

Town of Gorham, NH

Town Manager's Office

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1918 Historic Gorham Town Hall

Report of February 24, 2020

- Testified regarding **HB1126 & HB1427** in Concord on January 29th in support of two OHRV bills.
- **Easter Seals Ride In:** The ride-in took place on Friday, January 31st through Sunday, February 2nd. The event raised a record of over \$125,000 for Camp Sno-Mo. Due to the lack of snow in town, the parade was limited to the golf course in Shelburne. The local club worked hard, though, to keep the trails in top-notch condition.
- **2020 Proposed Budget:** The last regular Budget Committee meeting took place on January 30th, with the Public Budget Hearing taking place on February 12th. The end result is an **estimated** increase of .25% (a quarter of a percent) or \$12,616.00, which equates to an estimated increase of 4.6 cents on the tax rate. The DRA Budget document and Warrant have been posted.
- **Phone/Internet Project:** Phones have been installed and phone numbers have been ported over everywhere except the Dispatch/Police Department and the Water & Sewer Department. The Dispatch center has to get switches to make the 2008 Acorn Recording System work with the new phones. Additional switches and phones were needed for the Water & Sewer Department. The equipment arrived and has been installed. We will be scheduling the port over of those lines tomorrow morning. The next and final step is to port over our data for the new fiber optic network!
- **Solar Project:** We met with Go Solar last Thursday morning to discuss them formulating a RFP for one large solar array which would cover the Schools, Town Buildings and Water & Sewer Department, including the Wastewater Treatment Plant. They were also tasked with finding out more information on PFAS and solar equipment.
- **Economic Development:** The Board of Selectmen recently formed the Gorham Economic Action Team and appointed several community members to serve along with me in helping to bring new businesses to Gorham. Members include Paul Robitaille, Kathy Frenette, David Backler, Jesse Lawson McCreedy, Roger Lajoie and Robert Chapman. We met last Thursday to discuss what businesses are looking to relocate to Gorham, especially on the Berlin-Gorham Road. There has been a definite increase in the amount of interest and activity. We also discussed getting Gorham properties that are available for lease or purchase for new businesses posted to

the State's website. A discussion also took place regarding the location of the Appalachian Trail and the promotion of the historic site of the trail.

- **Appalachian Trail Conservancy** – Dedication Celebration set for Friday, March 27th at 6 pm. Jeffrey Ryan will be here to do a book presentation for "Blazing Ahead" The Rivalry that Built the Appalachian Trail. The Governor and Senators & Congressman Kuster have been invited.
- **Town Report:** With the help of the department heads, Michelle and Kathy prepared the Town Report in time for its submission to the printers on Feb. 18th. Thank you to everyone who had a part in getting their report(s) ready in a timely fashion. It is a huge endeavor that takes an enormous amount of teamwork!

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Vallee

Town Manager