

PUBLIC MEETING OF THE GORHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Gorham town Hall, Public Meeting Room, 2nd floor.

Tuesday March 12, 2024

3:00 p.m.

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Michael Waddell, Yves Zornio and Judy Leblanc

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Peter Gagnon, Town Manager John Bijeau Public Works Director, Phil Cloutier Fire Chief.

Public session Call to Order – 3:06pm

Michael Waddell called the public session to order.

New Business

Code Enforcement and Mill Properties

Fire Chief Phil Cloutier started the meeting off discussing the Mill Properties at 72 Cascade Flats. He stated there have been a complaint about the lights at the mill. He went and visited the mill at various times he noticed a light above the entrance door at the loading docks that was aimed up higher than needed, one light above the guard shack that appears to be aimed higher than necessary causing the lights to flow out onto Cascade Flats. The parking area next to the Fire department had unnecessary lights. Phil met with Steven Barbe an employee that oversees the Maintenance at the mill he and Phil aimed the lights above the entrance door down they also aimed the light above guard shack down to stop the flow of lights into the roadway. The lights in the parking lot next to the fire department are ordered by OSHA to keep the area safe for the personnel. Steven shared the OSHA requirement with Phil which was under RSA 5.07 lighting standards section D exception 1. Phil believes that all the issues with lighting at the mill have been addressed as far as the town is concerned. Town Manger Peter Gagnon contacted another employee/consultant, Alex Ritchie, and she stated that the mill wants to be a good neighbor and has looked into light shields and has lowered several lights that were found to be higher than needed. BOS Micheal Waddell asked the board for a motion to accept the recommendation of the Code Enforcement Officer.

Yves Zornio made a motion, Judy LeBlanc seconded the motion. **Selectperson LeBlanc voted yes. Selectman Zornio voted yes. Chairman Waddell voted yes.**

Flood Updates

Peter wanted to give the board and the public an update. There have been a few short-term emergency measures that the town has taken like pumping out basements to DPW constructed several berms along the Moose River. There are several NCRS projects, two on the Moose River and two on the Peabody River. Longer Term an Army Core of Engineers that will get involved with their expertise. The town has been in touch with Mike Hicks he is a former Engineer and a Planner for Region one, he is very positive and understanding of our situation he has worked in Gorham in past disaster situations he will be coming up by the end of the month and we are going to assemble a team from NH DES as well as FEMA. Getting work done in the river is feasible. The Army Core understands that and understands our need and that we have to move quickly, they want to support us in those efforts. The negative news is they have no money. There was a civil engineering program that was funded but is now tapped out. Phil added that the town is working on a NCRS project and we are hoping for an update by the end of this week. Androscoggin Valley Search & Rescue provided a crew and a drone that flew over Moose River and the Peabody River to give the town some ideas on what they are dealing with. Peter added that the DPW will do whatever work to help. The Town has been in contact with NH DOT, and many other groups that will be involved in helping the town address our flood risks. BOS Michael Waddell said in terms of immediate and long term there are areas that keep coming up that need to be addressed by DPW. The Board hopes to come to agreement with the State and Federal government as soon as possible so the town can get started. Peter has taken the lead in getting these projects going. Phil Cloutier said hopefully we will have a mild spring where the snow and ice melts gradually and there is nothing the town can do to stop the spring run off.

Cascade Flats Update

John Bijeau from PDW and Water and Sewer will be having cameras put in the drainage pipes. No date is scheduled currently. The town does have a notice out looking for a survey work for that section, with above and below elevations. HEB, Horizon's and York has been sent out notices and we have received a proposal from York. The deadline is the end of the month. BOS thinks a public meeting could take place in mid-April. A discussion on having a public meeting without the surveying being done at this time was agreed upon.

BTLA

Signatures from the BOS were needed for a Settlement Agreement. The BOS reviewed it which detailed the agreement with Tops Furniture for a check paid by the town for \$5,000. Values for the years 2024,2025 and 2026 upon the taxpayer's withdrawal of the appeal for tax year 2022. The town should use the agreed upon value \$1,976,000.00 for the assessed value of the property used for tax years 2024,2025 and 2026. The taxpayers acknowledge the town anticipates a full revaluation in the tax year 2027. Judy LeBlanc moved the motion. Yves Zornios seconded the motion. **Selectperson LeBlanc voted yes. Selectman Zornio voted yes. Chairman Waddell voted yes.**

Denise Vallee talked with Peter Gagnon and asked for the BOS to support her on the NBRC grant for the Medallion. This grant requires matching funds. Peter drew up an authorization form for the BOS to sign grant amount is \$3,794.00 to come out of the Recreation Department budget and will be used for a new digital sign used by both the Recreation Department and the Medallion located on the information booth. The sum of \$4,100.00 from the Medallion CRF would go towards the match.

Judy LeBlanc moved the motion to approve the Medallion Opera House grants. Yves Zornios seconded the motion. **Selectperson LeBlanc voted yes. Selectman Zornio voted yes. Chairman Waddell voted yes.**

Fidium and Consolidated Communications trucks that are in town are doing a roll out in the North County. There is a committee called Coos County Broadband Committee that meets quarterly their basic task is to make sure there is community connection with the program to see if there needs to be public meetings or if anyone has any questions. They asked for a representative from the town and Paul Robitale has agreed to volunteer. BOS needs motioned to authorize Paul Robitale to represent the Town of Gorham. Yves Zornios moved the motion. Judy Leblanc seconded the motion. **Selectperson Leblanc voted yes. Selectman Zornio voted yes. Chairman Waddell voted yes.**

BOS signed and approved Public Meeting minutes for meetings 2-5-2024, 2-12-2024 and 2-12-2024 and the 3 Non-Public Meeting Minutes. Judy Leblanc motioned to approve the Public Meeting minutes from 2-5-2024 2-12-2024 2-26-2024 and 3 Nonpublic meeting minutes. Yves Zornios seconded the motion. **Selectperson LeBlanc voted yes. Selectman Zornio voted yes. Chairman Waddell voted yes.**

Town Manager's Report

The town reached out to the NH DOT about the mudslides on Route 16 we received a letter from NH DOT thanking the town and informing the town that they are aware of the mudslides and are monitoring the situation.

The town will be getting some NRCS updates this week. The town is hoping to have four separate projects.

RFP for survey work on Cascade Flats has gone out we have received one proposal from York. On February 20th President Biden signed a National Disaster Declaration Relief Notification we have officially been recognized as a disaster from the 12-18-2023 floods.

Main Street sidewalk plan currently we have a Route 2 sidewalk project ongoing it is in the engineering phase we are working with the NH DOT. This is another NH DOT project with federal funds from Ann Custer's office that came through at \$1,372,000.00 this will include Main Street upgrades.

The town will be getting some phone upgrades

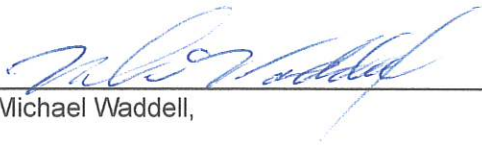
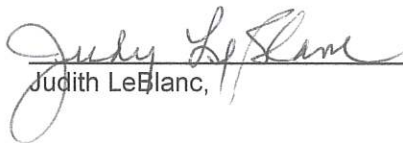
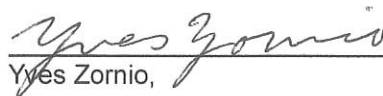
Next Public meeting is March 25th 2024 at 5pm.

Adjournment

Yves Zornio motion to go back into Non-Public session moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:53 pm. It was seconded by Judy Leblanc. **Selectperson LeBlanc voted yes. Selectman Zornio voted yes. Chairman Waddell voted yes.**

Respectfully submitted,
Rita Alimandi, Recording Secretary
Town of Gorham
ralimandi@gorhamnh.org

Minutes Approved on:


Michael Waddell,
Judith LeBlanc,
Yves Zornio,