

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, March 14, 2011
GORHAM TOWN HALL

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

Also present: Robin L. Frost, Town Manager

Rep. Bill Hatch
Don Provencher
Terry Rhoderick

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM by Chairman Robitaille.

Board Reorganization: Selectman Robitaille nominated Selectman Oliver as Chairman for the ensuing year, seconded by Selectman Graham. Motion carried (2-0-1) Selectman Robitaille nominated Selectman Graham as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year, seconded by Chairman Oliver. Motion carried (2-0-1). It was decided that all committee assignments would remain the same.

2. Appointments:

There were none at this time however the Board was awaiting the arrival of Representative Hatch who was detained in Concord. They will interrupt the meeting to hear from him when he arrives.

3. New Business:

a) **PWD Position:** TM Frost announced that Steve Gauthier was hired for the open position at the Public Works Department. Selectman Graham asked about the process and was told that there were not as many applications as the last round and the committee interviewed five applicants.

b) **Emergency Management Director Position:** TM Frost asked the Board if they had any suggestions, comments or questions before the recommendation would be made at the next meeting. The Board felt that since there were qualified employees who were interested in this position, a decision should be made soon. This will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting on March 28th.

c) **Personnel Policy (Ethics, Conflict of Interest, Harassment, Smoking):** Copies of the personnel policy was distributed to the members. There were tabs placed at the location of each of the four categories about which Selectman Graham had inquired. TM Frost also stated that the personnel policy is being reviewed by her and Denise Vallee. She asked that the Board members, in the course of their review, please note any changes they might want to suggest.

4. Old Business:

a) **Multi-modal Route:** TM Frost stated that she has been in contact with VHB, the engineering firm for this project. They are still reviewing the files and will contact her to set up a meeting very soon. The Board reiterated that this is a project that they would like to see completed. TM Frost stated that once the review of the status is completed, we will know where we stand in terms of further cost of the project.

b) PW Garage/Office Space: TM Frost reported that there was water pouring in the offices at the Public Work Garage. This has to be a priority for the funds in the Town Building Repair/Maintenance CRF. The water along with the fumes from the garage area is making that an unsafe workspace. Selectman Robitaille had an idea after talking with a person recently. There may be a couple of cabins that become available. If they are suitable for use, the Town may be able to move them and upgrade them for office space. This is just an idea and no one knows the condition of the cabins. It is worth a look.

5. Public Comments: Don Provencher stated that he will attend the RR meeting in Bethel on March 16th. He wanted to commend both the Family Resource Center and the Public Works Garage for placing signage about falling ice around their buildings. He does not feel that there should be a promotion in the Police Department. Additionally, he is upset that though the Budget did not recommend certain warrant articles, the voters approved them anyway. He believes that the Selectmen should start thinking about increasing the Board to five members. He also hopes that the Town gets its \$5000 from the economic development position at Tri-County CAP. His last concern is how much AutoNorth gave the Town for the truck that was traded in this past year. This information was not readily available, but will be made available to him.

Representative Hatch spoke about HB2 which is the State Budget proposal. He is very concerned about the proposed cuts and how they will affect the Town of Gorham (and all other towns as well.) It is proposed to cut low-income elderly services as well as services such as Alzheimer's day programs. Rep. Hatch is specifically concerned about the elderly, Medicaid reimbursements, revenue sharing and meals and rooms distributions.. He has suggested that we make phone calls to the members of the Finance Committee and express our concerns as well.

Terry Rhoderick wondered if money going into the Town garage would be spent on the diesel fumes or water infiltration. It was explained that money would be spent on both of those issues. He also asked if there was any room in the Town Hall for the Rec Department. It was explained that there is no extra room for the Rec Department at this time. TM Frost also explained that there are options such as the 2nd floor of the library that are still alive. There would be much work to be done first.

6. Other Business:

a) Town Manager's Update: TM Frost mentioned that there were copies of the FRC documents in the Board members' packets tonight. They are provided so the members can review the original agreements before discussing options with the FRC. There are also several appointments to committees which must be made. TM Frost will bring more information to the Board at the next meeting.

North Country Council had solicited comments about the Transportation 10 Year Plan. The Town of Conway sent a letter to them (and copied us) stating that though they have several reservations about including the southern leg of the bypass in the plan, they would wait for the next study to be completed, presumably this year, before having any official comment.

Selectman Graham asked TM Frost to make sure the insurance policy for the shooting range was in place. TM Frost will check on that and bring the information back. He also asked for the EMS Director to come to a meeting soon to discuss the billing and collections.

In addition, Selectman Graham wondered about payment plans that may have been set up with the Tax Collector for delinquent taxes. TM Frost will also get this information for the Board.

Selectmen Graham wanted to make sure that we get Max Makaitis working on Economic Development issues within the Town. TM Frost agrees that this is a priority now that the warrant article has passed.

On Saturday Selectman Graham went to the County Budget meeting where the delegation discussed and voted on the budget,. It would be his suggestion in the future that budget hearings be held in other locations in the county besides just West Stewartstown.

b) Approval of Minutes (February 14, 2011 and February 28, 2011): On a motion by Selectman Graham, seconded by Selectman Robitaille, the Board unanimously approved both sets of minutes for the meetings of February 14, 2011.

On a motion by Selectman Robitaille, seconded by Selectman Oliver, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the meeting of February 28, 2011.

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

d) Sign Abatements (if necessary): There were no abatements to be signed.

Mr. Provencher stated that, if the Board so desires, he would contact the FRA about the train noise. He would be willing to set up a meeting with them so they can explain “quiet zones” and the ramifications and possible costs associated with establishing such a zone. The Board agreed that it would be a good idea to have this information. Mr. Provencher will let the Board know when he has made contact with them.

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

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Paul Robitaille, Chairman

Terry Oliver

David Graham