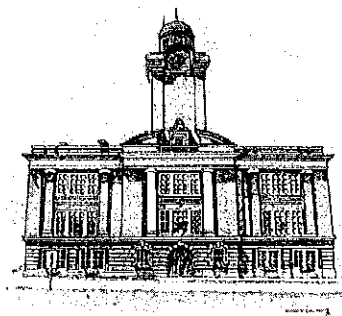


Town of Gorham New Hampshire



VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE GORHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN Gorham Town Hall Public Meeting Room 2nd Floor Monday, January 11, 2021 5:00 p.m.

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

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Denise Vallee, Town Manager

OTHERS PRESENT VIA VIDEO: Edith Tucker, Reporter, Berlin Sun; Brian Ruel, Presidential Range Riders; Abby Evankow, Public and Deidre Blair, Public.

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 6:06 p.m.

3. New Business

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

No action taken in Non-Public session.

- b. **Snowmobile Trail Access – Downtown:** Brian Ruel had previously presented the Board with three trail maps depicting sections of downtown with the proposed snow machine access routes indicated in red on each map. It was noted that map #3 needs to be corrected as the trail should end at the Information Booth on the Common, not at the corner of Park and Main Streets. Mr. Ruel stated that the snow machine club would take care of placing signs, using grade stakes, at each end point along Main Street. These maps reduce the amount of access that previously existed for snow machines on Main Street (The changes were made as snow machines are no longer able to access Main Street from Union Street.)

MOTION: Selectman White moved to approve the new snow machine access routes as per the maps with the required change to Map #3. It was seconded by Selectperson LeBlanc.

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

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

- c. **Berlin-Gorham Homeless Solution Network Representative:** TM Vallee informed the board that a new committee has been formed to deal with the homeless population in the area. As Bronson Paradis is just learning the Welfare Director duties from Sue Bolash, who is retiring as of March 1, 2021, Ms. Vallee recommended to the board that Paul Robitaille be named to serve as the Town's representative on the committee for one year. Mr. Paradis will have a year's experience at that point and will be ready and able to serve on the committee.

MOTION: Selectman White moved to approve the appointment of Paul Robitaille as the Town's representative on the Berlin-Gorham Homeless Solution Network Committee for one year. It was seconded by Selectperson LeBlanc.

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

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

- d. **2021 Board of Selectmen Meeting Schedule:** TM Vallee presented the Board with a proposed meeting schedule. Selectman White commented that it looked fine to him and said that it could always be amended depending on what adjustments are needed to accommodate vacations. Selectperson LeBlanc said she was fine with the schedule as well.

MOTION: Selectman White moved to accept the meeting schedule as prepared. It was seconded by Selectperson LeBlanc.

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

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

- e. **FEMA Risk Map Project – Consultant:** Chairman Waddell explained to the board that the USGS will be conducting a Risk Map Project, which is a major undertaking and is expected to last about three years. He recommended to the board that Tara Bamford, the Town's Planning Consultant be added to the list so that she is able to access the project files. Tara will assist the Town with monitoring the project and reviewing documents and maps. Chairman Waddell also stated that the Dike that runs along the Public Works Garage is not recognized and that a study of the dike was authorized as part of the re-licensing project. There were two areas found that could fail. He asked that Ms. Vallee contact Katherine Weirs of the USGS to introduce Tara Bamford and request that she be added to the list. He also requested Ms. Vallee to check the purpose of the River Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund to see if Ms. Bamford's consultant fee could be paid by this fund. If not, the fund purpose could be changed at Town Meeting.
- f. **Town Meeting Date:** Discussion took place regarding SB-2, which would allow, with certain requirements, for Town's to hold their Town Meetings virtually. The Board is in consensus that Town Meeting should be held in person in March. Ms. Vallee was asked to contact the School to request use of the gym for the Public Budget Meeting to allow for more social distancing than possible in the Medallion Opera House.

4. Old Business/Updates

There were none.

- 5. Public Comments:** There will be a 5-minute recess so that Public Comments can be sent in via email to townmgr@gorhamnh.org or by commenting during the Zoom session. Any comments received will be read.

Abby Evankow asked about snow machines being allowed to use the sidewalks on Main Street as she sees that as a hazard to pedestrians and stated that there was a parent walking their child to school and they had to jump to the side in order to avoid the snow machine. Chairman Waddell stated that the vote this evening actually reduced the amount of sidewalk that will be used to access downtown businesses and that snow machines had been allowed to do so for many years.

Deidre Blair questioned the board regarding the cost of the repair of a patch leading onto Bellevue Place from the Northeast Snow Machine rental business. She feels strongly that the Town should not be covering this cost and said that the Board had stated at an earlier meeting that the Town would bill them for any work done. Ms. Vallee was asked to check into the repair and its associated cost and to report her findings by email to Ms. Blair.

6. Other Business

a. Approve Minutes of December 21, 2020

MOTION: Selectperson LeBlanc moved to accept the minutes of December 21, 2020 as written. It was seconded by Selectman White.

Selectman LeBlanc: Aye

Selectman White: Aye

Chairperson Waddell: Aye

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

b. Town Manager's Report

- Ms. Vallee reported to the Board that Chief Cloutier had been awarded a \$29,866 grant from Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation. The grant will be used to purchase extrication equipment for the Fire Department.
- Ms. Vallee noted that the reimbursement of \$3,169.71 for the CARES Act- Election Grant had been received. This amount will be used to defray the cost of a portion of the additional hours worked by the Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector to deal with COVID-19 related requirements.
- Ms. Vallee informed the Board that Bronson Paradis had started his employment and training earlier in the day. Mr. Paradis is a graduate of UNH and holds a Bachelors' Degree in Business Administration. He will be trained by Sue Bolash until she retires on March 1, 2021. Mr. Paradis grew up in Gorham and graduated from Gorham Middle/High School.

7. Adjournment

MOTION: At 6:45 pm, Selectman White moved to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Selectperson LeBlanc.

Selectman LeBlanc: Aye

Selectman White: Aye

Chairperson Waddell: Aye

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


Respectfully Submitted,

By Denise Vallee


Minutes approved on January 25, 2021 by:



Michael Waddell, Chairman



Judith LeBlanc, Selectperson



Adam White, Selectman