



Town of Gorham New Hampshire

PUBLIC MEETING OF THE GORHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN Gorham Town Hall Public Meeting Room 2nd Floor Thursday, September 8, 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; Kathleen Frenette, Director of Finance & Administration.

OTHERS PRESENT: Adam & Mary 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; 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 5:30 p.m.

3. New Business

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

None.

b. Director of Finance & Administration - Announcement

Ms. Vallee announced that Kathleen Frenette gave her notice of resignation to the Board and stated that her final day will be October 6, 2022. Ms. Vallee indicated that Bronson Paradis will be assuming the Finance Director Position, and that Kathy will be training him until she leaves.

c. Revaluation - Status Report, Assessing Clerk Michelle Lutz

Michelle Lutz indicated that the property values will be available on KRT's website, and the Town's website once all the data has been uploaded. She noted that they will put a notice on the Town's website under News and Announcements, and in the newspaper which will direct people to KRT's website if they want to view them. She added that a hard copy will be available, and that there are 1,800 properties in total.

d. Finance & Highway Department - Staff Restructuring

Ms. Vallee announced that Lisa White is leaving the employment of the town, after 11 years with the Public Works Department. She indicated that they are restructuring the positions so that there is a new full-time position which will be split to cover the Accounts Payable/Accounts Receivable position in the Finance office and 10-20 hours per week at the Public Works Department. She noted that they also need an individual to work for 20 hours a week as a Transfer Station Attendant and added that a retiree would be an ideal candidate.

Chairperson Waddell stated that the Board had not had a chance to review all these job descriptions and requested the Board to do so.

e. Town Manager - External Posting

Denise Vallee stated that she planned to post the position on Indeed, in The Burlington Free Press, and NH Municipal Association. Chairperson Waddell stated that he wanted the Selectmen to read over the planned post info and bring up any questions that they might have. In addition, Ms Vallee stated that she wanted the job posting up by the 19th of September 2022.

f. North Country Council - HB1168 Study Committee

Ms. Vallee stated that North Country Council is looking for two residents who are considered abutters. She indicated that the deadline to apply is the 20th, and that she can add this to the Town's website. She noted that anyone who is interested can fill out a form and submit it to the North Country Council email.

4. Old Business/Updates, if any

a. Parking: Railroad Street / Exchange Street (Update)

Ms. Vallee stated that they had received a quote from York Land Services. She indicated that services were to be performed for Tax Map U548 for Railroad Street Parking and will include deed research, boundary survey work, and preparing a plat map suitable for recording at the Cross County Registry of Deeds. She added that fees for recording are not included.

MOTION: Selectman Zornio moved to approve the quote from York Land Services. It was seconded by Vice-Chair LeBlanc.

Vice-Chair LeBlanc: Aye

Selectman Zornio: Aye

Chairperson Waddell: Aye

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

Chairperson Waddell added that he presumed the money to pay for that survey would come from the Town's legal budget. Ms. Vallee responded that she would check the Road Resurfacing and Reconstruction Capital Reserve first as this expenditure may be covered under that fund's purpose.

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

Chairperson Waddell introduced Adam & Mary White. The following points were made by Mr. and Mrs. White:

- A) They would like to purchase a cemetery lot and have been down to the Public Works Garage. Joe Ramsey has been assisting them with the deed and they are very happy with the service he has provided.

- B) For the last five years, Mr. White stated that he has complained about the Assessing Department. The service has gotten worse. They are months behind in registering properties, answering emails, phone calls, etc. They have a list of all of their properties that have not been switched over to the new owners. Their property values have gone up, but it cannot be verified. The tax collector's bill and online lookup does not match. The sales information hasn't been updated. They are frustrated and extremely upset.

Chairperson Waddell stated that the Board gets a copy of all of the property sales once a month. He indicated that that info becomes part of a record for each file. He noted that it goes from paper to online. He alluded to the fact that just yesterday afternoon he received the first large batch of adjusted residential property values. He made mention that, in the next week or so, they will be going through this information. He commented that, in his opinion, before they go live with the public with this information, it would be absolutely critical to make sure that the info is correct. He indicated that the Board needs an honest assessment as soon as possible. He questioned that, if it can't be done, why not, and then when will it be done? He went on to say that, in addition, new property values will be on a third-party website.

Selectman Zornio stated that they needed to look at the process and fix it.

Chairperson Waddell pointed out that they have not had Ms. Lutz's assistance in the process and questioned where the new computers were. Vice-Chair LeBlanc responded that the Town has had them for a couple of months already.

Ms. White stated that she had been told that all of these problems had already been taken care of. She also stated that she felt all of these are excuses. She indicated that she would like to know when she can expect to be answered. She noted that her email was sent on August 16th. She indicated that she heard back from Code Enforcement on August 18th with an acknowledgement but has not had an answer since. She added that there was another email on April 11th but has yet to hear anything else.

Chairperson Waddell asked Ms. Vallee whether that was enough information for her to look up Ms. White's emails, discover the questions she needs answered, find the answers, and get them back to Ms. White as soon as possible. Ms. Vallee responded that it was.

Ms. White offered to forward the emails to Ms. Vallee to assist in the process.

6. Other Business

- a. **Approve Minutes of August 25, 2022 (nonpublic).**

MOTION: Selectman Zornio moved to approve the Minutes of August 25, 2022 (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. **NH Office of Highway Safety Grant for \$6,725 (\$5,000 OHRV patrols & \$1,725 Radar Equip)**

The Board reviewed and signed the grant agreement.

- c. **Abatements, if any: None.**

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

- **The Dugouts:** Ms. Vallee stated that work has started, and that the bottom seven feet of chain-link fence had to be removed in order to do the work.
- Ms. Vallee indicated that Paul Robitaille has agreed to be the NH Municipal Association's representative on the newly established HB 1188 Commission which is to study OHRV use in the state. She noted that mileage would not be reimbursed by NHMA as this is a legislative committee. She suggested that mileage be offered by the Town or that Mr. Robitaille use the Town's travel car. Chairperson Waddell stated that he thought it would be fair to offer mileage, and Selectman Zornio agreed.
- **Walmart Noise Complaint:** Ms. Vallee indicated that Walmart was contacted by Chief Marsh, and the Store Manager was notified of the complaints, and that signs had been posted for the Truck Drivers. A response was also received from a regional Walmart manager.
- Ms. Vallee spoke of her trip, along with the selectmen, to the summit of Mt. Washington to attend a Governor & Council meeting. Chairman Waddell was presented an Award by the Governor for his 33 years of civic service on many different boards and committees. She shared the photos of the award ceremony and the mountain's spectacular scenery. Howie Wemyss was also presented with an award by the Governor for his many contributions to the area and to the Mt. Washington Auto Road.

7. Adjournment

MOTION: At 6:24 pm, Vice-Chair LeBlanc moved to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Selectman Zornio.

Vice-Chair LeBlanc: Aye

Selectman Zornio: Aye

Chairperson Waddell: Aye

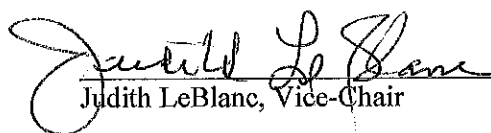
The motion carried. (3-0-0).

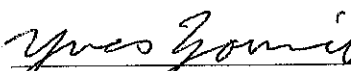
Respectfully Submitted,

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

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on September 28th, 2022:


Michael Waddell, Chairman


Judith LeBlanc, Vice-Chair


Yves Zornio, Selectman