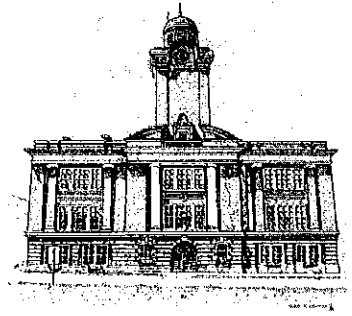


Town of Gorham New Hampshire



VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE GORHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN Gorham Town Hall Public Meeting Room 2nd Floor Monday, February 8, 2020 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; Howie Wemyss, Diane Holmes, Caroline & Sam Daniels; and Diane Bouthot.

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 6:01 p.m.

3. New Business

a. **Action Taken in Nonpublic Session**

None

b. **Downtown Snowmobile Access**

Denise Vallee indicated that this was placed on the Agenda due to the Board's approval of access maps. She noted that there had been many calls from concerned citizens regarding where snowmobiles were seen driving, particularly the sidewalks, and went over her own research regarding the regulations governing their permissible actions. She added that the Board had requested that more signage and miles per hour indicators were erected throughout the town. Discussion was had regarding the necessity to the changes to snowmobile access.

MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to tentatively adjust the maps to indicate the expansion of the use of sidewalks for business access to snowmobiles, to stretch from the Post Office north to Road Hawg Barbeque and from Top Notch south to the Pub House Eatery, as well as the adjustment of the sign at Five Corners Inn. In addition, signage would limit the speed to 10 mph and give pedestrians right-of-way. It was seconded by Selectman White.

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

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

Chairperson Waddell indicated his concerns regarding snow machine usage on sidewalks, but emphasized the importance of their usage at this time of economic downturn to assist the local businesses. He requested that they revisit this issue in the following year, when the economy may bounce back. Selectman LeBlanc noted they should review this on a yearly basis. Further discussion was had on the issue.

c. Gorham Properties, LLC - Settlement Agreement

The Board indicated they have read over the proposed Settlement Agreement.

MOTION: Selectman White moved to accept the Settlement Agreement with Gorham Properties, LLC, as written. It was seconded by Selectman LeBlanc.

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

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

Ms. Vallee outlined what the Settlement Agreement entailed and the Board signed said agreement.

d. Travel Policy - Exceptions to Add to Policy

Ms. Vallee went over the CDC exceptions to the Travel Policy.

MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to accept the exceptions being added to the Travel Policy. It was seconded by Selectman White.

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

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

e. Zoning Board Vacancies

Ms. Vallee indicated that they recently lost two (2) Zoning Board members, which leaves them with only three (3) members. She went on to add that two (2) of those remaining members' terms are up this year in March. Discussion was had regarding the need to fill the vacancies to make up at least a 5-Member Board, hopefully with people who may have some planning experience.

f. Budget Changes / Recommendations of Warrant Articles

Discussion was had regarding the proposed budget and warrant articles, including concerns on certain items. Chairperson Waddell went over what took place at the prior meetings that led to the proposed budget and warrant articles being decided upon today. Chairperson Waddell asked the board to consider making the following budget changes: Change Article #22 from \$200,000 to \$250,000 to come from fund balance; change Article #23 so that the \$92,000 appropriation comes from fund balance; and change Article #27 so that the \$15,000 appropriation comes from fund balance as well as change the purpose of the fund to allow the payment of planning, grant writing, and administrative costs for Flood Control.

Selectman White brought up the following concerns, and elaborated as to why he will vote no on them:

- **Article 37** - Town of Gorham was giving them a building to be in, rent-free. Town of Gorham hauls their trash for them and clears their parking areas, and hauls away their large amount of files, etc. that need to go away each year. Rent they get from renting out areas, they keep. Town is being more than generous to them already.

MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to support Article 37 to the Family Resource Center for \$10,000. It was seconded by Chairperson Waddell.

Selectman LeBlanc: Aye

Selectman White: No

Chairperson Waddell: Aye

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

MOTION: Selectperson LeBlanc moved to recommend the remaining warrant articles, including the changes as noted by Chairperson Waddell. It was seconded by Selectman White.

Selectman LeBlanc: Aye

Selectman White: Aye

Chairperson Waddell: Aye

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

g. Appointment of Wendy Roberts, Esq. for Prosecution Purposes

Ms. Vallee indicated there is a form for the Board to sign to vote to appoint Wendy Roberts, Esq. to assist with prosecution duties for criminal, motor vehicle, and juvenile matters, when needed, in accordance with NH RSA 41:10-A.

MOTION: Selectman White moved to appoint Wendy Roberts, Esq. for the role outlined above. 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

None.

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

Howie Wemyss inquired as to the physical and practical meaning behind the signage indicating that snowmobiles need to yield to pedestrians. Ms. Vallee responded that they need to stop their machine, pull over as far as they can without going onto somebody's lawn, and let the pedestrian walk by.

Diane Holmes indicated that she disagreed with the vote regarding allowing snowmobiles on sidewalks. She recounted her snowmobile encounters as a pedestrian. She suggested utilization of a shuttle sponsored by the businesses and the snowmobile club that would assist with transporting snowmobilers who park at the trailhead to the local businesses. She also touched upon the issue of sidewalks being destroyed by snowmobiles.

Diane Bouthot asked about the bottom-line figure for tax increase for this year. Ms. Vallee responded that all figures have not been received yet, in particular county tax amounts. Discussion was had regarding the tax amounts already in-hand.

Mr. Daniels indicated that he and his wife are new residents to Gorham and spoke about their adoration for the community. He discussed his concerns with the snowmobile usage in town, and requested that the Board consider alternate solutions to the sidewalk travel.

Edith Tucker stated that the County Delegation is meeting and looking at the budget on February 27, 2021. She inquired as to when the budget hearing was to take place. Ms. Vallee answered that it is Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at the Gorham Middle/High School gymnasium.

Ms. Vallee read the letters from Bill and Jean Scolere, Abby Evankow, and Deidra Blair. Discussion was had regarding snowmobile curfews.

6. **Other Business**

a. **Approve Minutes of January 25, 2021 (Regular and Nonpublic Meeting)**

MOTION: Selectman White moved to approve the Minutes of January 25, 2021 regular and nonpublic meeting. It was seconded by Selectman LeBlanc.

Selectman LeBlanc: Aye

Selectman White: Aye

Chairperson Waddell: Aye

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

b. **Town Manager's Report**

- Ms. Vallee spoke about the Town Report cover, wherein there were seven color drawings that were done by Ben Murphy. She noted that the drawings not chosen for the cover will be scattered throughout the Report. The Board voted on a cover to be unveiled once the Report was printed.
- Ms. Vallee discussed her conversation with the Auditors, who stated that due to delays caused by COVID, the Town will not have the Report in time to go into the Town Report, but that it will be posted on March 2, 2021 for the public to review.
- Ms. Vallee indicated she reached out to Tom Brady, the Chairman of the Board in Jefferson, following their fire and offered the Town of Gorham's assistance in any way they needed it. She outlined the conversation they had.
- Ms. Vallee said that the SCBAs were delivered to the Fire Department on Friday through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant. Selectman White added that they just need to be fitted.

- Ms. Vallee distributed the Town Report sections for signatures from the Board.
- Ms. Vallee informed Ms. Tucker that she is waiting to hear on a date, possibly in early April, for the Route 2 parking area hearing previously inquired about. Ms. Tucker responded that it should be completed by May 23, 2021. Ms. Vallee described what the hearing would entail.
- Ms. Vallee stated that this morning at 9:45 a.m., SB99-FN was talked about by the Senators and the Legislature, wherein she received a spreadsheet from the Municipal Association to plug the Town's figures in for the last 10 years. Discussion was had regarding the impact of not receiving the full amount of the Rooms & Meals Tax and what the Bill is requesting. She went over the steps she took to communicate with the Senators as to the Town's situation.

c. Abatements

Shah Hospitality - total refund of \$2,041.65 for Tax Year '19. For Tax Year '20, \$1,814.34.

MOTION: Selectman White moved to pay the agreed-upon abatement amounts. It was seconded by Selectman LeBlanc.

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

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

7. Adjournment

MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. It was seconded by Selectman White.

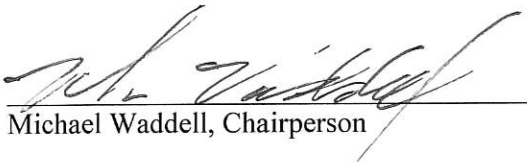
Selectman LeBlanc: Aye
Selectman White: Aye
Chairperson Waddell: Aye

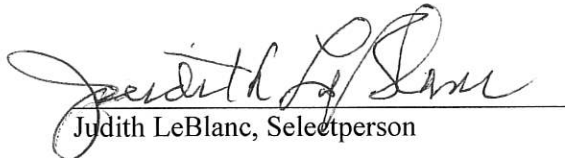
The motion carried. (3-0-0).


Respectfully Submitted,

Victoria O'Connor, Recording Secretary
 O'Connor Legal, Medical & Media Services LLC
www.oconnorlmms.com
 (603) 865-1255

Minutes approved on February 22, 2021 by:


 Michael Waddell, Chairperson


 Judith LeBlanc, Selectperson


 Adam White, Selectman