

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
TOWN OF GORHAM  
MONDAY, December 19, 2011, 6:30 pm  
TOWN HALL CONFERENCE ROOM

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

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

Steve Gauthier; Don Provencher; Norm Provencher; Lt. Jen Lemoine; Shawn Costine; Janet Corrigan; Nathan Corrigan; Phil Cloutier; Mike Scala from Sen. Ayotte's office; Bob Balon

**1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:35 by Chairman Oliver.

**2. Appointments:**

a) **Mike Scala – Sen. Kelly Ayotte's office** – Mr. Scala appeared before the Board to introduce himself and let the members know that he is available if there are any issues that crop up with which Sen. Ayotte may assist. He has an office in Berlin now and therefore is quite accessible to us. The Board thanked Mr. Scala for coming in and expressed their appreciation for Sen. Ayotte opening an office in the North Country.

b) **Chief Cyr – 2012 Budget Review** – Chief Cyr met with the Board to answer some questions that the Board had regarding his proposed budget. He explained the increase in July 4<sup>th</sup> coverage. Sgt. Lamarre, who is in charge of scheduling the coverage, felt strongly that there were safety concerns with the decrease in coverage over the years. In fact, it was revealed that the number of officers used went from 19 to 10 over the last several years. Though there were no calls out of the ordinary, there was a concern that the coverage was not sufficient for the number of people who are in Town during the celebration. Selectman Graham suggested that Berlin Police Chief Morency be asked to supply officers (at no cost to Gorham) Chief Cyr agreed to ask Chief Morency.

Regarding the number of officers that Gorham currently employs, Chief Cyr explained the makeup of the department. There is a Chief, one Lieutenant, one Sergeant, one Corporal and 3 patrolmen. Going through the positions in detail, Chief Cyr explained that Lt. Lemoine has to have the flexibility to prosecute cases as needed. She is also the DARE officer and in charge of case management. She, therefore, is not on the regular patrol schedule. Sgt. Lamarre is in the regular patrol rotation. He is also a detective and investigates a large number of cases. In addition, Sgt Lamarre is the firearms instructor. As such, he must coordinate all of the required instruction for each of the seven members of the department. Cpl. Willey is the patrol supervisor. He ensures that events such as school zone, church zone and special events are covered as well as mentoring the patrolmen and covering a regular patrol shift. The three patrolmen work the road and answer calls as they come in. Chief explained that if the department was reduced by one officer, the coverage would be lacking during key shifts. It would also make scheduling detective time nearly impossible.

In general, the department has seen an increase in violent crime. Assaults, theft and burglaries are all increasing and these take time to investigate, build the case, collect evidence, conduct interviews and prosecute.

Selectman Graham referred to the comments he has heard regarding State Police being available to cover Gorham. It is his understanding that often there is only one trooper on duty for the entire county. Chief Cyr affirmed that was true. Chairman Oliver asked about eliminating a shift and Chief Cyr stated that it would be the midnight shift that would be eliminated if necessary and then there would be no coverage since neither the State Police nor the Sheriff's Department are on duty 24/7. Selectman Graham stated that the Chief makes a very persuasive argument and this should be communicated to the citizens.

Selectman Robitaille asked if the Chief felt he had enough in the training line. Chief Cyr explained that the line with which Selectman Robitaille was concerned is travel cost, registrations, meals, lodging, if necessary and he feels there is enough in there for 2012.

Regarding the cruisers, there are currently four which are in use. 2008 Explorer with 45,458 miles, 2008 Crown Vic unmarked with 84,500 miles, 2009 Crown Vic with 82,474 miles and 2011 Crown Vic with 30275 miles. The rotation is usually that the unmarked cruiser goes to the Fire Department or EMS and the next oldest cruiser then becomes the unmarked car. This year, the department is asking for only half of the cost of a cruiser since the Town put away half last year.

**Since all the questions which the Board had were answered by Chief Cyr, Selectman Robitaille made a motion to approve the Police and Dispatch budgets as presented. This motion was seconded by Selectman Graham. Motion carried unanimously.**

**3. New Business:** - None at this time

**4. Old Business:**

a) **FEMA Update** – TM Frost reported that the work is progressing well. The Town receives copies of field reports each week which she will pass on to the Board.

b) **NRCS Project Report** – TM Frost reported that this project has begun and will probably have to be extended due to a delay in getting the materials needed as well as the holidays.

c) **Capital Reserve Funds** – The Board quickly reviewed the proposed appropriations to capital reserve funds. The Board made some adjustments and will gather more information. There was a discussion about the multi-modal route. The Board had indicated earlier this year that they wanted this project to be a priority, but they are rethinking that directive. Meanwhile, engineering is being done to determine the final cost of completion.

**5. Public Comment:** Norm Provencher spoke about the Recreation Department moving to the Town Hall. He said the Board should just do it. They should make it happen. He also wanted to know if the Highway department knew that Sanel Auto delivers parts so we don't have to drive there to pick them up. Mr. N. Provencher suggested that the crew at Public Works should go to shift work. In other words, they should plow in shifts so there would be no overtime. It was explained that it wouldn't work since they are all on separate routes. He also believes that the Public Works Director should not bring a pickup truck home each day. He suggested that we contract out the plowing.

**6. Other Business:**

**a) Town Manager's Update:** TM Frost told the Board that Union negotiation has begun. She reminded the Board that representatives from DRA will be here tomorrow to review assessing practices with us. The Board signed the Fire Warden re-appointment papers. There was one change order for the work on White Birch Lane. This was to add the road reconstruction.

The Board received a memo from the Theatre Committee asking them to approve the suggested name of Medallion Opera House at Gorham Town Hall for the auditorium. There was a short discussion, but ultimately **a motion was made by Selectman Graham and seconded by Selectman Robitaille to approve the Medallion Opera House at Gorham Town Hall as the name of the auditorium. Motion carried unanimously.**

**b) Selectmen's Reports:** Chairman Oliver talked about the suggested move of the Recreation Department to the Town Hall. He would like to see this accomplished as soon as possible. It was decided that measurements need to be done and potential placement of furniture needs to be sketched before any move can take place. This will determine if the move is even feasible. It was determined that this could be accomplished by January 30<sup>th</sup>.

**c) Approval of Minutes (December 5, 2011): On a motion by Selectman Graham, seconded by Chairman Oliver, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 5, 2011.**

**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 went into non-public session by roll call vote at 8:50 pm. Robitaille –aye, Graham – aye, Oliver - aye.**

**On a motion by Selectman Robitaille, seconded by Selectman Graham the Board returned to public session by roll call vote at 9:15 pm. Robitaille – aye, Graham – aye, Oliver - aye.**

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

**8. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

**REVIEWED AND APPROVED:**

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**Terry Oliver**

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**David Graham**

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**Paul Robitaille**