

Town of Gorham New Hampshire



VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE GORHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN Gorham Town Hall Public Meeting Room 2nd Floor Monday, March 22, 2021 5:00 p.m.

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

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Denise Vallee, Town Manager; and Buddy Holmes, Public Works Director.

OTHERS PRESENT VIA VIDEO: Edith Tucker, Reporter, Berlin Sun; and Meag Poirier, Wild Roots Marketing.

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 6:00 p.m.

3. New Business

a. Action Taken in Nonpublic Session

None.

b. RERC Branding & Wayfinding Project - Wild Roots Marketing & Branding

- **Gorham Recreation Survey Presentation**

Meag Poirier introduced herself. She made a presentation regarding the Gorham Recreation Survey.

- **Logo Reveal**

Ms. Poirier displayed the three potential logos and provided some background on each, as well as details on the process of creating the three logos. She noted that the next step is to send the logos out for public comment.

Discussion was had regarding the survey and the logo choices. Chairperson Waddell inquired as to how the logos were going to be circulated, to which Ms. Vallee responded that it would be via Facebook, as well as other social media sites.

c. Board Annual Elections

- **Election of Officers**

MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to appoint Michael Waddell as Chairperson of the Board of Selectmen. It was seconded by Selectman White.

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

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

MOTION: Chairperson Waddell moved to appoint Judy LeBlanc as Vice Chair of the Board of Selectmen. It was seconded by Selectman White.

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

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

- **Board of Selectmen Representation**

MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to appoint Michael Waddell as Board of Selectmen Representative to the Planning Board, with Adam White as the Alternate Representative, for one year. It was seconded by Selectman White.

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

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

MOTION: Selectman White moved to appoint Judy LeBlanc as Board of Selectmen Representative to the Budget Committee. It was seconded by Chairperson Waddell.

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

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

MOTION: Selectman White moved to appoint Yves Zornio as Representative to AVRRDD, with Michael Waddell as the alternate, for one year. It was seconded by Selectman LeBlanc.

Selectman LeBlanc: Aye
Selectman White: Aye
Chairperson Waddell: Aye
The motion carried. (3-0-0).

MOTION: Selectman White moved to appoint Judy LeBlanc as Board of Selectmen Representative to the Economic Action Committee. It was seconded by Chairperson Waddell.

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

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

MOTION: Selectman White moved to appoint Michael Waddell as Board of Selectmen Representative to the Trails Committee. It was seconded by Selectman LeBlanc.

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

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

MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to reappoint all existing members of the Economic Action Committee and the Trails Committee. It was seconded by Selectman White.

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

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

- **Board/Commission/Treasurer Appointments**

MOTION: Selectman White moved to reappoint Michael Waddell and Mike Pelchat to the Conservation Commission for 3 years. It was seconded by Selectman LeBlanc.

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

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

MOTION: Selectman White moved to reappoint Steve Malespini and Glenn Eastman to the Forest Committee for 3 years. It was seconded by Selectman LeBlanc.

**Selectman LeBlanc: Aye
Selectman White: Aye
Chairperson Waddell: Aye
The motion carried. (3-0-0).**

MOTION: Selectman White moved to appoint Judith Crofts as Treasurer for three years. It was seconded by Selectman LeBlanc.

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

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

MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to appoint Wayne Flynn, Lenwood Knowles, and Norman Malloy, as an Alternate, to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for three years. It was seconded by Selectman White.

Selectman LeBlanc: Aye

Selectman White: Aye

Chairperson Waddell: Aye

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

d. Public Works Department - Summer Projects

Buddy Holmes spoke about what's getting paved next year, as well as what he anticipates in terms of summer projects. Discussion was had regarding what the projects will entail, as well as the priorities in terms of repairs and the potential costs/funding that go along with them. Chairperson Waddell requested that the Water and Sewer Department come to a meeting to talk to the Board regarding what's going on, on the streets. Chairperson Waddell suggested that Mr. Holmes release an RFQ for the needed paving work and, once he receives the bids, that he presents them to the Board for discussion prior to announcing the winner of the bid.

Discussion was also had regarding chipping the wood piles, as well as the private property issues.

e. Assessing Contract - George E. Sansoucy, PE

Ms. Vallee provided a brief overview regarding the Assessing Contract, which would go from April 1, 2021 to April 1, 2026, which include the property assessments for all the utilities and for commercial properties in town. She noted the total amount was \$79,000 per year.

MOTION: Selectman White moved to approve the Assessing Contract for George E. Sansoucy, PE. It was seconded by Selectman LeBlanc.

Selectman LeBlanc: Aye

Selectman White: Aye

Chairperson Waddell: Aye

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

f. Family Resource Center - Lease

Ms. Vallee indicated that this is the same agreement for the 20-year term, except that the old lease said that one of the Board of Selectmen would be on their Board of Directors, and now it has been amended to reflect that the Board of Selectmen could appoint a representative for the Town on their Board of Directors. She went over what the agreement entailed. Discussion was had regarding the agreement and what impacts it has on the Town and the surrounding areas, as well as thoughts regarding selling the property, including the possibility of amending the lease to reflect a year-to-year agreement, so that the sale could be accomplished and the Town would no longer be responsible for this building or its tenants from that point forward. The Board requested Ms. Vallee to explore the possibility of selling the property.

MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to sign the lease for the FRC for five years. It was seconded by Selectman White, with the understanding that we will look into selling the building.

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.

Abby Evankow indicated she couldn't hear what Mr. Holmes was saying and whether or not Bellevue Place was on his list of projects, to which Chairperson Waddell indicated he did not. She inquired regarding repairing the damages from previous years. Ms. Vallee indicated that the total amount for the repairs was \$483, and due to the fact that Mr. McGillveray had already donated \$1,400 for the banners on Main Street, the Board decided against asking for more money from him, and therefore the repairs were made with leftover supplies. Ms. Vallee continued that if there is new damage totaling over \$1,000, that they would be pursuing the funds to repair the property.

Abby Evankow requested clarification regarding the public meeting on April 12, 2021, whether it was at the town's request or at the State's request. Ms. Vallee responded that it was at the Town's request, and that the meeting entailed the loading/unloading of ATVs in the Route 2 parking area. Discussion was had regarding the goal of the public meeting.

Abby inquired why the Town was not willing to ask the State to close the short section of roads and trails that feed the parking lot. Discussion was had regarding the specific roads and trails. Ms. Vallee indicated that the State has told the Town that they will not stop the rail trail traffic at this point.

Chairperson Waddell spoke to Howie Wemyss regarding an email that he had received previously, which he has misplaced, regarding an easement located adjacent to Moose Brook State Park. Discussion was had regarding actions taken regarding the easement, as well as future steps. Howie requested a copy of the signed letter regarding the easement to be emailed to him.

6. Other Business

- a. Approve Minutes of March 1, 2021 (Nonpublic Meeting) & March 8, 2021 (Regular & Nonpublic Meeting)**

Chairperson Waddell inquired whether we could include on the Minutes from March 8, 2021 the list of the people who actually bid on the cruiser and the amounts they bid. Ms. Vallee indicated she will just attach that page to the minutes.

MOTION: Selectman White moved to approve the Minutes of March 1, 2021 nonpublic meeting and March 8, 2021, regular and nonpublic meeting, as presented. 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

- **Letter of Support - White Mountain Paper Company**

Ms. Vallee read the letter of support.

MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to approve the letter to be sent. It was seconded by Selectman White.

Selectman LeBlanc: Aye

Selectman White: Aye

Chairperson Waddell: Aye

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

Edith Tucker requested a copy of the letter to be emailed to her.

- **Health Insurance**

Ms. Vallee indicated that originally they were given a gross maximum increase of 11.6% when they voted to change insurance plans. She continued on that this topic was revisited and it has been discovered that the insurance plan the Town currently has is going down from the original amount by 3.8%. She requested that the Board elect to stay with their current health insurance plan. Discussion was had regarding the difficulties of gleaning accurate insurance costs during the past few months.

MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to stay with the current insurance plan the Town has. It was seconded by Selectman White.

Selectman LeBlanc: Aye

Selectman White: Aye

Chairperson Waddell: Aye

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

- **Highway/Parks & Recreation Department Pickup**

Ms. Vallee indicated that they were hoping to find a pickup for \$20,000. She stated there were two trucks they located: a 2019 Chevy for \$23,000, with 13,000 miles on it, with some warranty left on it; 2014 GMC for \$16,000, with 41,000 miles on it. She noted that Jeff was willing to include the excess \$3,000 out of his Rec budget, to equal \$13,000. Discussion was had regarding the specs of the vehicles.

- **TAP Grant - Update**

Ms. Vallee indicated that it was submitted last Friday morning. She said the total project came to \$971,300, wherein the federal share of that would be \$777,040, and the 20% match is \$194,260 from the Town. She went over what the project entailed.

- **NH Bureau of Trails Public Meeting - 04/12/21**

Ms. Vallee announced that it's scheduled for 7:00 p.m. via WebEx. She stated the State will submit the WebEx link prior to the Agenda being released.

c. Abatements

None.

7. Adjournment

MOTION: Selectman White moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. It was seconded by Selectman LeBlanc.

Selectman LeBlanc: Aye

Selectman White: Aye


Chairperson Waddell: Aye

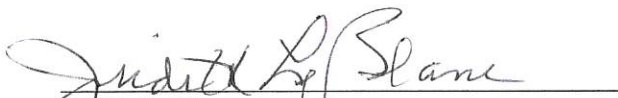
The motion carried. (3-0-0).


Respectfully Submitted,

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

Approved on April 12, 2021 by:


Michael L. Waddell, Chairman


Judith LeBlanc


Adam White