

Town of Gorham New Hampshire



VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE GORHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN Gorham Town Hall Public Meeting Room 2nd Floor Wednesday, August 30, 2021 5:00 p.m.

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

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Denise Vallee, Town Manager; and Phil Cloutier, Fire Chief.

OTHERS PRESENT: Henry Herndon, Community Power Coalition; and Paul Robitaille, Energy Committee.

1. Non-Public Session - 5:00 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 6:10 p.m.

3. New Business

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

None.

b. **Chief Phil Cloutier - Assistance to Firefighters Grant**

Chief Phil Cloutier indicated there were two grants that he had been working with. He went over the two grants, how much they were for, and what they could pay for. Discussion was had regarding the Firefighters Grant, as well as the Eversource Grant.

Chief Cloutier indicated that he was contacted by the owner of KGI, who told him that they were planning on demolishing a section of one of their properties in October. He went over the steps that he took to assist in their demolition plans. Discussion was had regarding a property in Cascade and plans Chief Cloutier had to meet with the property owner up there.

Chief Cloutier noted that he has shared Engine 4 with Berlin for the next couple of days to alleviate their engine needs.

c. Community Power Coalition Presentation, Henry Herndon

Henry Herndon introduced himself. He presented the Community Power Coalition presentation to the Board, utilizing a PowerPoint slideshow. Denise Vallee spoke about current practices. Discussion was had regarding the presentation.

d. North Country Healthcare - Request to State for Advertising on Trestle Bridge

Discussion was had regarding the ownership of the Trestle Bridge and the rationale of the request to the Town of Gorham. Ms. Vallee stated that the Bureau of Trails is who was approached by North Country Healthcare. Paul Robitaille spoke about his research regarding the placement of signs along highways. Discussion was had regarding the permanence of the signage, as well as placement. The Board reached a consensus that the billboard is not desirable. The Board spoke about their sentiments regarding the advertising on the bridge.

4. Old Business/Updates

None.

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

None.

6. Other Business

a. Approve Minutes of August 18, 2021 (Regular & Nonpublic Meetings)

MOTION: Selectman White moved to approve the Minutes of August 18, 2021, regular and 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. Abatelements

None.

c. Town Manager's Report

• Application to NH Liquor Commission - Lumberjack Competition

Ms. Vallee presented the documentation that has to be completed by the Selectboard to approve a beer tent for the October 3rd event.

MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to authorize Chairperson Michael Waddell of the Selectboard to sign the Application to NH Liquor Commission for the Lumberjack Competition, as presented. It was seconded by Selectman White.

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

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

- **Northern Forest Center Technical Assistance**

Ms. Vallee spoke about her meeting with Jeff, Julie Reneau-Evans, and Mr. Wilson, with the takeaway being that the Northern Forest Center would like Gorham to be one of the first communities in New Hampshire to take part in this program. She went over the next steps that would have to be taken. Chairperson Waddell segued into a discussion regarding the canoe launch, and other projects taking place in Town, and suggested that a Public Hearing to discuss such opportunities would be important.

- Ms. Vallee indicated that there is a new Employment Agreement with Kathleen Frenette that will adjust her salary up to \$5,000 more this year, and \$5,000 with next year's budget.

MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to approve the Employment Agreement for Kathleen Frenette, as written. It was seconded by Selectman White.

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

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

- Ms. Vallee presented the Settlement Agreement for 2021-2024 between the Town of Gorham and White Mountain Paper Company. She went over the agreement. Chairperson Waddell requested that the Agreement and the accompanying spreadsheet be sent to the Berlin Sun and anyone who asks for it. He supplemented more details regarding the Settlement Agreement.

MOTION: Selectman White moved to sign the Settlement Agreement 2021-2024 with the White Mountain Paper Company, as presented. It was seconded by Selectman LeBlanc.

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

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

- Ms. Vallee provided a Cemetery Plot Deed.

MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to approve the Cemetery Plot to Deb DeGreenia in the amount of \$1,200. It was seconded by Selectman White.

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

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

- Ms. Vallee indicated that the dike behind the Public Works Garage has been mowed by the Town, and that on Saturday it was done by Central Rivers Power. She went on to state she would be

meeting with Johnathan Robichaud, who handles a variety of things for CRP, in order to recommend that the dike get trimmed every year. Chairperson Waddell added that Johnathan would be providing a study regarding the structural integrity of that dike. Discussion was had regarding dike ownership, as well as the important role that the dike plays.

- Ms. Vallee spoke about the Cherry Cherry Band's performance that took place, and the lack of channels that is needed for a larger-piece band. She noted that the Town has now been gifted a 12-channel mixer by Steve Kelly of the Cherry Cherry Band.

7. Adjournment

MOTION: 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
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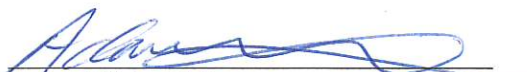
Approved on September 13, 2021 by:



Michael Waddell, Chairman



Judith LeBlanc, Selectman



Adam White, Selectman