

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
TOWN OF GORHAM  
MONDAY, June 28, 2010  
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM, SECOND FLOOR

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

Also present: Robin L. Frost, Town Manager

Rep. Bill Hatch  
Craig Lyons, *Berlin Daily Sun*  
Norm Provencher

**1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Robitaille.

**2. Non-Public Session:** RSA 91-A:3,II b,c

**3. Public Session Agenda:** 6:40 PM The Chairman announced that there were no decisions made in non-public session.

**Sign Manifest:** The manifest was signed.

**Sign Abatements:** There were no abatements for the Board to sign.

**Rep. Bill Hatch:** Representative Hatch was present to talk about the legislature and State budget changes. He cautioned that though the past budget deliberations were difficult, he feels the next biennial budget will be even more difficult to develop. Rep. Hatch also spoke of the Coos County performance audit which was done by Melanson, Heath & Company. He mentioned that they hoped to determine the best way to continue county operations keeping the needs of the county residents satisfied, but balancing the costs as well. He left a copy of the final report for us to review.

Chairman Robitaille expressed some concerns that he hoped Rep. Hatch could possibly assist the Town with. The watershed in the Town Forest is currently being assessed at ad valorem and it would be beneficial to the Town of Gorham if this could be assessed as current use. In addition, it is currently a practice that when someone brings a lawsuit against the Town or even a Town Official, if they represent themselves, the Town cannot recoup attorney's fees when the Town prevails. Of course, of great concern is the loss of revenue sharing and Chairman Robitaille wondered if there was any way to predict how this will continue to affect the Town.

Rep. Hatch stated that he feels there will have to be some other means for the State to generate revenue. In order to balance this budget, they were able to restructure bonds and other debt. This worked in the State's favor, but he believes that the State will have to start disposing of some assets to balance future budgets. There is a study committee working on this option.

**Request for Waiver of Interest and Penalties:** The Board received a letter from Clermont Drouin who is requesting a waiver of the interest and penalties on the back taxes of a property that he recently purchased. The Board felt that this was not a situation that justifies a waiver. **On a motion by Selectman Graham, seconded by Selectman Oliver, the Board unanimously voted to deny the request for a waiver of interest and penalties on 19 & 21 Libby Street.** TM Frost will send Mr. Drouin a letter informing him of the Board's decision.

**Discussion of Possible Revenue Sources:** Selectman Graham has done considerable research on Time Warner Cable operations in other communities. He distributed some of the information that he has gathered. He reported that in one community's contract, they were able to secure \$10,000 up front for equipment purchases, etc. This was in addition to franchise fees. Selectman Graham also suggested that we keep a closer eye on ambulance revenues to make sure that we are billing and collecting them appropriately and aggressively. TM Frost indicated that when Director Eichler returns from vacation, she will discuss this issue with her.

**4. Other Business:**

**Approve Minutes of 6/21/2010:** On a motion by Selectman Oliver, seconded by Selectman Graham, the Board unanimously approved the minutes as prepared. The Board signed the minutes.

**5. Public Comment:** Norm Provencher talked about the cost of purchasing fast food and other items in New Hampshire. Even though Maine has a sales tax, purchasing goods in Maine is usually less expensive. There was a brief discussion about broad-based taxes.

**6. Date for Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on **Monday, July 12, 2010 at the Cascade Fire Station.**

**7. Non-Public Session:** No need for an additional non-public session.

**8. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

**REVIEWED AND APPROVED:**

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**Paul Robitaille, Chairman**

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**Terry Oliver**

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**David Graham**