

# Town of Gorham New Hampshire

## **PUBLIC MEETING OF THE GORHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN Gorham Town Hall Public Meeting Room 2nd Floor Monday, February 14, 2022 5:00 p.m.**

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

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** Denise Vallee, Town Manager.

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### **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.*

### **2. Public Session Call to Order - 6:00 p.m.**

Chairperson Waddell called the public session to order at 6:05 p.m.

### **3. New Business**

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

None.

#### **b. Economic Revitalization Zones**

Denise Vallee indicated that she had drafted a letter and sent it out to Jason Hunter for Big Day Brewing, which raised the question of what the Economic Revitalization Zones are. The Board received a packet with maps illustrating the zones. Ms. Vallee provided some background regarding the areas identified. Discussion was had regarding the tax breaks that could be earned by businesses in the zones.

#### **c. 2021 Financial Audit**

Ms. Vallee indicated the 2020 Audit is almost done and that there are pages to be included in the Town Report. She noted that the Contract is up with the auditing firm and went over the options that they could take to acquire a new firm for the 2021 Audit. Discussion was had regarding who to utilize as an auditing firm. The Board concluded that they would like to utilize Alta CPA's, the same firm that the school is under contract with currently for the 2021 Audit.

**d. Randolph Abatement**

Chairperson Waddell indicated that this was for the Town Forest. He went over what the abatement was referencing, as well as steps that have been taken with regards to this matter. He noted that in order for the Town to reserve their appeal rights, they need to file the appeal for Tax Year 2021.

**MOTION: Selectman White moved to file the appeal for Tax Year 2021. It was seconded by Selectman LeBlanc.**

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

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

**e. WMNF - Cooperative Enforcement Agreement**

**MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to approve the two contracts with regard to the WMNF Cooperative Enforcement Agreement. It was seconded by Selectman White.**

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

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

**f. Northern Forest Center OR Work**

Ms. Vallee indicated that she met with Maura Adams and Rob Riley, the President of the Northern Forest Center last week. She went over what their discussion entailed. Discussion was had regarding the work that the Northern Forest Center has assisted in and how it has been funded.

**g. USDA Grant Application - Rural Business Development Grant**

This matter was not discussed.

**h. Letter, Re: Short-Term Rentals**

Chairperson Waddell indicated that Tara Bamford requested some clarity on the letter. The Board received copies of the amended letter. Discussion was had regarding the letter to be sent out to residents who possess a short-term rental, making them aware of the newly adopted STR Regulations.

**MOTION: Selectman White moved to accept the letter, as presented. It was seconded by Selectman LeBlanc.**

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

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

**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.

None.

6. **Other Business**

- a. Approve Minutes of December 13, 2021 (regular), January 10, 2022 (regular), January 12, 2022 (public and nonpublic), and January 31, 2022 (public and nonpublic).

**MOTION:** Selectman LeBlanc moved to approve the minutes of December 13, 2021 (regular), January 10, 2022 (regular), January 12, 2022 (public, and January 31, 2022 (public and nonpublic), 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**

- The Board signed the Town Warrant copies to be posted.
- Ms. Vallee recapped regarding the limitless playground grant, which has moved to the next round of review.
- Ms. Vallee spoke about the body camera (10) and dash camera (2) grant for \$22,000, with a 50% Town match to come from the Police Equipment CRF.
- Ms. Vallee noted that the deadline for the Town Report is Wednesday to get it to the printer and that it's coming along well.

c. **Other**

Selectman LeBlanc suggested that the Board should start discussing and planning storing Town documents over at the library. Discussion was had regarding the accessibility of the records as well as the rationale in moving the records to the library.

7. **Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Selectman White moved to adjourn at 6:30 p.m. It was seconded by Selectman LeBlanc.

Selectman LeBlanc: Aye

Selectman White: Aye

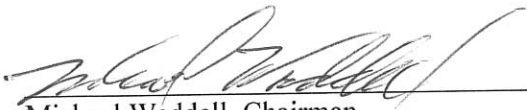
Chairperson Waddell: Aye

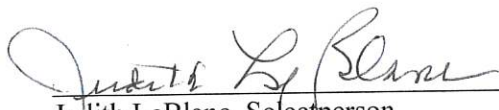
The motion carried. (3-0-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Victoria O'Connor, Recording Secretary  
O'Connor Legal, Medical & Media Services Inc.  
[www.oconnorlmms.com](http://www.oconnorlmms.com)  
(603) 865-1255

Minutes approved on February 28, 2022 by:

  
Michael Waddell, Chairman

  
Judith LeBlanc, Selectperson

  
Adam White, Selectman