

Town of Gorham New Hampshire

PUBLIC MEETING OF THE GORHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Gorham Town Hall Public Meeting Room 2nd Floor
Wednesday, May 24, 2023
4:30 p.m.

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Michael Waddell; Yves Zornio; and Judy LeBlanc.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Denise Vallee, Town Manager; Peter Gagnon, Town Manager in Training; and Chief Philip Cloutier

ALSO PRESENT: John Micucci; Ted Vansant; Steve Riggan; Bill Newman; and Edith Tucker.

1. Non-Public Session - 4:30 p.m.

Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3, II(b) *The hiring of any person as a public employee; (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 (i) Consideration of matters relating to the preparation for and the carrying out of emergency functions, including training to carry out such functions, developed by local or state safety officials that are directly intended to thwart a deliberate act that is intended to result in widespread or severe damage to property or widespread injury or loss of life.*

2. Public Session Call to Order - 5:30 p.m.

Chairperson Waddell called the public session to order.

3. New Business

a. Announce Action, if any, Taken in Nonpublic Session

None.

b. Capstone Project, John Micucci

John Micucci presented his Capstone Project to the Board, which would be at Libby's Pool. He went over the steps he's taken in getting the project completed, as well as donations that have been received. Discussion was had regarding the proposed structure, as well as safety concerns and permanency.

MOTION: Selectman Zornio moved to support the Capstone Project, as presented, with the approval of the Rec Department on final location. It was seconded by Vice-Chair LeBlanc.

Selectman Zornio: Aye

Vice-Chair LeBlanc: Aye

Chairperson Waddell: Aye

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

c. NE Commercial Solar Services, Ted Vansant (DPW Solar Project)

Denise Vallee provided an overview of the DPW Solar Project. She noted she had an initial proposal from ReVision Energy for \$215,000. She introduced Ted Vansant, from Barrington Power, who has a lower-cost proposal for the Town, which would permit the Town to continue on with the project without going for a USDA loan. She added this is for solar panels on the southern facing side of the Public Works garage. Discussion was had regarding the funds allocated for the project.

Mr. Vansant went over his experience in the North Country. He provided a background on Barrington Power. He went over the steps that would be taken to complete the project, as well as what would be covered from the power credit from the solar panels.

Discussion was had regarding the fact that there's no change in scope of work, as well as the materials proposed to be used, including warranties on the items. Further discussion was had regarding replacing inverters, as well as how the cost was impacted by the Buy American Act.

MOTION: Selectman Zornio moved to accept the Contract with Barrington Power to complete the DPW Solar Project. It was seconded by Vice-Chair LeBlanc.

Selectman Zornio: Aye
Vice-Chair LeBlanc: Aye
Chairperson Waddell: Aye

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

MOTION: Selectman Zornio moves to authorize the Town Manager to sign any documents to execute the Contract with Barrington Power. It was seconded by Vice-Chair LeBlanc.

Selectman Zornio: Aye
Vice-Chair LeBlanc: Aye
Chairperson Waddell: Aye

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

Discussion was had regarding proposed schedule for the project to be completed.

d. Ambulance Service Fees, Chief Cloutier

Chief Philip Cloutier distributed a document outlining the rate increase for the ambulance service. He went over the fees in detail. He provided an overview of what is billed versus what insurance covers. He noted there has not been a rate increase in 7 years. Discussion was had regarding the length of time since the last increase, as well as the Contracts of surrounding Towns. Further discussion was had regarding the impact on the residents of the Town.

MOTION: Selectman Zornio moved to increase the rates, as presented. It was seconded by Vice-Chair LeBlanc.

Selectman Zornio: Aye
Vice-Chair LeBlanc: Aye
Chairperson Waddell: Aye

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

e. TAP Grant Update (Lancaster Rd)

Ms. Vallee stated that they are working with Leah Savage from NHDOT, and that they did a walkaround on Lancaster Road. She noted that a 3.7% inflation rate has been applied for the next year to extend it out to when the construction would be. She said the original TAP Application was at \$976,300 and now it's at \$1.355 million, which made the match go up to \$271,096.09 for a difference of \$75,836.09, which the Town would have to ensure they had over the next two years. She added that they're coming up with a schedule now and will have an agreement to sign in a future meeting.

f. Cemetery Deed

- **John Robin - 250 Gorham Hill Road - \$1200**

MOTION: Vice-Chair LeBlanc moved to approve the Cemetery Deed for John Robin at \$1200. It was seconded by Selectman Zornio.

Selectman Zornio: Aye

Vice-Chair LeBlanc: Aye

Chairperson Waddell: Aye

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

g. RFP for Paving

Chairperson Waddell indicated that this would include a number of streets as well as the fact that there has been discussion by the Board in nonpublic session regarding proposed projects. He stated that the Water & Sewer Department needs a replaced line under Gordon Avenue, which should be surveyed and paved, as well as to replace a line under Willis Place, which the WSD would pay for the pavement. He suggested engaging HEB and Eric Grenier for both of the projects to ensure that a proper RFP would be created, as well as oversight on the paving.

MOTION: Vice-Chair LeBlanc moved to engage HEB and Eric Grenier to create an RFP in order to complete the projects outlined above. It was seconded by Selectman Zornio.

Selectman Zornio: Aye

Vice-Chair LeBlanc: Aye

Chairperson Waddell: Aye

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

Chairperson Waddell went on to state that the monies not expended will be applied to the Railroad Street in terms of what land would be retained and what would be done, as far as parking, sidewalk, etc. He noted that would be spoken about at a June meeting. Discussion was had regarding obtaining a survey for Willis Place.

4. Old Business/Updates, if any

None.

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

Steve Regan at 54 Railroad Street inquired regarding the proposed parking lot in front of his house. Discussion was had regarding the fact that there is parking proposed across the street, up against the railroad right-of-way but not in front of his house and the possibility of land ownership transfers to property owners in the area.

Ms. Vallee indicated as of yesterday, they're working on Evergreen and the goal is to have new base gravels under drain and cross culvers in this week. She added that the base pavement will be installed on Hemlock and Evergreen by the next week with cleanup and ditching to follow after that.

She stated she received a request for the first payment for Lee Corrigan in the amount of \$121,255.65 for work to-date on Hemlock. She added that includes a change order to address a substandard section of road they encountered, which increased the price \$9,541. Discussion was had regarding abutters and HEB Reports.

- **Gorham Public Library Requests for the Appointment of Luke Strevig as the Library Trustee to replace Nicole Eastman for the remainder of her term, as well as Lisa Bagley be appointed to fill position of Alternate Trustee.**

MOTION: Vice-Chair LeBlanc moved to approved the requests for appointment. It was seconded by Selectman Zornio.

**Selectman Zornio: Aye
Vice-Chair LeBlanc: Aye
Chairperson Waddell: Aye**

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

The Board expressed their gratitude to Ms. Vallee for her years of service.

7. Nonpublic Session

Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3, II(b) *The hiring of any person as a public employee; (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 (i) Consideration of matters relating to the preparation for and the carrying out of emergency functions, including training to carry out such functions, developed by local or state safety officials that are directly intended to thwart a deliberate act that is intended to result in widespread or severe damage to property or widespread injury or loss of life.*

MOTION: 6:30 PM, Selectman Zornio moved to reenter nonpublic session. It was seconded by Vice-Chair LeBlanc.

**Selectman Zornio: Aye
Vice-Chair LeBlanc: Aye
Chairperson Waddell: Aye**

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

Discussion: Legal and consultant property issues

**MOTION: 7:24 PM, Vice-Chair LeBlanc moved to leave nonpublic session
Selectman Zornio seconded.**

**Selectman Zornio: Aye
Vice-Chair LeBlanc: Aye
Chairperson Waddell: Aye (motion carried 3-0)**

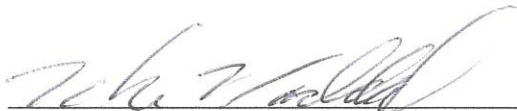
**MOTION: 7:254 PM, Vice-Chair LeBlanc moved to adjourn
Selectman Zornio seconded.**

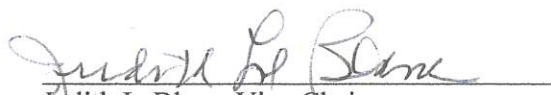
Selectman Zornio: Aye

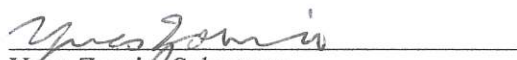
Vice-Chair LeBlanc: Aye

Chairperson Waddell: Aye (motion carried 3-0)

Minutes Approved as amended on June 12, 2023 by:


Michael L. Waddell, Chairman


Judith LeBlanc, Vice-Chair


Yves Zornio, Selectman

Respectfully Submitted,

Victoria O'Connor, Recording Secretary
O'Connor Legal, Medical & Media Services Inc.
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