

Town of Gorham New Hampshire

PUBLIC MEETING OF THE GORHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Gorham Town Hall Public Meeting Room 2nd Floor
Monday, July 24, 2023
4:30 p.m.

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Michael Waddell; Yves Zornio; and Judy LeBlanc.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Peter Gagnon, Town Manager; and Bronson Paradis.

ALSO PRESENT: Edith Tucker.

1. Non-Public Session - 4:30 p.m.

Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3, II(a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a public meeting, and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted; (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of this board, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to include any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant; and (d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community.

2. Public Session Call to Order - 5:30 p.m.

Chairperson Waddell called the public session to order.

3. New Business

a. Announce Action, if any, Taken in Nonpublic Session

None.

b. Review and Sign Road Bond

Peter Gagnon gave a background on the rationale of taking out the bond. He noted the rate was 4.35% for 5 years.

MOTION: Vice-Chair LeBlanc moved to approve the General Obligation Term Note for \$900,000 at a rate of 4.35%. It was seconded by Selectman Zornio.

**Selectman Zornio: Aye
Vice-Chair LeBlanc: Aye
Chairperson Waddell: Aye**

The motion carried. (3-0-0).

Mr. Gagnon indicated that the project was on-track and he went over the next stages, including their timelines.

c. Review Bids for Proposed Country Land Parcels

Chairperson Waddell opened and went over the single bid received from Dan and Heidi Roy. Discussion was had regarding the due diligence that has taken place and the acceptance of the bid.

MOTION: Vice-Chair LeBlanc moved to accept on the bid, on the condition that the lots be merged as stated in the bid. It was seconded by Selectman Zornio.

**Selectman Zornio: Aye
Vice-Chair LeBlanc: Aye
Chairperson Waddell: Aye**

The motion carried. (3-0-0).

Mr. Gagnon indicated he would be in touch with the Roys to start the deeding process.

d. Review Proposed Metal Detection Policy

Mr. Gagnon provided background on the Policy, including the concern of public safety on the common parks, other town and school land, metal detectors and the requisite holes. He presented the revised draft for final review and acceptance.

MOTION: Vice-Chair LeBlanc moved to approve the Metal Detection Policy. It was seconded by Selectman Zornio.

**Selectman Zornio: Aye
Vice-Chair LeBlanc: Aye
Chairperson Waddell: Aye**

The motion carried. (3-0-0).

e. Fire Department Grant Review and Sign

Mr. Gagnon explained the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant from CFDA.

MOTION: Vice-Chair LeBlanc moved to the Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant It was seconded by Selectman Zornio.

Selectman Zornio: Aye

Vice-Chair LeBlanc: Aye

Chairperson Waddell: Aye

The motion carried. (3-0-0).

Mr. Gagnon commented on the efforts of the Fire Department in attaining grants.

4. Old Business/Updates, if any

a. Monthly Property Sales Review

Chairperson Waddell commented regarding the June property sales review, and noted that the Mooney properties (Subway) may be displaying a typo, considering both lots are listed at \$400,000 apiece, totaling to \$800,000. He requested clarification on this.

b. AVEC, Community Power

Chairperson Waddell reminded the Board regarding the presentation made by Kathleen Kelly. Mr. Gagnon went over Androscoggin Valley Energy and read a highlighted part of the letter received. He noted that Ms. Kelly would like to know if the Town would like to join AVEC by August to provide community power. Discussion was had regarding the recent meeting held in terms of future work of AVEC, as well as pros and cons of joining the collaborative. Further discussion was had regarding the necessity for a Public Hearing and a subsequent Town Meeting vote in order to make the decision to join the collaborative.

c. NBRC Authorization

Mr. Gagnon noted that this is part of the Community Trail Hub grant, a \$280,000 expenditure with a grant of over \$200,000. He indicated that this would name him to be the authorized official with NBRC.

MOTION: Vice-Chair LeBlanc moved to authorize Peter Gagnon to be the Town Representative with regard to the NBRC Application. It was seconded by Selectman Zornio.

Selectman Zornio: Aye

Vice-Chair LeBlanc: Aye

Chairperson Waddell: Aye

The motion carried. (3-0-0).

d. Quitclaim Deeds

Mr. Gagnon presented the Deeds from 2010 pertaining to property of Mr. Roland Couture. Discussion was had regarding the history on these properties.

MOTION: Vice-Chair LeBlanc moved to reaffirm the giving of this land to the abutter, Roland Couture, based on the due diligence that shows the prior Board's actions. It was seconded by Selectman Zornio.

**Selectman Zornio: Aye
Vice-Chair LeBlanc: Aye
Chairperson Waddell: Aye**

The motion carried. (3-0-0).

- 5. Public Comment:** Those in attendance will have the opportunity for public comment of two (2) minute or less.

Edith Tucker inquired regarding the due diligence regarding the bidding process regarding the General Obligation Term Loan. Discussion was had regarding the steps taken. She mentioned something regarding a nonpublic item.

6. Other Business

a. Review and Approve Minutes: July 10, 2023.

MOTION: Selectman Zornio moved to approve the minutes of July 10, 2023. It was seconded by Vice-Chair LeBlanc.

**Selectman Zornio: Aye
Vice-Chair LeBlanc: Aye
Chairperson Waddell: Aye**

The motion carried. (3-0-0).

b. Town Manager Report

• Road Projects

Mr. Gagnon noted that Gordon Ave. is being worked on by Water & Sewer. He went over the details of the project and the challenges being faced.

• Proposed Permits Transfer Station

Mr. Gagnon indicated that he's in the process of reaching out getting some anecdotal public comment from businessowners and potential commercial users.

• Grant Updates

Mr. Gagnon stated he did receive a Forestry Service Grant for around \$600,000 for the community forest project. He added that he was doing pre-award grant work. He announced that the Application was number 2 in the nation, as rated by the Forestry Service. Discussion was had regarding the field visit that occurred.

Mr. Gagnon noted that they have their solar panel array wherein Selectman Zornio has volunteered to be the project inspector.

- **Police Union Negotiations**

Mr. Gagnon announced that negotiations would start next month, with hopes of approving the contract in the fall. Vice-Chair LeBlanc volunteered to be part of the contract negotiations as a representative for the Board.

- **Railroad Street**

Mr. Gagnon stated he has a meeting this week with the HOP Grant people, wherein an outreach questionnaire for residents, which is going out this week was created. He added that he received an updated sidewalk plan from Burke York, which he will distribute to the Board via PDF. Chairperson Waddell suggested adding the different plans to the Town website for the residents to be able to review.

7. Adjournment

MOTION: Vice-Chair LeBlanc moved to adjourn. It was seconded by Selectman Zornio.

Selectman Zornio: Aye


Vice-Chair LeBlanc: Aye

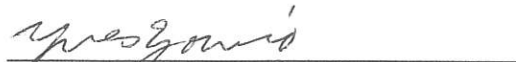
Chairperson Waddell: Aye

The motion carried. (3-0-0).

Minutes Approved on August 14, 2023 by:


Michael L. Waddell, Chairman


Judith LeBlanc, Vice-Chair


Yves Zornio, Selectman

Respectfully Submitted,
Victoria O'Connor, Recording Secretary
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