

Town of Gorham New Hampshire

PUBLIC MEETING OF THE GORHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN Gorham Town Hall Public Meeting Room 2nd Floor Monday, September 11, 2023 4:30 p.m.

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

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Peter Gagnon, Town Manager; and Phil Cloutier, Fire Chief.

ALSO PRESENT: Edith Tucker (Berlin Daily Sun); Ryan Byrnes (Gorham Resident)

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 at 5:32 p.m.

3. New Business

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

None.

b. **New Fire/EMS Grants, Phil Cloutier, Fire Chief**

Chief Phil Cloutier provided an update on the following grants:

- TC Energy Community Build Strong Foundation \$16,350
- Radio Repeater Grant

Chairperson Waddell inquired whether he could transfer his authorization to sign over to Peter Gagnon.

- 2022 Assistant Firefighters Grant \$98,469

Chief Cloutier indicated that the radios are to be ordered. But in order to use State-bid pricing, the Selectmen have to approve it, since it's over \$10,000.

MOTION: Selectman Zornio moved to authorize the Fire Chief to purchase the equipment at approximately \$98,469, utilizing State-bid pricing. It was seconded by Vice-Chair LeBlanc.

Selectman Zornio: Aye

Vice-Chair LeBlanc: Aye

Chairperson Waddell: Aye

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

- Granite State Clean Fleets Grant

c. Residential Solar Petition, RSA 72:67

Peter Gagnon went over the Petition regarding the Town adopting a Solar Power Array Policy. He noted that the key that the array would be exempt from taxation. Discussion was had regarding the purview of the Board regarding this Petition. Further discussion was had regarding solar arrays, in general.

d. YTD Budget Update & Review

Mr. Gagnon provided the Board with the YTD budget. Vice-Chair LeBlanc requested if the Board could receive the budget once a month starting in Q4. He noted that Department Heads are starting to prep for budget time.

4. Old Business/Updates

a. RR Street Parking Updates

Mr. Gagnon indicated he has been working with a few Consultants and stated that they will be going with plastic hangers over stickers, with a standard 90x20 lot for the parking area. He requested feedback from the Board regarding ADA requirements in the parking lot. He added that there needs to be decisions made regarding long-term storage. Discussion was had regarding whether the type of vehicle matters, as well as the length of time.

Chairperson Waddell noted that they need to come up with a revised Overnight Parking Policy. Mr. Gagnon stated that there is an updated snow removal plan. Discussion was had regarding whose obligation it was to tow cars parked improperly.

Ms. Tucker inquired when the public hearing would be scheduled, to which Mr. Gagnon responded sometime in October.

b. Review and Accept Updates to Cemetery Rules & Regulations

Mr. Gagnon reminded the Board of what was discussed at the last meeting. He went over his discussions with the Town Garage regarding their duties with the cemetery, including the rationale.

MOTION: Vice-Chair LeBlanc moved to accept updates to Cemetery Rules and Regulations. 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 transitioning role of Bronson Paradis and how his responsibilities differ from Mr. Gagnon's in terms of the Budget Report.

Ryan Byrnes indicated he's had calls from residents requesting cars to be towed on RR Street. Discussion was had regarding the towing process.

6. Other Business

a. Review and Approve Minutes: August 28, 2023.

MOTION: Selectman Zornio moved to approved the nonpublic meeting minutes from August 28, 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

• HEB/Claybrook Road

Mr. Gagnon stated that he received a Report from HEB, indicating that they are on schedule to be wrapping up in October.

• Project Updates

Mr. Gagnon indicated that there are a lot of grants and projects ongoing.

- Solar array at Public Works Garage
- DOT TAP Grant
- Sidewalk Grant - Main Street - \$1.3 million

- Trestle Bridge
- MS-1 for DRA
- Updates at Town Hall
- Rec Department Playground
- Rec Department Bus - Requested to put out to bid

Discussion was had regarding what action is to be taken by the Board and what steps should be taken prior to that action. The Board concluded that further information is needed by the next meeting in order to make a decision.

- **Zoning Board**

Mr. Gagnon indicated that Mr. Steve Roy needs Selectmen's signatures to approve him for another term.

MOTION: Selectman Zornio moved to approve Steve Roy for another term on the Zoning Board. It was seconded by Vice-Chair LeBlanc.

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

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

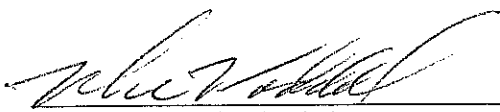
7. Adjournment

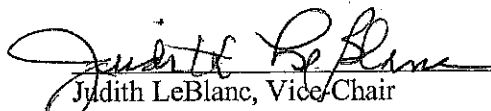
MOTION: Vice-Chair LeBlanc moved to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Selectman Zornio.

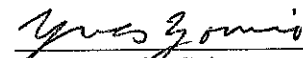
Selectman Zornio: Aye
Vice-Chair LeBlanc: Aye
Chairperson Waddell: Aye

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

Minutes Approved August 28, 2023 by:


 Michael L. Waddell, Chairman


 Judith LeBlanc, Vice-Chair


 Yves Zornio, Selectman

Respectfully Submitted,
Victoria O'Connor, Recording Secretary
O'Connor Legal, Medical & Media Services Inc.
www.oconnorlmms.com

