

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, March 28, 2011
GORHAM TOWN HALL

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

Also present: Robin L. Frost, Town Manager

Don Provencher, Ron Dugas, Ron Donato, Robert Balon, Judge James Michalik, Craig Lyons, *Berlin Daily Sun*

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

2. Appointments:

a) **Judge James Michalik & Kathy McKenna – Community Channel:** Judge Michalik was present to discuss the possibility of establishing a PEG station. He explained that there is a desire to provide informational and educational programming to the area as well as allow groups to produce appropriate programming for the public to view on the channel. TM Frost provided the Board with a draft resolution which would give support and encouragement to the Androscoggin Valley Public Access Committee. It would allow the committee to negotiate the terms of the use of the channel and potential equipment donations, etc. with Time Warner Cable. The Board will review the resolution and it will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

3. New Business:

a) **Town Website:** Selectman Graham mentioned that he would like to see more information on the website. He believes that people would like to find more information about the Town and its boards and committees. TM Frost agrees and spoke about perhaps bringing the website in-house. There are companies, such as Virtual Town Hall, who host websites that are very user friendly in terms of maintenance. Said maintenance would be done by Town employees without taking too much time. TM Frost suggested that the Board members look at a couple of municipal websites developed using Virtual Town Hall; Berlin, Wolfeboro and Moultonborough to name a few.

b) **Winter Festival:** Selectman Graham spoke at a previous meeting about the Town hosting a Winter Festival, either around Christmas or in January. He believes this would be a good way to bring people to Town and would also be a great event for the residents/families of Gorham. He would like to see this possibility explored soon and if there is interest, a committee set up to begin work on planning the event.

4. Old Business:

a) **Noise Ordinance Review:** TM Frost distributed a memo from Chief Cyr regarding the proposed noise ordinance. The Chief suggested removing a couple of the items which are already covered under State law or Town Code. The memo also detailed the last three years of noise-related complaints. This is very good information. Ron Dugas mentioned idling trucks. He had a concern that there is something that prohibits idling trucks on lower Main Street, but not the upper village. TM Frost

will look into that issue. Ron Donato was concerned about removing sections of the proposed ordinance. TM Frost stated that this was not something the Board had yet decided to do. She went on to explain that some of the concerns were that when officers responded to noise complaints they allegedly told complainants that since Gorham did not have a noise ordinance, nothing could be done. TM Frost will also look into these concerns. This information will be brought back to the Board at the next meeting.

b) Multi-modal Route Update: TM Frost reported that she met with Greg Bakos at VHB and reviewed the project with him. He will be working up a cost estimate for the remaining engineering for completing the route. The engineering will include a cost estimate for the construction of the remaining portion of the route. We will then know what funds we will need to finish this project. There is approximately \$65,000 in the CRF for this purpose. .

c) Shelburne MOA – Police Services: TM Frost informed the Board that the Board of Selectmen in Shelburne had approved and signed the MOA for police services and hoped that the Gorham Board would do the same. Shelburne would like to have the services start April 1st. **On a motion by Selectman Graham, seconded by Selectman Robitaille, the Board voted unanimously to approve and sign the Memorandum of Agreement with Shelburne for police services.** Two copies of the document were signed. One will be returned to Shelburne.

d) Emergency Management Director Position: There was a memo from TM Frost in each Board member’s meeting packet that recommended appointing Chad Miller as the EMD for Gorham. The Board agreed. **On a motion by Selectman Robitaille, seconded by Selectman Graham, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Chad Miller as Emergency Management Director.**

5. Public Comments: Robert Balon asked why the Board was focusing on spending money on the multi-modal route when there were many roads in bad shape. He felt that the route was not passable most of the year and therefore was not a true emergency bypass. TM Frost will look into the condition of the portion of the route that has already been built to see if there is any maintenance that needs to be done.

Mr. Balon also mentioned that he had heard the balcony railing was not code compliant. He was informed that it is code-compliant.

With regard to the noise ordinance, Mr. Balon wondered if the Board had considered enacting just the parts of the ordinance on which the Board has no concerns and waiting to enact other parts until after research is completed. The Board said they will take their time to do this right and will research issues as necessary.

Don Provencher gave a railroad update. He attended the Bethel meetings and made sure that those involved are aware that Gorham has an interest in having the railroad come through. He also mentioned there is a Rail Rally on September 14th with which he hopes Gorham can be involved. Selectman Graham thanked Mr. Provencher for attending these meetings and bringing the information back to the TM and the Board.

6. Other Business:

a) Town Manager’s Update: TM Frost asked the Board to revisit the mileage rate for reimbursement since there was not a full Board the last time it was discussed. Gorham reimburses at .50 and the IRS changed their rate to .51 for 2011. The Board agreed by consensus to leave this at .50 per mile.

TM Frost spoke with Sue Enman about being the Gorham representative to the Androscoggin Valley Chamber of Commerce. She is considering this appointment.

Don Provencher has given TM Frost the contact information for FRA representative Dick Towle. He would be willing to set up a mutually agreeable time to come and explain quiet zones with the Board.

TM Frost distributed the proposed forms and other documents developed by the Gorham Auditorium Committee for the Board's review. There is also a proposed logo contest that may be open to students at the Ed Fenn, Gorham M/H School and WMCC. Selectman Graham asked for a list of committee members. TM Frost reported that the open house for the auditorium is scheduled for May 7th from 1 to 4 pm. There will be performances and speakers scattered throughout that time period.

The Board signed the remaining copy of the 2011 EMS Agreement with Coos County. The Board approved and signed appointment forms for the Budget Committee and ZBA.

TM Frost reported that Auto Road is requesting permission to put lamp pole banners celebrating their 150th anniversary in Gorham. The Board was agreeable to that and also wondered if the Auto Road might want to participate in the July 4th festivities. TM Frost will make contact and convey the information and invitation.

TM Frost informed the Board that unless there was any objection, she would be taking the week of April 18th off for vacation time. There were no objections.

Selectman Graham mentioned that there is an AVRRDD meeting Thursday night. He will contact Yves Zornio to see if he is available for that meeting. He also reiterated that he would like to have a list of all tax agreements that are currently in effect for a future meeting and also to have EMS Director Chad Miller come in to discuss the billing for ambulance calls.

Selectman Robitaille mentioned having department heads come in to talk about their activities on a rotating basis.

Don Provencher said that May 9th is National Train Day and he would like to have the Town recognize that in some way. Selectman Graham said perhaps we could get materials to hand out at the schools and he would take the lead on this.

b) Approval of Minutes (March 14, 2011): On a motion by Selectman Graham, seconded by Selectman Robitaille, the Board unanimously approved the minutes for the meeting of March 14, 2011.

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

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

7. Non-Public Session: RSA 91-A:3, II (a & c): On a motion by Selectman Robitaille, seconded by Selectman Graham the Board voted by roll call to go into non-public session at 8pm. Graham – Aye, Robitaille – Aye, Oliver – Aye.

On a motion by Selectman Robitaille, seconded by Selectman Graham the Board voted by roll call to come out of non-public session at 8:25 pm. Graham – Aye, Robitaille – Aye, Oliver – Aye.

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

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Terry Oliver, Chairman

Paul Robitaille

David Graham