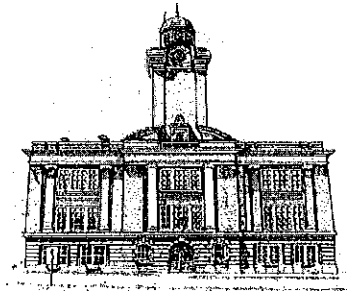


Town of Gorham New Hampshire



VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE GORHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN Gorham Town Hall Public Meeting Room 2nd Floor Monday, October 19, 2020 5:00 p.m.

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

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Denise Vallee, Town Manager

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Edith Tucker, Reporter, Berlin Sun; and Erin Hennessey

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 6:07 p.m.

3. New Business

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

None.

- b. Chairperson Waddell announced that the Boston Post Cane was just presented to Gorham's oldest resident, Orphise Grondin, 98 years young. The presentation took place in the Medallion Opera House with several members of Mrs. Grondin's family in attendance.

c. **Appointment: Erin Hennessey - Candidate for NH State Senate District I**

Erin Hennessey provided her background, as well as current actions being taken to find out the needs of District I during her race for the Senate seat. Chairperson Waddell informed Ms. Hennessey regarding Gorham, including their revenue stream, as well as the challenges they are currently facing and steps they are doing to address them. Discussion was had regarding these issues.

d. Tax Sale Plan

Chairperson Waddell indicated that the Town of Gorham has six properties that could potentially go up for tax sale. He noted that this has been one of the items they have been discussing in nonpublic session, and that therefore, until a plan has been reached in nonpublic session, this item should be tabled.

e. Cell Phone Coverage in Pinkham Notch - Cell Towers

Denise Vallee indicated that Phil is working with the EMD in Jackson to complete a request form for a tower with Verizon. Chairperson Waddell inquired as to whether anyone has spoken with Verizon to-date. Ms. Vallee responded that this is the way they are required to go about to have that discussion with them. Discussion was had regarding the challenges of cell tower placement, as well as the importance of having cell coverage in that area.

f. FFY 2019 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan Update - Grant Agreement

Ms. Vallee announced that the Town of Gorham has been approved for a Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Grant to update the local Hazard Mitigation Plan. She provided details on the grant.

MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to accept the terms of the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program as presented in the amount of \$7,500.00 to update the community's local hazard mitigation plan, as well as to acknowledge that the total cost of this project will be \$10,000.00, in which the town will be responsible for a 25% match (\$2,500.00), which can be covered by employee hours spent updating the plan as an in-kind match. They further moved that Mike Waddell, Chairman, is authorized to sign all documents related to the grant. It was seconded by Selectman White.

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

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

4. Old Business/Updates

a. OHRV

Ms. Vallee indicated that she hasn't heard anything new from the State. She described her conversation with Chris Gamache. Discussion was had regarding the recently erected signage, and its ability to alleviate the current parking issues.

- New Parking Lot Intended Use
- Response from Letter to State, Follow-up
- Trail Relocation

Chairperson Waddell pointed out that he has received positive response to relocating the trail.

b. Mill Agreement - Follow-up

Chairperson Waddell indicated that payments are being made, according to the agreement.

c. Public Works - Municipal Solid Waste Plan

Chairperson Waddell noted that they have received a revised spreadsheet. He informed that he would review it and send any notes, inquiries, or amendments back to Ms. Vallee.

5. **Public Comment:** There will be a 5-minute recess so that Public Comments can be sent in via email to townmgr@gorhamnh.org or by dialing in. Any comments received will be read. Telephonic comments should be limited to 2 minutes or less, and everyone should identify themselves.

None.

6. Other Business

a. Town Manager's Report

- **Halloween 2020**

Ms. Vallee indicated that Chief Cloutier took part in the statewide meeting for Halloween and the CDC Guidelines, which seem to conform with the guidance flyer they had created for the Town of Gorham. She informed that the flyer is posted on the Town's website homepage, as well as on their Facebook page. She noted that the trick-or-treat hours are from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 31, 2020.

- **ATC Virtual Celebration**

Ms. Vallee discussed the virtual event, as well as the proclamation that they received from the Governor. She displayed the AT Community sign that was given to the Town of Gorham to post along the highway entrances to the trail system.

- **Mt. Washington Glider Association Report**

Ms. Vallee described the week-long event that took place.

- Ms. Vallee indicated that they are still working on budgets for 2021 and getting remote access for the Department Heads so they can input their own budget information. She noted there is a staff meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 22, 2020, which will include how to access the budget program and the read-only version of the financial report.
- Ms. Vallee provided a Cemetery Deed for the board's signature.

MOTION: Selectman White moved to approve to grant the Deed to Lot # 371 in the Wright addition. It was seconded by Selectman LeBlanc.

Selectman LeBlanc: Aye

Selectman White: Aye

Chairperson Waddell: Aye

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

b. Approve Minutes of September 28, 2020 (Regular and Non-Public Hearing)

MOTION: Selectman White moved to accept the Minutes of the September 28, 2020 Regular and Non-Public Hearing. It was seconded by Selectman LeBlanc.

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

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

7. Non-Public Session

MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to go back into non-public session, under RSA 91-A:3, II(a), (d), and (e). It was seconded by Selectman White.

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

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

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: Selectman White moved to seal the minutes of the non-public session until a decision for the matter discussed is made, under RSA 91-A:3, II(a), (d), and (e). It was seconded by Selectman LeBlanc.

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

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

MOTION: At 7:45 pm, Selectman LeBlanc moved to adjourn the public session. It was seconded by Selectman White.



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

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Victoria O'Connor, Recording Secretary
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www.oconnorlmms.com
(603) 865-1255

Minutes approved on October 26, 2020:


Michael L. Waddell, Chairman
Judith LeBlanc, Selectperson
Adam White, Selectman