

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, April 11, 2011
GORHAM TOWN HALL

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

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

Don Provencher, Robert Balon, Maurice Tanguay, Craig Lyons, *Berlin Daily Sun*

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

2. Appointments:

a) **Jack Piattoni – Police Presence:** Mr. Piattoni was not yet present, but Chief Cyr was present to discuss the motor vehicle activity of the Gorham Police Department. He distributed a report of the 2011 first quarter activity. Out of 845 enforcement actions, 626 were verbal warnings; further breaking the stops down results in approximately 3 vehicle stops per shift. Mr. Piattoni joined the meeting and expressed his concerns that there is a perception of a negative police presence. He says people have told him they do not want to come to Gorham and he is concerned for the business community. Chairman Oliver stated that he believes this may have been true four or five years ago, but not now. He is not hearing the kind of complaints about which Mr. Piattoni is reporting. Chairman Oliver offered his phone number to anyone who wanted to call and expressed their concerns. Selectman Robitaille asked how many complaints Mr. Piattoni is hearing and where do these people live. Mr. Piattoni stated that just about everyone he comes in contact with mentions it to him and they are both from Gorham and the surrounding towns. Chief Cyr stated that it is not PD policy to hang around places just to try and find someone doing something wrong. Selectman Robitaille commended Mr. Piattoni for opening a reputable establishment in Town.

Chief Cyr said that he received a concern about the upper junction being like “the wild west” and not having enough police presence; now he is getting just the opposite complaint here. Mr. Piattoni asked where most of the people stopped are from. Chief Cyr stated that he would provide that information to him once it is compiled. Selectman Graham thanked Mr. Piattoni for coming in with his concerns. Mr. Piattoni would appreciate a proactive approach by the Board. He believes the Board should get the word out that they are (for lack of a better term) “fan-friendly.”

b) **Chief Cyr – Various Police Matters:** Chief Cyr stated that he was asked to discuss the insurance and hours for the shooting range. He has been in contact with outdoorsinsurance.com and is waiting for a response. He is looking at \$500,000 coverage and the Town of Gorham is co-insured. Selectman Graham thought that Chief Cyr should look into the cost for \$1,000,000 coverage. Chief Cyr also reported that the hours for the range will be minimal. Currently there are trainings scheduled for May 27th and July 29th both beginning at 8 or 9 am and September 9th will be low light training beginning at 6 pm. There will be various other times when officers will be at the range for qualification purposes. He assured the Board that no one will use the range until the insurance is in place. Selectman Robitaille told Chief Cyr that the action taken recently in the area of the upper junction of Routes 16 and 2 seems to have been beneficial. He is seeing an improvement.

Maurice Tanguay asked if he could ask a question of the Police Chief. He wondered if there was already a dog ordinance in place. The Chief stated that there was. In fact, the Town of Gorham adopted as Town Code the state statute which deals with noisy dogs. Chief Cyr stated that if a dog is barking continually for 30 minutes, the police can address the issue with the owner. Mr. Tanguay said that he has called in the past and nothing has happened. He wanted to know what he should do. Chief Cyr indicated that he should call the PD when he has a concern and an officer will respond.

Selectman Robitaille mentioned that he was approached by a citizen from Cascade Hill. They wanted to make sure that the mischief and vandalism they encountered last year would not start up again. The PD took care of the issue during last summer and they hoped that would continue. Chief Cyr explained the patrols that are scheduled in that area. They are at set times and last at least 30 minutes per patrol. Selectman Graham stated that he sees a substantial police presence in that area.

3. New Business:

a) Garbage Truck: The old garbage truck was put out for bids and three were received. They were: Town and Country \$3750, P&S Trucks and parts \$3500 and Serge Leveille \$3700. **On a motion by Selectman Robitaille, seconded by Selectman Graham, the bid was awarded to Town & Country Motor Inn.** TM Frost will see that the T&C is notified.

b) Fire Truck: The old Engine 4 was put out to bid and there were three identical bids submitted. They were all \$1500. The Selectmen suggested asking the three bidders to give another bid. TM Frost will address the issue.

Selectman Graham wanted to bring to the attention of the other board members that the NECAP testing results came in and Gorham's schools were very successful. The Board decided to send a congratulatory letter to the School Board and SAU.

4. Old Business:

a) Noise Ordinance – Date for Work Session: The Board needs to dedicate a work session to the proposed noise ordinance. It was decided to hold that session Monday, May 2nd at 6 pm and ask Chief Cyr to be present as well.

b) Personnel Policy: TM Frost wanted to make sure that the board was aware that the Personnel Policy was in the process of being updated. If the Board had anything that wanted to have addressed, they should make TM Frost aware so that could be done at the same time. Selectman Graham mentioned that he would just like to make sure the employees are given a copy of the code of ethics, conflict of interest, harassment and smoking policies to review and sign off on each year.

5. Public Comments: Mr. Tanguay reported to the Board that Bryce Corrigan placed 1st in the NH student welding competition. The Board will send a congratulatory note to Mr. Corrigan.

Don Provencher stated that it is good to hear from businessmen like Mr. Piattoni. He also mentioned an unsolved case from 1978 where a woman went missing and has never been found. He talked a bit about community policing being a good thing.

Mr. Provencher represented Gorham at a railplan meeting in Littleton on April 6th. The plan has not been updated since 2001. He suggested that we call Kit Morgan to see what involvement we could have in the update.

Selectman Robitaille reported that there is a “listening session” on Monday April 18th in Room 143 at WMCC beginning at 1 pm. The topic is elderly and adult services.

6. Other Business:

a) Town Manager’s Update:

TM Frost asked the Board if they had reviewed the documents for the use of the auditorium. The documents were reviewed by the members. Selectman Graham wondered if the fee schedule for no-profits was sufficient. It was explained that short of reviewing everyone’s financial statements, this was the fairest way to proceed. **On a motion by Paul Robitaille, seconded by Selectman Graham, the Board unanimously voted to approved the auditorium documents (fee schedule, application, rules and regulations, etc.)**

TM Frost asked the Board if they had reviewed the Resolution for the public access channel. They had reviewed the document and there were no further questions. **On a motion by Selectman Graham, seconded by Selectman Robitaille, the Board unanimously voted to approve and sign the Resolution for the Public Access Channel.**

TM Frost brought the attention of the Board to the road release document in their information packets. This release is for issuing building permits on private roads. **On a motion by Selectman Robitaille, seconded by Selectman Graham, the Board unanimously approved the road release document.**

The Board had an appointment of the Conservation Commission before them. **On a motion by Selectman Robitaille, seconded by Selectman Graham, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Gail Wigler to the Conservation Commission.**

The bids for the energy audit of the Public Works Building were read into record. They are as follows: Arbogast \$3065, TCorp \$3500, Strategic Energy \$7800, Sustainable Energy \$4500, Eric Ryan Associates \$4140, GDS Associates \$9972, CES \$5000, Energia \$9400. TM Frost suggested that the Board give her time to review the submissions in more depth. The Board agreed to revisit the bids on April 25th.

b) Approval of Minutes (March 28, 2011): On a motion by Selectman Graham, seconded by Selectman Robitaille, the Board unanimously approved the minutes for the meeting of March 28, 2011.

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

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

Selectman Graham mentioned that there is an AVRRDD meeting Wednesday night regarding the pipeline. He is attending even though Yves Zornio is attending as the primary Gorham representative.

Selectman Graham was disappointed to see that the rail study from Maine DOT concluded that there would be a train stop in Berlin, but there isn’t one proposed for Gorham. He is suggesting sending a letter to Maine DOT expressing our strong desire to have a stop in Gorham. **On a motion by Selectman**

Graham, seconded by Selectman Robitaille, the Board voted unanimously to send a letter to Maine DOT objecting to the study due to no planned stop in Gorham.

Selectman Graham talked about the proposed Winterfest celebration. He wondered if the 4th of July Committee might be willing to take this on. TM Frost stated that there is another 4 of July Committee meeting on April 20th. Perhaps it could be mentioned at that time.

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 8:25 pm. 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 8:58 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 9:00 pm.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Terry Oliver, Chairman

Paul Robitaille

David Graham