

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, September 27, 2010
GORHAM TOWN HALL

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

Also present: Robin L. Frost, Town Manager; Jeff Stewart, Parks and Recreation Director

Gail Scott, *Berlin Daily Sun*

Norm Provencher, Clermont Drouin, Dorothy Solomon

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

2. Appointments:

a) Dorothy Solomon – State Senate Candidate: Ms. Solomon was in to introduce herself to the Board and explain why she is running for State Senator in District 1. She believes the North Country needs a voice in Concord and she doesn't feel the incumbent senator provides that. She opposes gambling since she strongly believes it would compromise the way of life. The North Country should be promoting tourism for families. Chairman Robitaille stated that he would like to see a couple of issues addressed; railroad service, expansion of Route 2, and the rebuilding of Coos Loop. Selectman Oliver felt that the senator needs to be visible, stopping by Town meetings and Town events. Selectman Graham asked about the local meals and rooms tax, to which Ms. Solomon replied that she was not in favor of that since it really does not benefit all communities. Ms. Solomon concluded by stating that she felt a large pellet producing plant would do well in the North Country.

b) Department Head Update – Jeff Stewart, Parks and Rec Director: Mr. Stewart was at the meeting at the request of the Board. They would like to hear an update of his department's activities over the past several months. Mr. Stewart supplied the Board with a chronological report of all of the department's accomplishments over the past year. The list was long and Mr. Stewart is trying new programs and activities all the time. Mr. Stewart mentioned that he would be attempting to raise money to build a gazebo and fix the fountain on the common. The Sons of the American Legion were also interested in helping with this project. The Board thanked Mr. Stewart for his comprehensive report. All agree that he is doing a great job.

c) Clermont Drouin – Request for Waiver of Interest: Mr. Drouin was in to ask the Board to reconsider their previous decision to deny a waiver of the interest on the properties he recently purchased on Libby Street. Selectman Oliver stated that he would be willing to reconsider the decision. **On a motion by Selectman Oliver, seconded by Selectman Graham, the Board voted 2-1 (Robitaille) to reconsider the decision of June 28, 2010 to deny a waiver of interest and fees on the properties at 19 & 21 Libby Street.** The discussion was opened by Selectman Oliver stating that Mr. Drouin is doing a good job on those properties; they look very nice. He continued by saying that he knows Mr. Drouin will keep those properties in good condition. Selectman Oliver was concerned that we have to lower assessments in BTLA cases for larger businesses and it irks him. Here is a person who does good things in the community and he feels we should help him. Selectman Graham stated that he knows we have denied others' similar requests and we are trying to keep a uniform policy. TM Frost stated that Board

should be careful of this slippery slope as others may have similar concerns and requests. Selectman Oliver suggested a waiver of just 2009 and 2010 interest. **Selectman Graham made a motion to stay with the original decision to deny the waiver of interest charges on both properties; Chairman Robitaille seconded. The vote was 2-1 (Oliver.)**

3. New Business: It was decided to review New Business after Other Business.

4. Old Business:

a) Noise Ordinance Support: TM Frost asked the Board if, in theory, they would support a reasonable noise ordinance. They agreed that they were in favor of looking at the wording of an ordinance which addresses all of the noise issues, not just engine brakes. TM Frost will draft the ordinance for their review prior to the end of this year.

b) Discussion of Possible Revenue Sources: TM Frost stated that she is trying to make contact with Mike Edgecomb from Time Warner Cable. Selectman Graham suggested looking into fees for certain items taken to the recycling center.

c) Student Intern Update: TM Frost stated that contact has been attempted with WMCC for a student intern. We will probably have to wait until the next semester, but there is plenty for an intern to work on.

5. Public Comment: Norm Provencher wondered why we contract out our paving when we have guys who could supervise this type of project using State equipment. TM Frost explained that the State doesn't have any equipment to lend out since they contract out their paving projects.

Mr. Provencher also believes that there is a problem with the way his driveway was matched into the paving on Willis Place. TM Frost will look into this with PW Director Holmes.

6. Other Business:

a) Town Manager's Update: The Budget Committee met and set their calendar for the 2011 Budget review in January. They also elected a Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Walt Winturri and Steve Roy, respectively.

TM Frost reminded the Board that the Conway Bypass Roundtable Discussion is on Thursday, September 30 at 5 pm at the Albany Town Hall. Both Chairman Robitaille and Selectman Graham will attend along with TM Frost.

TM Frost will be attending a meeting at DRA tomorrow morning with Director of Assessing Diane Labbe and Assessor Skip Sansoucy. We will be reviewing the letters from DRA outlining deficiencies in the USPAP report and 2009 Assessment Review.

TM Frost reported that the office had received a 91-A request from Robert Balon for "The records that show that the Town of Gorham was making \$3000 dollars a year by letting select individuals (some from another town etc) receive winter sand/salt mix for over 20 years." A return letter was sent requesting clarification since it was never stated that the Town made any money.

b) Approval of Minutes (September 13, 2010): On a motion by Selectman Oliver, seconded by Selectman Graham, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the meeting of September 13, 2010 as prepared.

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

d) **Sign Abatements:** There were no abatements to sign.

3. New Business: Selectman Graham mentioned a meeting that took place in Bethel, ME regarding rail service. It is his understanding that there will be another community meeting and he will follow up to see when it is so he may attend. He has heard that both Councilor Burton and Congressman Hodes are in favor of pursuing this opportunity. Selectman Graham wondered if we should be recognizing volunteers more formally. After hearing about all the volunteers and donations which are a large part of the Parks and Rec Department, he feels we should do something as a Town. Chairman Robitaille stated that the Town previously recognized a Volunteer of the Year and that had stopped a while ago. He agreed that we should revive the practice. He also mentioned that he attended a nice luncheon for the Information Booth volunteers on Sunday.

Selectman Graham wondered if the Gorham Police Association has bylaws and had procured insurance for the shooting range. He is concerned that the Town may be liable for any accidents, etc. Both Chairman Robitaille and Selectman Oliver stated that the GPA is its own entity with bylaws that govern.

7. Set Date for Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 12, 2010, since Monday, October 11th is a holiday.

8. Non-Public Session (RSA 91-A:3,II (a), (c): On a motion by Selectman Oliver, seconded by Selectman Graham, the Board voted to go into non-public session at 8:20 pm. Robitaille – Aye, Oliver – Aye, Graham – Aye.

On a motion by Selectman Graham, seconded by Selectman Oliver, the Board voted to close the non-public session at 8:48 pm and return to the regular meeting. Robitaille – Aye, Oliver – Aye, Graham – Aye.

No decisions were made in the non-public session.

9. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Paul Robitaille, Chairman

Terry Oliver

David Graham