

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, August 9, 2010
CASCADE FIRE STATION

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

Also present: Robin L. Frost, Town Manager

Craig Lyons, *Berlin Daily Sun*
Jay Poulin, Ed Bergeron *HEB Engineers*
Mike King, Executive Director, *North Country Council*

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM by Chairman Robitaille.

2. Non-Public Session: RSA 91-A:3,II a

3. Public Session Agenda: 6:30 PM The Chairman announced that there were no decisions made in non-public session.

Sign Manifest: The manifest was signed.

Sign Abatements: There was a question about the KGI information that was presented to the Board by Diane Labbe for their signature. TM Frost will obtain further information.

Approve Minutes of 6/28/2010: On a motion by Selectman Oliver, seconded by Selectman Graham, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the non-public session of July 12, 2010 as prepared. On a motion by Selectman Graham, seconded by Selectman Oliver, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of July 12, 2010. The Board signed both sets of minutes.

EMS Update: Acting Ambulance Director Karen Eichler was in at the Board's request to talk about the Director search and billing/collection issues. Director Eichler explained that we will be interviewing nine candidates on Monday, August 16th. Selectman Graham asked about collections and Director Eichler explained that the overdue bills are sent to an agency in MA for collections. We pay the agency 10% of whatever they collect. It was discovered that we cannot bill patient's car insurance directly for ambulance services related to a car accident. Director Eichler stated that we do not expect people with limited means to pay this bill in lieu of essential living expenses. There is a mechanism for writing off some of the debt.

HEB Engineers: Jay Poulin and Ed Bergeron were on hand to talk about their evaluation of Stony Brook Road along with the costs to repair/upgrade. Their findings were mixed in that some of the road only needs a wear course of asphalt while other parts of the road need rebuilding. They also reviewed the road standards for the Town and made suggestions on amendments that would make the standards more consistent with the State standards. This would also make the Gorham standards more specific and less subject to interpretation. Funding sources for road construction were discussed with betterment assessments being the most feasible source at this point.

Mike King – North Country Council: Mike King from North Country Council distributed some marketing material about the organization and what services they can provide to municipalities in

their region. After an overview of such services, Mr. King specifically spoke about upcoming meetings. He encouraged all interest parties and Town Officials to attend these meetings. There was a discussion about the Conway Bypass and its importance to the North Country. The members of the Board all agree that building the bypass is a necessity for the growth of the North Country's communities. There will be further discussion of this at a meeting at NCC on Wednesday, August 11th. Mr. King has asked the Town for a letter requesting that NCC support building the bypass. Mr. King also asked for a letter of support from the Board for a grant opportunity to support sustainable communities. Both of these letters will be drawn up for the Board members to sign.

Police Update: TM Frost explained that the officer who was at the academy has graduated and is in service now. The hiring process for the open position is underway and should be completed any day now.

Time Warner Revenues/Contract: Selectman Graham would like to see the trend of the revenues from TWC. He expects that the revenues have increased along with the increases in costs of services to the subscriber. He remains concerned about the lack of a contract since 2002.

Student Intern Recruitment: Selectman Graham suggested that the Town look for a student intern from PSU or another institution to help with research projects and such. All agreed that this would be worth pursuing. TM Frost will look into the possibilities.

Discussion of Possible Revenue Sources: Selectmen Graham spoke of Town-owned properties and TM Frost stated that she had not yet pulled a list of those properties, but would do so before the next meeting.

4. Other Business:

Selectman Oliver mentioned that a sign is missing at one of the entrances to Cascade. TM Frost will look into the issue and report back. It was noted that signage was discussed at the last meeting in Cascade and TM Frost had discussed with the PD and Highway Department. Chairman Robitaille mentioned that it would be helpful if we could convince NHDOT to allow a handicap parking spot in Main Street in the area of the Information Booth and also in the area of the Congregational Church. TM Frost will contact the District to see what their thoughts are on this request. Regarding the BTLA case of Guay, the taxpayers did not go to the hearing, therefore they defaulted to the Town.

5. Public Comment: Craig Lyons asked about grant funding to be resubmitted for just Berlin/Gorham and it was explained that this was indeed the case and the project was scaled down from the original application.

Chairman Robitaille reported that he has a copy of NHDOT's 10-year plan and will leave it in the Selectmen's folder. He also mentioned that there is a presentation on wind power at NCC on August 25th.

6. Date for Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on **Monday, August 23, 2010 at the Town Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room.**

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

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 pm.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Paul Robitaille, Chairman

Terry Oliver

David Graham