

Town of Gorham New Hampshire

PUBLIC MEETING OF THE GORHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN Gorham Town Hall Public Meeting Room 2nd Floor Monday, November 14, 2022 4:30 p.m.

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

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Denise Vallee, Town Manager; Michelle Lutz, Assessing Clerk

OTHERS PRESENT: Mary and Adam White

1. Non-Public Session - 4:30 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.*

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

Chairperson Waddell called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

3. New Business

a. Announce action, if any, taken in nonpublic session

None.

b. Revaluation Update

Michelle Lutz stated commercial reviews started today. She indicated that she has not heard from DRA, and the extension was through October 31st, 2022. Vice-Chair LeBlanc asked Michelle if she could follow up with them. Michelle replied that she has had no approval or denial of anything.

c. Projected Tax Rate

Michelle stated that she was unable to get the tax info on the Town's website. She continued to state that the tax rate should be between \$22 and \$25/1,000. Chairperson Waddell requested an update from Michelle regarding KRT and the data. Michelle answered that she would do her very best to turn the MS-1 around in

just a couple of days. Chairperson Waddell stated that their goal for the MS-1 is to be done by the 28th. Selectman Zornio added that a delayed tax rate setting would impact the revenue coming in.

Michelle stated that their tax cards were not on the website. She explained the values were changing daily therefore she was unable to get them online. She also stated that the program won't run and that she reached out to the company to help her put the info into their system. She noted that the company (Patriot) has not responded to their multiple requests for help using their software. Vice-Chair LeBlanc said that they should not pay the company if they do not respond. Michelle stated that there were many Towns throughout the State that use the same software and they are experiencing the same problems. Discussion was had regarding exploring options for a different software company.

d. Land & Water Conservation Fund - Grant Agreement Documents

The Board signed the documents.

e. Quitclaim Deed - Town of Gorham to Morrisette

MOTION: Vice-Chair LeBlanc moved to approve the Quitclaim Deed for 3 Proposed Mountain View Road. It was seconded by Vice-Chair LeBlanc.

Vice-Chair LeBlanc: Aye

Selectman Zornio: Aye

Chairperson Waddell: Aye

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

f. Appalachian Trail Conservancy Annual Conference - Chairman Report

Chairperson Waddell reported that The Appalachian Trail Conservancy started identifying the values of the land on the Trail from Georgia northward. He stated that it was an interesting two days and noted that there is some opportunity for the Town of Gorham in working with the Conservancy to find grants to help the Town. He said that he would like to follow up with several of the people that he met to possibly help the Town, to which the Board concurred.

4. Old Business/Updates, if any

a. Town Manager - Application Deadline

Denise Vallee indicated that she had received several Applications and that she will compile and rank them for the Board to review.

b. Gorham's Outdoor Recreation Economy Report/Letter

Discussion was had regarding amendments to be made to the report/letter, as well as where it would be posted.

c. Railroad Street Parking

Ms. Vallee indicated that all areas have been flagged now and are ready for the Planning Board to review.

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

Mr. White stated that he attended this meeting hoping to hear what the new tax rates will be. He continued that many people are starting to panic over their taxes and that inflation is a concern. He noted that people will have to move away if their tax rates get too high for the values.

Chairperson Waddell stated that in the early 90's, the tax rate dropped to approximately \$15/1,000. He added that once they have the MS-1 done, then they can compare reports from the old one to the new one.

Mrs. White requested that the Board consider the budget in relation to the new tax rates and how it will affect their budget going forward.

6. Other Business

a. Approve Minutes of October 24, 2022 (nonpublic and public).

MOTION: Vice-Chair LeBlanc moved to approve the Minutes of October 24, 2022 (nonpublic and public). It was seconded by Selectman Zornio.

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

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

b. Abatements, if any - Ratify P & L Cote and Summer Fun, Inc.

For Summer Fun, Inc.: \$8,822.00 for tax year 2021 for properties located at 435, 437, 443, & 447 Main Street, which is all of their Main Street properties.

MOTION: Vice-Chair LeBlanc moved to accept the payment of \$8,822.00 for the properties listed above for tax year 2021. It was seconded by Selectman Zornio.

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

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

Ratify Abatement for P & L Cote in the amount of \$7,946.00, located at 435, 437, 443, and 447 on Main Street for tax year 2020.

MOTION: Vice-Chair LeBlanc moved to accept the payment of \$7,946.00 for the properties listed above for tax year 2020. It was seconded by Selectman Zornio.

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

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

Abatement J & M Lumber Company, tax years 2020 and 2021, in the amount of \$10,000.00 for 477 Main Street.

MOTION: Vice-Chair LeBlanc moved to accept the payment of \$10,000.00 for 477 Main Street for tax years 2020 and 2021. It was seconded by Selectman Zornio.

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

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

c. Town Manager's Report

- The Plymouth State University Papermill project students requested that members of the economic development team and anyone from the Selectmen attend a Zoom meeting on December 6th at 10 am. They will be picking their top projects to present for the lagoon site which is a 30-acre project. They had some creative ideas.
- Coos County is having a second round of ARPA grants. She spoke with Jen Fish and they have \$70,400.00 to divvy up. Phil has a need for nitrous oxide equipment and Ms. Vallee has an Owl and computer to add. Ms. Fish recommended to Ms. Vallee that the grant request should be approximately \$12,000 to \$15,000.
- The OHRV Commission had their first meeting this week, but Paul Robitaille was not able to attend. It was an organizational meeting.
- On Friday, the 2nd of December, Santa's Workshop will be in the Medallion Opera House, and the Festival of Trees will be going on at the Recreation Department, with a craft fair at the Public Library.
- Ms. Vallee has a proposal on her desk from Northern Communities Investment Corp. for the administration of the LWCF grant. It will be on the brand new AmpliFund System and will cost \$10,000. The total grant was \$170,000.

7. Adjournment

MOTION: Selectman Zornio moved to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Vice-Chair LeBlanc.

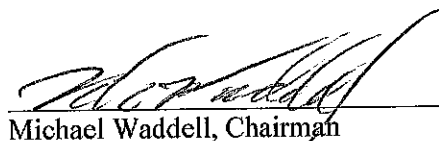
Vice-Chair LeBlanc: Aye
Selectman Zornio: Aye
Chairperson Waddell: Aye

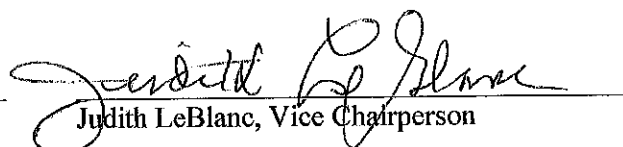
The motion carried. (3-0-0).

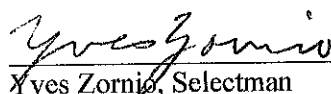
Respectfully Submitted,

Tina Morgan, Recording Secretary
O'Connor Legal, Medical & Media Services Inc.
www.oconnorlms.com

Reviewed and approved on November 28, 2022 by:


Michael Waddell, Chairman


Judith LeBlanc, Vice Chairperson


Yves Zornio, Selectman