

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, November 8, 2010
GORHAM TOWN HALL

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

Also present: Robin L. Frost, Town Manager; Denise Vallee, Director of Finance

Craig Lyons, *Berlin Daily Sun*
Norm Provencher

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:15 PM by Chairman Robitaille.

3. Appointments:

a) **Budget Review (Ambulance, Fire, Police):** EMS Director Karen Eichler and Operations Manager Shawn Costine were present for the Ambulance budget. Director Eichler went through the lines of that budget and the Board had no questions for her. She explained the drop in revenues as a reduction in the number of transfers that the department was able to perform. This is expected to increase again when we have a paramedic on staff.

2. Non-public Session RSA 91-1:3, II (a): The Board by unanimous roll call on a motion by Selectman Oliver, seconded by Selectman Graham, to move into non-public session at 6:25 pm. Oliver - Aye; Graham - Aye; Robitaille - Aye

The Board voted by unanimous roll call vote to come out of non-public session at 6:53 pm. Oliver - Aye; Graham - Aye; Robitaille - Aye

No decisions made in non-public session.

3a. Budget Review (cont'd): The Board went back to Budget Review. Chief Rick Eichler was in to discuss the Fire Department budget. He reviewed each line with the Board and shared that there are about 40 people on the roster at this time. Following the operating budget, Chief Eichler mentioned a few future capital projects. The building needs a new electrical panel board, the pellet bin will need to have a pneumatic fill installed and it has been strongly suggested that door openers be installed on the overhead doors at the Cascade Station as well as the back door at the Central Station. As far as future equipment needs, he should to purchase seven sets of turnout gear in 2011, eight in 2012 and also some 4" hose. He did not purchase new pagers this year since he located six older pagers and was able to have them rebuilt. The Fire Truck CRF should be funded in the following manner: \$20,000 in 2011 then up to \$40,000 for future years. The next vehicle to be replaced is Engine 2, which resides in Cascade.

4. New Business:

a) **Appointment of Trustee of the Trust Funds:** On a motion by Selectman Graham, seconded by Selectman Oliver, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Jane Legere to fill the vacancy as a Trustee of the Trust Funds. The Board signed the appointment form.

b) Fire Equipment CRF Expenditure Request: Chief Eichler submitted a request to purchase 60 pairs of gloves, four water rescue helmets, and one SCBA Backpack for a cost of just under \$3000. The Board approved and signed this request.

c) Meeting Schedule: TM Frost stated that the schedule for budget review with the Board is for next Monday, November 15th and the following Monday, November 22nd. There will also be a regular business meeting on Monday, November 22nd.

5. Old Business:

a) Mill Update: TM Frost attended a luncheon today where she met the proposed owners of the mill. It was explained at the luncheon by Frank del Greco, one of the partners, that the mill would continue to run and they would focus on specialty papers. Though the other partner has been involved in mill dismantling, it is not at all their intent to close the mill and dismantle it. They have been trying to purchase other mills to run over the past couple of years. Mr. del Greco stated to TM Frost that he would be back in the area next week and would call to make an appointment to meet with the Board members and other Town Officials. Selectman Graham asked about the pipeline from AVR RD. It was explained that this project was ongoing and will continue to move towards completion. It is key to the mill's success.

TM Frost explained that there is light at the end of the tunnel for the email problems we have been experiencing. We will be switching to Time/Warner for our internet, email and web hosting services, perhaps as soon as this Friday.

Chairman Robitaille asked if the resolution regarding the Conway bypass had been drafted as yet. TM Frost will call Berlin City Manager Pat MacQueen tomorrow to inquire as to the status.

b) Noise Ordinance: TM Frost distributed the first draft of a noise ordinance to the Board. She suggested they take some time to review and bring their comments and questions to the next meeting.

Selectman Graham had a couple of items to discuss under old business. First, he wanted to see which of the items discussed at the meeting held in June in Cascade still needed to be addressed. The trucking signs are in place, as are the handicapped child signs. The issue with the trucks parked in Munce's propane tank storage facility still needs to be addressed. TM Frost will follow up.

Selectman Graham also wanted to see if the Board was agreeable to setting up a community meeting to discuss railroad revitalization. Tony Donovan from the Maine Transit Coalition is a dynamic speaker on this subject and Dave would like to ask him to come and make a presentation to interested parties. Scott Labnon has offered a place to hold the meeting at the T&C. It would be the intent to invite business people as well as the general public. The other Board members were in favor of moving forward with this meeting. Selectman Graham will try to secure Mr. Donovan for November 29th and set this up.

Selectman Graham also wanted the Board to take a more aggressive stance on publicizing the work that the Board accomplishes. It is not clearly known to the general public the amount of time spent on governing the Town. It was suggested that perhaps press releases to the local and state papers might be the way to get the message out. TM Frost also suggested quarterly newsletters. This might be a good way to let the citizens know what is happening at Town Hall. The Board liked this suggestion as well.

Finance Director Vallee informed the Board that Power Sound of NE will be in on November 17th – 19th to finish installing the speakers, screen, and sound board. This work will conclude the USDA Sound and Lighting Grant. On November 29th, an inmate crew will start up again. The projected completion date is the first of the year. If the inmate crew does not work out as well as hoped, we will hire a couple of local contractors to finish the project once and for all.

6. Public Comments: Norm Provencher wondered what might happen with his driveway off Willis Place. TM Frost suggested that he meet with PWD Holmes. A meeting was set for the following day at 1 pm.

7. Other Business:

a) Town Manager's Update: TM Frost reported that the RFP for the EECBG Grant has been approved and will be advertised soon. This is for the energy audit at the Public Works Garage.

A draft of the Shelburne Memorandum of Agreement for police services was distributed to the Board members for their review.

TM Frost stated that she was able to attend the annual meeting of the Portland Natural Gas Transmission System last Wednesday night at the Fire Station. It was quite interesting hearing about the transmission pipeline and their efforts to maintain and monitor it.

TM Frost has been invited to a "Listening Series" at WMCC between Town officials and others from the North Country and Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. The series will address sustainable communities and a link between rural and urban communities. Since there is a conflict preventing her attendance, Selectman Graham will try to attend. Pam Laflamme who is the Planning Director in Berlin will be contacted by Selectman Graham when he knows if his schedule permits. Chairman Robitaille will also try to attend, if he can.

b) Approval of Minutes (October 25, 2010): On a motion by Selectman Oliver, seconded by Selectman Graham, both sets of minutes (regular sessions and non-public session) from October 25, 2010 were unanimously approved as prepared.

c) Sign Manifest: The Board signed the latest accounts payable manifest.

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

7. Set Date for Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 15, 2010 at 6:00 pm for continuing budget review and the following meeting will be on November 22, 2010 at 6:00 pm to continue budget review followed with a regular business meeting..

8. Non-Public Session: RSA 91-A:3, II (a): The Board voted unanimously by roll call to go into non-public session at 8:30 pm to discuss a personnel matter. Graham – aye, Oliver – aye, Robitaille – aye.

The Board voted unanimously by roll call to return to regular session at 9:05 pm. Graham – aye, Oliver – aye, Robitaille – aye. No decisions made in the preceding non-public session.

9. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:



Paul Robitaille, Chairman



Terry Oliver



David Graham