

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, September 26, 2011, 6:30 pm
TOWN HALL CONFERENCE ROOM

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

Also present: Robin L. Frost, Town Manager, Chief PJ Cyr, Lt. Jen Lemoine, Officer Eric Benjamin

Melissa Grima. *Berlin Daily Sun*

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

2. Appointments:

a) Chief PJ Cyr - Department Update – Chief Cyr was accompanied by Lt. Jennifer Lemoine and Officer Eric Benjamin. He was pleased to announce the promotion to Lieutenant for Jennifer Lemoine and the hiring of Eric Benjamin as the new patrolman. The Board members congratulated both Lt. Lemoine and Officer Benjamin. TM Frost also congratulated both, adding that Lt. Lemoine's promotion was well deserved and the Town was happy to have Officer Benjamin on board.

Chief Cyr then gave a brief update of the department's activities. He reported that violations for the past three years have remained about the same (around 78.) but misdemeanors have risen steadily during the same time frame. Felonies in total are down slightly, but burglaries are increasing. The department also saw an increase in drug-related incidents and credit card fraud.

Chief Cyr spoke about the Noise Ordinance and reported that there were 30 complaints from August 1st to today. Officers have issued 4 or 5 summonses for engine brake use.

The Shelburne contract is going well. There are fewer calls than originally expected. The first billing was at the end of June for approximately 47 hours of service and 250 miles

Selectman Robitaille asked about the possibility for acquiring some military surplus equipment. Chief Cyr reported that Sgt. Lamarre is the liaison for this type of acquisition. He will stay abreast of the opportunities. The Chief is also researching the moving of the repeater to another tower. A preferred NFPA insurance rating depends on communications running 24/7. The equipment inventory for the narrow-banding is done. There are a couple of contractors who can help the PD with this initiative.

3. New Business:

a) MS-1 Town Valuation – TM Frost reported that the 2011 valuation of the Town is lower than 2010 by about \$10M. It remains to be seen what the actual impact will be to the tax rate.

b) Property Appraisal Class – There is an assessing overview class on October 4th at 9 am at the Randolph Town Hall. TM Frost, Selectman Robitaille and FD Denise Vallee will be attending.

Selectman Graham reported that the Rail Rally held in Bethel ME on September 14th was a huge success. There were lots of contacts made and the organizers were very pleased to have a small, but very enthusiastic group from NH. Chuck Henderson from Sen. Jeanne Shaheen's office attended and his participation was much appreciated.

4. Old Business:

a) **Website** – TM Frost stated that training would be held tomorrow for those who will be updating the website. The site should be up and running by the middle of next week.

b) **TS Irene Update** – TM Frost and EMD Miller hosted a meeting of several local, State and Federal agencies at Town Hall. The meeting was facilitated by Jacquie Colburn the coordinator of the Lakes and Rivers Program of NH DES. The purpose of the meeting was to bring as many people together in the same room to discuss problems with the rivers in Gorham. Several residents whose properties abut the Peabody and Moose Rivers were also in attendance. It was a worthwhile meeting and good information was shared.

5. Public Comment: Ed Reichert was present to ask about the storm damage and what the update was. He was informed that the engineering was in process for the work at White Birch Lane and Libby Field. He thanked the Board and departed.

6. Other Business:

a) **Town Manager's Update:** TM Frost referenced a discussion during the last meeting of delinquent taxes. She met this date with Mr. Currier who has strong hopes of making payments on his delinquent taxes on a more regular basis. He is moving his operations back to Gorham.

There is a breakfast tomorrow morning at the Town & Country at 8:30 in recognition of the volunteers at the Gorham Information Booth. TM Frost will be attending. The Board members were regretful that they could not attend, but asked TM Frost to express their appreciation for all that they do for the businesses and citizens of Gorham.

TM Frost asked the Board to authorize her to sign the participation agreement with LGC for health insurance. The Board approved the resolution on a motion by Selectman Graham which was seconded by Selectman Robitaille.

TM Frost met with Dennis Arguin at his residence to view the storm damage. The site visit provided a better understanding of the problems at that location. A DES inspector still needs to view the damage as well.

b) Approval of Minutes (September 12, 2011): There was a discussion about the Wal-Mart settlement and how it was reported to the Board. Not one of the Board members remembers the \$20k payment due to Wal-Mart by December 31st being discussed at that time. This must have been an oversight in reporting by TM Frost, who then apologized to the Board and stated that this was always a provision in the draft settlement. The minutes were amended accordingly. **On a motion by Selectman Graham, seconded by Selectman Robitaille, the Board unanimously approved the amended minutes of the meeting of September 12, 2011.** TM Frost will amend the official minutes and place a copy in the Selectmen's mail folder for signing.

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 voted unanimously by roll call to move into Non-Public Session at 7:45 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 8:05 pm. Robitaille –aye, Graham – aye, Oliver – aye.

There was no action taken as a result of the non-public session.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Terry Oliver, Chairman

Paul Robitaille

David Graham