencher, Sue Wemyss, Jim Ferrante, Melissa Grima, *Berlin Daily Sun*

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

2. Appointments:

a) **Sue Wemyss – Great Glen Trails – NE Regional Cross Country Meet** – Ms. Wemyss met with the Board to discuss an upcoming cross country meet at Great Glen Trails. This is an annual regional event that is held in one of four states; NH, VT, ME, MA. Participants are aged 6-13 and there are about 400 who register every year. This event will be held in March 2012 and it will bring families to the area. Town and Country Motor Inn is the host hotel, but some will lodge south of the notch as well. There is a dinner scheduled for the T&C and an awards presentation at the High School gymnasium. Parking could be a problem, but they are looking to provide shuttle buses to alleviate that concern. The Board agrees that this is a great event for the area. TM Frost and EMS Director Chad Miller told Ms. Wemyss to make contact if there was anything they needed from the Town.

b) **Chief PJ Cyr – Department Update** – Chief Cyr was again excused since the Board was holding an abbreviated meeting in order to tour White Birch Lane to view flood damage.

3. New Business:

EMD Chad Miller was present to review the flooding with the Board. The areas hit the hardest were White Birch Lane and the lower village (Bangor Street, etc.) All departments worked very well together to minimize the disruption to residents and take care of issues as they cropped up. There were communications failures in that the Fire Department repeater's backup was not functioning. The dispatch computers went down every time the power flickered. All Town facilities are undamaged. The Moose and Peabody rivers caused the most damage and the intake system at Libby's Pool is completely damaged. There was a problem with the emergency shelter in that the generator only runs the heating system at the school. This needs to be addressed. Selectman Robitaille commended EMD Miller for his efforts during the emergency to which EMD Miller replied that it was definitely a team effort. He also stressed the vulnerability of the properties along the rivers. Selectman Robitaille specifically mentioned the culvert under the railroad at Bell Street. This was previously a much larger culvert which was replaced with the current smaller one. He suggested making this larger again to relieve the flooding in the lower village. EMD Miller closed with a thank you to the State Police and Sheriff's Department who also pitched in during the emergency.

5. Public Comment: Jim Ferrante mentioned that there is a disabled vehicle that has been parked on the side of the road in Cascade Flats for quite some time. It now has a flat tire. He has been told by the Police Department that this vehicle would have to be moved by November 1st when the Town's parking

ban goes into effect. He was wondering if there is anything that can be done sooner than that. TM Frost will address the concern. Mr. Ferrante is also asking for some patchwork on the parking lot to his business. It borders on the Town road.

Don Provencher mentioned the Rail Rally in Bethel on September 14th. He also gave the Gorham airport a plug with Councilor Burton.

Mr. Ferrante also mentioned that the railroad track are getting damaged from truck traffic and may need some repair.

6. Other Business:

a) Town Manager's Update: TM Frost had no pressing issues and the Board was getting ready to travel to White Birch Lane to view the damage.

The Board signed the extension for the MS-1. They expressed their disappointment that we needed to file this extension and asked that TM Frost convey that message to Ms. Labbe.

b) Approval of Minutes (August 15, 2011): On a motion by Selectman Robitaille, seconded by Selectman Graham, the Board unanimously approved both sets of minutes for the meeting of August 15, 2011 as prepared.

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

d) Sign Abatements (if necessary): There were no abatements for the Board to sign.

7. Non-Public Session: RSA 91-A:3, II (a & c): No non-public session was needed.

The Board, TM Frost, and EMD Miller traveled to White Birch Lane to view the damage.

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

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Terry Oliver, Chairman

Paul Robitaille

David Graham