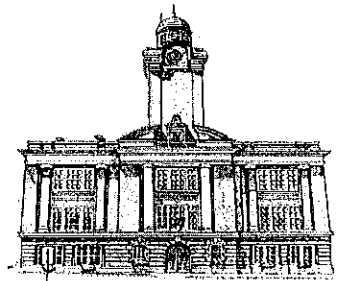


Town of Gorham New Hampshire



VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE GORHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN Gorham Town Hall Public Meeting Room 2nd Floor Wednesday, August 18, 2021 4:30 p.m.

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Michael Waddell; Judy LeBlanc; and Adam White.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Denise Vallee, Town Manager.

OTHERS PRESENT: Edith Tucker, Reporter, Berlin Sun; Michael Peterson, President of Androscoggin Valley Hospital and Chair of the Great North Woods Community Foundation; Cassie Eafrazi, Director of Behavioral Health, Northern Human Services and Co-chair of GNW Community Foundation; and James Patry, Senior Director of Patient Experience and Marketing, Androscoggin Valley Hospital.

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; (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; and (e) Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed by or against the public body or any subdivision thereof, or by or against any member thereof because of his or her membership in such public body, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled. Any application filed for tax abatement, pursuant to law, with any body or board shall not constitute a threatened or filed litigation against any public body for the purposes of this subparagraph.*

2. Public Session Call to Order - 6:00 p.m.

Chairperson Waddell called the public session to order at 6:00 p.m.

3. New Business

a. **Announce action, if any, taken in nonpublic sessions.**

None.

b. **Public Hearing: Acceptance of \$20,000 from Great North Woods Community Foundation (RSA 31:95-c), James Patry**

Denise Vallee provided background regarding the donation. Michael Peterson expressed his gratitude for the Town accepting the donation and sharing with the public what the Foundation is about. The Board expressed their gratitude for the donation. Cassie Eafrazi and James Patry introduced themselves to the Board.

Chairperson Waddell opened the public hearing at 6:17 p.m.

No public comment.

Chairperson Waddell closed the public hearing at 6:18 p.m.

MOTION: Selectman White moved to accept the \$20,000 from Great North Woods Community Foundation. It was seconded by Selectman LeBlanc.

Selectman White: Aye

Selectman LeBlanc: Aye

Chairperson Waddell: Aye

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

- c. Public Hearing: Acceptance of ARPA Funds (RSA 31:95-b), \$136,642.34 in 2021 and \$136,642.34 in 2022.**

Ms. Vallee provided some background on ARPA and the funds that the Town is receiving. She also went into some accounting and reporting that has to be done regarding the funds. Chairperson Waddell indicated he opened the public hearing at 6:10 p.m.

Edith Tucker inquired as to whether the Town had a process in mind on how to get the residents involved, in terms of ideas on how to expend the funds. Ms. Vallee responded that the residents are able to do that but added that the Town already has a list of things that it needs that would account for some of the funds being received. Discussion was had regarding accomplishing the necessities of the Town over the desires of the Town, as well as potential projects that could be undertaken.

Chairperson Waddell closed the public hearing.

MOTION: Selectman White moved to accept the ARPA Funds for 2021 of \$136,642.34 and for 2022 of \$136,642.34. It was seconded by Selectman LeBlanc.

Selectman White: Aye

Selectman LeBlanc: Aye

Chairperson Waddell: Aye

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

- d. Portland Pipeline Settlement Agreement**

MOTION: Selectman White moved to accept the Settlement Agreement between the Town of Gorham and Portland Pipeline Corporation. It was seconded by Selectman LeBlanc.

Selectman White: Aye

Selectman LeBlanc: Aye

Chairperson Waddell: Aye

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

Chairperson Waddell provided background regarding the Settlement Agreement.

4. Old Business/Updates

None.

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

Ms. Vallee read the letter that she received from Michael Pelchat and Diane Holmes, Plaintiffs in the OHRV lawsuit.

6. **Other Business**

- a. **Approve Minutes of July 26, 2021 (Regular & Nonpublic Meetings) and August 3, 2021, and August 9, 2021 (Non-Public Meetings)**

MOTION: Selectman White moved to approve the Minutes of July 26, 2021, regular and nonpublic meetings, and the Minutes of August 3, 2021 and August 9, 2021 nonpublic meetings as presented. It was seconded by Selectman LeBlanc.

Selectman White: Aye

Selectman LeBlanc: Aye

Chairperson Waddell: Aye

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

- b. **Abatements**

None.

- c. **Town Manager's Report**

- NBRC Grant Application - Main Street Sidewalk Project. Ms. Vallee indicated that the Town was not awarded the Grant. She mentioned another Grant that she's looking into, known as the RISE Grant, through the USDA, that she is exploring.
- Ms. Vallee indicated that the Lancaster Road Project is still being voted on by the Congress.
- Ms. Vallee indicated that Phil was awarded a Grant from Eversource to purchase a new compressor for the Fire Department.
- Ms. Vallee announced that Carol, the Town Clerk/Tax Collector, will be retiring officially on October 1, 2021. Her last day with the Town will be September 30, 2021. She added that Grace will be working four days a week to keep the office running, and that once new Staff are trained, Grace will be retiring for good, as well. The Board thanked both of them for their many years of service and efforts in the transition.

7. **Non-Public Session**

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; (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; and (e) Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed by or against the public body or any subdivision thereof, or by or against any member thereof because of his or her membership in such public body, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or*

otherwise settled. Any application filed for tax abatement, pursuant to law, with any body or board shall not constitute a threatened or filed litigation against any public body for the purposes of this subparagraph.

MOTION: At 6:35 pm, Selectman White moved to reenter nonpublic session. It was seconded by Selectman LeBlanc.

Selectman White: Aye
Selectman LeBlanc: Aye
Chairperson Waddell: Aye

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

MOTION: At 6:52 pm, Selectman White moved to return to public session. It was seconded by Selectman LeBlanc.

Selectman White: Aye
Selectman LeBlanc: Aye
Chairperson Waddell: Aye

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

8. **MOTION:** Selectman White moved to approve and sign the Settlement Agreement between the Town of Gorham and Fairpoint (Consolidated) including tax year 2020. It was seconded by Selectman LeBlanc.

Selectman White: Aye
Selectman LeBlanc: Aye
Chairperson Waddell: Aye

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

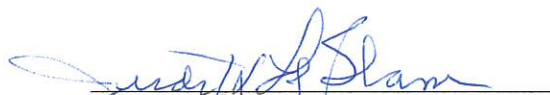
MOTION: At 6:53 pm, Selectman LeBlanc moved to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Selectman White.

Selectman White: Aye
Selectman LeBlanc: Aye
Chairperson Waddell: Aye

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Victoria O'Connor, Recording Secretary
O'Connor Legal, Medical & Media Services LLC
www.oconnorlmms.com
(603) 865-1255


Michael Waddell, Chairman


Judith LeBlanc, Selectman


Adam White, Selectman