

Town of Gorham New Hampshire



MEETING OF THE GORHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN Gorham Town Hall Public Meeting Room 2nd Floor Monday, February 10, 2020 5:00 p.m.

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

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Denise Vallee, Town Manager; and Jeff Tennis, Superintendent, Water & Sewer Department

OTHERS PRESENT: Edith Tucker, Reporter, Berlin Sun; Lee Carroll, Commissioner, Water & Sewer Department; and Theodore Miller, Commissioner, Water & Sewer Department

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

Non-public 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; 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 Hearing for NH DOT Lane Diet – OHRV Travel – 6:00 p.m., Medallion Opera House

Please reference attached Public Hearing minutes.

3. Public Session Call to Order - 7:05 p.m.

Chairperson Waddell called the public session to order at 7:08 p.m.

4. New Business

a. **Announce any action taken in Non-Public Session**

No action taken to report.

b. **Regular Meeting - 7:05 p.m. - Grant Agreement - LEOP Grant**

Denise Vallee presented the Selectmen with the Grant Agreement and discussed what it entailed. The Selectmen signed the Agreement. Ms. Vallee read the following into the record, for approval:

"The Town of Gorham's governing body has authority and has accepted the EMPG Grant Agreement. The Town of Gorham is accepting the Grant Agreement terms, as presented below."

The Select Board, in a majority vote, accepted the terms of the Emergency Management Performance Grant as presented in the amount of \$4,000.00 to update the community's Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP). Furthermore, the Board acknowledges that the total cost of this project will be \$8,000.00, in which the town will be responsible for a 50% match (\$4,000.00). Michael Waddell, Judy LeBlanc, and Adam White, all Select Board Members, are authorized to sign all documents related to the grant.

MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to accept the terms of the Grant, as presented. It was seconded by Selectman White. The motion carried. (3-0-0).

c. Water & Sewer Competitive Wage Adjustments

Chairperson Waddell gave a brief background regarding the issue. He noted that there's been \$21,000 added to the 2020 proposed budget for wage adjustments for Water & Sewer. He voiced the Board's concerns, wherein he also alluded to the Wage and Benefits Survey process that was undertaken previously. He also went through a list of other concerns that the Board has, regarding the Water & Sewer Department.

He concluded that it would be beneficial for the Department to partake in their own Wage and Benefits Survey in order to address the concerns of the Board. He also stated that he would be providing the Department with a letter outlining the concerns he raised during the meeting, in hopes of improving the interaction between the Board and the Department.

Further discussion was had regarding the rationale behind the wage adjustments, as well as the interactions between the Department and the Board. Chairperson Waddell suggested a bi-weekly report be posted to keep them and the public abreast of what's going on in the Department.

d. Capital Improvement Plan Committee Article

Chairperson Waddell gave a brief overview of the process in constructing this Article, as well as what its main focus is, which is highway/road infrastructure. He gave a brief overview regarding the engineered assessment that was completed.

MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to approve the Capital Improvement Plan Committee Article, as presented, and to include it in the Town Warrant. It was seconded by Selectman White. The motion carried. (3-0-0).

e. Town Warrant

Chairperson Waddell indicated he has reviewed it and takes no issue with it. Selectman LeBlanc echoed Chairperson Waddell's comments. Selectman White noted he had read it and voiced his opinion regarding some of the Petitioned Articles. Selectman LeBlanc suggested tabling acceptance of the Petitioned Articles until the upcoming Budget Committee hearing.

Selectman White inquired regarding the capital reserve amount of the heavy equipment. Ms. Vallee responded by noting the upcoming purchases, and offered to provide a spreadsheet that would provide more explanation.

Chairperson Waddell directed Ms. Vallee to post notices that the Select Board intends to meet in conjunction with the Budget Committee, on Wednesday, February 12, 2020, and that at that time they will make decisions regarding the Petitioned Warrant Articles.

f. Randolph Contracts

Chairperson Waddell indicated that he hopes there will be progress on these contracts this evening during non-public session.

g. Trails Committee Process

Chairperson Waddell instructed Ms. Vallee to put together some names for the non-motorized Trails Committee, as well as write up the mission statement, emphasizing that this is an advisory committee. He went on to describe the committee selection process.

5. Old Business/Updates

None.

6. Public Comment: In consideration for all, please limit comments to two (2) minutes.

Edith Tucker inquired regarding the definition of a dual lane. Ms. Vallee responded that it's the center turning lane. Discussion was had regarding the public hearing that was held earlier that evening.

7. Other Business:

a. Town Manager's Report

Ms. Vallee presented a few documents for the Board to sign. She also submitted a form to appoint Philip Cloutier as Health Officer, which the Board signed to approve. She handed Chairperson Waddell a letter to Paul Hurt, Assistant Secretary of the Conservation Fund, regarding the acquisition of the Tinker Brook Parcel.

Ms. Vallee reiterated when and where the Public Budget Hearing was going to take place. She spoke about the Town Report and the steps that have occurred to create it.

b. Approve Minutes of January 27, 2020 (Regular & Non-Public)

MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to accept the Minutes of the January 27, 2020 Non-Public and Regular Meetings, as amended. It was seconded by Selectman White. The motion carried. (3-0-0).

8. Adjournment

MOTION: Selectman White moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. It was seconded by Selectman LeBlanc. The motion carried. (3-0-0).

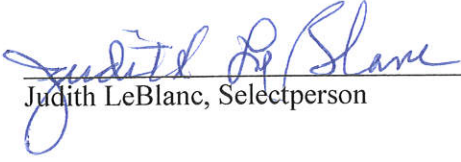
Respectfully Submitted,

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

Date Approved: March 9, 2020



Michael L. Waddell, Chairman



Judith LeBlanc, Selectperson



Adam White, Selectman