

Town of Gorham New Hampshire



VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE GORHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN Gorham Town Hall Public Meeting Room 2nd Floor Monday, March 23, 2020 5:00 p.m.

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

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Denise Vallee, Town Manager; and Austin Holmes, Public Works Director.

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; 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. He read a statement regarding how meetings will be held, in light of the new Federal and State Rules during the COVID-19 pandemic situation:

"The public is encouraged to participate remotely. It is possible, in light of COVID-19 pandemic situation and the state of emergency declaration in NH, that our board members will be unable to attend our Gorham public meetings in person because they are concerned about getting sick or perhaps are already sick. In cases where the presiding officer declares an 'emergency' and the requirements of a physically present quorum is waived, a meeting of a public body may be conducted with most or all members participating electronically. As chairman of the board, I, therefore, declare an emergency for the purpose of our Gorham Board of Selectmen meeting until the COVID-19 pandemic situation has subsided."

3. New Business

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

None.

b. **Election of Officers and Board/Committee Appointments**

MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to appoint Michael Waddell to continue as Chairman of Board of Selectman. It was seconded by Selectman White. The motion carried. (3-0-0).

MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to appoint Adam White as the Board of Selectman Representative on the Budget Committee for one year. It was seconded by Chairperson Waddell. The motion carried. (3-0-0).

MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to appoint Michael Waddell as the Board of Selectman Representative on the Planning Board for one year. It was seconded by Selectman White. The motion carried. (3-0-0).

MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to appoint Yves Zornio as the AVRRDD Representative for the Board of Selectman for one year, with Selectman Waddell as the alternate. It was seconded by Selectman White. The motion carried. (3-0-0).

MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to appoint Michael Waddell as the Board of Selectman Representative on the Forest Committee for one year. It was seconded by Selectman White. The motion carried. (3-0-0).

MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to appoint all current members of the Economic Action Committee to serve once again on the Economic Action Committee. It was seconded by Selectman White. The motion carried. (3-0-0).

MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to appoint Gail Wigler to the Conservation Commission for three years. It was seconded by Selectman White. The motion carried. (3-0-0).

MOTION: Selectman White moved to appoint Judy LeBlanc as the Board of Selectman Representative on the Economic Action Committee for one year. It was seconded by Chairperson Waddell. The motion carried. (3-0-0).

MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to appoint Michael Waddell as the Board of Selectman Representative on the Trails Committee for one year. It was seconded by Selectman White. The motion carried. (3-0-0).

4. Old Business/Updates

a. Sign Shelburne EMS/Dispatch Agreement 2020

The Selectmen signed the contract.

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

b. HB1165 - OHRV Travel on Gorham Rail Trail

Denise Vallee updated that the Legislature voted to table the matter, with a two-thirds majority vote. Chairperson Waddell added that the Town is waiting on the State in order to get the new parking area set up on Route 16, and that he is unsure as to when that would take place, given the current state of everything. He suggested continuing communications with the Trails Bureau to try to push it along, as well as having the Code Enforcement Officer working on Site Plan review.

c. Town Meeting - 03/10/2020

Ms. Vallee recapped the meeting.

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 - COVID-19 Update**

Ms. Vallee indicated she's monitoring numerous bulletins from NH Homeland Security, the Governor's Emergency Executive Orders, NHMA bulletins, and information on non-essential and essential positions. She noted that a majority of the Town employees are considered essential at this point. She added that all the public buildings for conducting Town business have been closed, with the exception of the transfer station.

She went over some of the procedures the Town is implementing in order to keep certain functions running, with limited in-person contact. She stated that the \$1.50 electronic payment transaction fee is waived at this time, in order to allow people to pay their registration fees and property taxes online.

b. **Approve Minutes of March 9, 2020 (Regular & Non-Public Hearing)**

MOTION: Selectman White moved to accept the Minutes of the March 9, 2020 Regular and Non-Public Meeting, as amended. It was seconded by Selectman LeBlanc. The motion carried. (3-0-0).

c. **Other**

Austin Holmes spoke about a current problem at the transfer station, which is that they are being inundated with more people than normal, due to the current stay-at-home mandate. He provided his rationale on the situation. He concluded that it is creating an issue when there is no more space in the 30-yard roll-off at the transfer station for people to dump their items. As a result, a Notice is going to be put on the transfer station that states as follows:

"Due to the increased volume being brought to the dumpster, all loads that fill a 6-foot pickup truck bed, or larger, will have to be delivered directly to AVR RDD, by the resident with a Gorham Permit. Household garbage will continue to be accepted, which is kitchen waste."

She added that this would only be temporary, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Chairperson Waddell suggested beginning that on Friday, March 27, 2020, and that it should be noticed in the paper, the Facebook page, as well as the town's website throughout the week to give everyone adequate warning. Selectman LeBlanc noted her concern regarding staying the execution of the new rule.

Chairperson Waddell responded that when the dumpster is full, the residents are going to be sent to AVR RDD anyway, because there is no way to accept additional waste. He went on to say that the objective is that if residents only have small loads, it will enable them dumping their goods, whereas big loads would go directly to AVR RDD. He advised that residents without a Permit should go to the transfer station to receive one, so that they can be accepted at AVR RDD.

Mr. Holmes suggested that residents with large loads should call the transfer station prior to arrival in order to avoid future dumping issues.

MOTION: Selectman White moved to authorize Austin Holmes to post the above-mentioned Notice on the transfer station. It was seconded by Selectman LeBlanc. The motion carried. (3-0-0).

MOTION: Chairperson Waddell moved to authorize Austin Holmes and Denise Vallee to adapt, as needed, on this particular issue, if things come up between now and the next Board of Selectman meeting. It was seconded by Selectman White. The motion carried. (3-0-0).

A brief discussion was had regarding the crosswalks.

7. Adjournment

MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to close the Public Session, and to enter into Non-Public Session. It was seconded by Selectman White.

Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3, II(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.

Selectman LeBlanc: Aye

Selectman White: Aye

Chairperson Waddell: Aye

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

The Board of Selectmen entered Non-Public Session at 6:29 p.m.

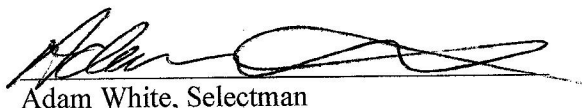
Respectfully Submitted,

Victoria O'Connor, Recording Secretary
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Approved on April 13, 2020:


Michael L. Waddell, Chairperson


Judith LeBlanc, Chairperson


Adam White, Selectman