



Town of Gorham New Hampshire

PUBLIC MEETING OF THE GORHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Gorham Town Hall Public Meeting Room 2nd Floor
Monday, August 8, 2022
4:30 p.m.

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

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Denise Vallee, Town Manager; Cindy Cole, Tax Collector

OTHERS PRESENT: Burke York, York Land Services; Matthew Saladino; Anthony Pizzuto; Chase Carder; 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; (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; 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 meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

3. New Business

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

Chairperson Waddell explained that the following three Motions are for legal representation in the Brookfield Power/Central Rivers Power relicensing project and that by these actions, it preserves the Town's rights and the means to exercise them in the relicensing process.

MOTION: Chairperson Waddell moved to apply for intervenor status in the relicensing process along with the City of Berlin on the Errol Dam. It was seconded by Selectman Zornio.

Vice-Chair LeBlanc: Aye

Selectman Zornio: Aye

Chairperson Waddell: Aye

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

MOTION: Chairperson Waddell moved to intervene on the Central Rivers Power Lower Gorham Dam, Project #2288, located behind Public Works for the purpose of protecting the Town's legitimate interest. It was seconded by Selectman Zornio.

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

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

MOTION: Chairperson Waddell moved to intervene in the Brookfield Power Dam Cascade Project and Upper Gorham Project to protect the Town's legitimate interest. It was seconded by Selectman Zornio.

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

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

b. Public Hearing - Dugouts - Senior Capstone Project

Presentation was given by Anthony Pizzuto and Chase Carder for their Senior Capstone Project. They were accompanied by their coach and mentor, Matthew Saladino. They explained the project in great detail ranging from the project definition to the actual measurements of the dugouts and wrapping up with how the project would be paid for.

MOTION: Selectman Zornio moved to approve and move forward with the plans of the Senior Capstone Project. It was seconded by Vice-Chair LeBlanc.

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

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

c. 2022 Tax Liens

Cindy Cole presented the list of tax liens and described which one needs to be taken off the list.

In addition, Cindy explained that she has been actively trying to contact everyone on the tax lien list to collect payment. Cindy also mentioned exemptions that she discovered through research for some of the people on the tax lien list. Chairperson Waddell suggested to Cindy and the Members that there should be a plan to get people onboard with a payment plan that all of them can afford and to get signed agreements for the payment plans.

d. Authorization for 91-A Response Expenditure

Denise Vallee stated she did not bring the 2020 expenses, with her to this meeting.

Chairperson Waddell stated that current Staff cannot meet the requirements of the 91-A records requests in any kind of reasonable response time. He explained that this \$6,200.00 is to pay for the work that will take quite some time to complete but will be paid in this calendar year of 2022.

MOTION: Selectman Zornio moved to approve the expenditure of \$6,300.00 to be paid in 2023 to an independent contractor to complete the work for the 91-A responses. It was seconded by Vice-Chair LeBlanc.

Vice-Chair LeBlanc: Aye

Selectman Zornio: Aye

Chairperson Waddell: No

The motion carried. (2-0-1).

e. Parking: Railroad Street / Exchange Street

Burke was asked by Chairperson Waddell to lead the discussion. Burke discussed the Parking Study that he created for the Board which revealed multiple locations that he identified in the Town of Gorham where he discovered that the town actually owned, where they could add 40 to 50 parking spaces. He brought drawings for each member of the board to refer to while he spoke. He indicated that there were multiple locations and that each could create more parking. He noted that several locations would need to be paved.

Chairman Waddell stated that there would need to be rules, for example "no overnight parking", that would govern the parking should they decide to expand the town's reach with the parking issue. He stated further that the parking policy will need to be updated.

Selectman Zornio introduced several legitimate concerns.

Chairman Waddell states that they need a well written plan in order to try and get a government grant to pay for the creation of these extra parking places for the Town of Gorham. He asked Burke to give the Board an estimate of what it would cost to create a site plan for parking in the area of the Railroad Street parking lot just to be able to see what kind of money would be necessary to create new parking spaces for Gorham.

Burke asked what the timeframe would be to get moving on the new parking locations. Chairperson Waddell answered maybe at the end of September.

f. North Country Council - Solid Waste/Recycling Survey

Selectman Zornio stated that he would fill out the Survey.

g. Personnel Policies - Town, Water & Sewer, and Library

Chairperson Waddell stated that the Town of Gorham spent three years to update their Personnel Policies and Legal approved everything. Ms. Vallee said that they are waiting on the Library Policy.

Chairperson Waddell said that all three should go to Primex and then to legal counsel. He noted that the New Hampshire Labor Law changes every year, and he added that they need the same attorney to look at the Policy every year because it would make things easier.

4. Old Business/Updates, if any

a. Bronson Paradis - Special OT Report

Ms. Vallee stated 4.75 hours were used.

b. 2022 Budget Expenditure Plan / Spending Freeze

Ms. Vallee stated that there was an issue of 12 benefits lines that had formulas that did not populate the form. She said that this created a shortfall of \$114,829.00. She indicated that they had examined the budget to find the funds in other line items to cover the shortfall problem. She explained that they found additional money, most of which was from two health insurance lines and two lines in the Highway budget to cover the shortfall.

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

Adam White commented on Main Street parking and the proposed bike lanes. He wondered if anyone had spoken to Mike Chabot about the grassy knoll across from the Hardware Store. He also stated that he had been to the transfer station and that he discovered that John LaPierre and Joe Ramsey were checking stickers on vehicles at the entrance, which he said was commendable.

6. **Other Business**

- a. **Approve Minutes of July 27, 2022 (public and nonpublic).**

MOTION: Chairperson Waddell moved to approve the Minutes of July 27, 2022 (public and nonpublic). It was seconded by Vice-Chair LeBlanc.

Vice-Chair LeBlanc: Aye

Selectman Zornio: Aye

Chairperson Waddell: Aye

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

- b. **Abatements, if any**

None.

- c. **Town Manager's Report**

- Ms. Vallee stated that the Board has election training on August 31, 2022 in the Medallion Opera House.
- Ms. Vallee noted that the Board will be meeting on Thursday, September 1, 2022, at 4:15 p.m to review the Project List.
- Ms. Vallee announced that the Town received a payment from the State of NH for \$136,672.00, which is the second Tranche of the ARPA funding.

7. **Non-Public Session**

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.*

MOTION: Selectman Zornio moved to reenter nonpublic session. It was seconded by Chairperson Waddell.

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.oconnorlmms.com

Approved on August 29, 2022 by:



Michael Waddell, Chairman



Judith LeBlanc, Vice Chair



Yves Zornie, Selectman