

Town of Gorham New Hampshire



VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE GORHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN Gorham Town Hall Public Meeting Room 2nd Floor Monday, June 8, 2020 5:00 p.m.

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

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Denise Vallee, Town Manager

OTHERS PRESENT TELEPHONICALLY: Edith Tucker, Reporter, Berlin Sun

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; (d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community; 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 anybody 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 6:03 p.m.

3. New Business

a. **Announce any action taken in Non-Public Session**

None.

b. **Commercial Garbage Collection**

The Board reviewed a document they received outlining the parameters of commercial garbage collection. Discussion was had regarding the document, including questions that this raises in terms of what is being picked up, which businesses are participating, why some businesses are not able to participate, whether businesses that don't pay taxes should be charged a fee for utilizing this service, and what it is costing to the town to provide this service.

4. **Old Business/Updates**

a. **Transfer Station Permit Policy**

The Board reviewed the suggested Policy language, and pointed out a typographical error that they noted. Discussion was had regarding the Policy, including its enforcement in terms of the logistics of residents being able to purchase the tags within three weeks, prior to the Policy going into effect, as well as allowing a two-month grace period, until September 1, 2020, prior to actually enforcing the Policy.

MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to accept the Transfer Station Permit Policy, as written. It was seconded by Selectman White.

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

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

The Board recommended a two-month grace period for enforcement, enforced effective September 1, 2020. They also suggested posting signs at Town Hall alerting residents of the new Policy and the necessity to purchase a Permit. Denise Vallee indicated she would make the noted typographical amendments and then leave it in the Selectmen's mail box for signatures.

b. **Community Forest Grant Extension - SF-424 Signature Required**

Ms. Vallee explained that all grants expiring by August 31, 2020 are to request an extension as soon as possible. She noted that Neal Bungard from the National Forest Service recommends that the Board ask to extend it beyond 120 days, because they have to get public input and having it expire a year later doesn't prevent the ability to close it out, if everything is completed beforehand. Chairperson Waddell indicated that everything is anticipated to be completed over the next three weeks.

MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to authorize Chairperson Mike Waddell to sign the SF-424 for the Community Forest Grant Extension. It was seconded by Selectman White.

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

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

5. **Public Comment:** There will be a 5-minute recess so that Public Comments can be sent in via email to townmgr@gorhamnh.org or by dialing in. Any comments received will be read. Telephonic comments should be limited to 2 minutes or less, and everyone should identify themselves.

Edith Tucker inquired regarding the commercial garbage collection and if any decision was reached regarding it. Ms. Vallee filled her in on the conclusion they reached, regarding further steps that need to be taken.

Ms. Tucker also asked for clarification regarding the Community Forest Grant Extension. Ms. Vallee explained the necessity for the extension.

6. Other Business

a. **Town Manager's Report**

- Ms. Vallee presented the Commercial Industrial Construction Exemption to the Board. She outlined what was included in the document. Chairperson Waddell requested for the other Selectmen to review the document and provide feedback to Ms. Vallee by tomorrow.
- Ms. Vallee indicated the posting for the ATV trail opening has gone out.
- Ms. Vallee noted that the old A/C unit has been removed from the roof and the new A/C unit has been installed, but still needed to be wired.
- Ms. Vallee touched upon the EMS Stipend for which they received the money on Thursday from the State. She added that the additional \$66,000 has yet to be received.
- Ms. Vallee stated that she's been sending emails out to businesses regarding the PPP Flexibility Program that was announced on June 5, 2020.
- Ms. Vallee spoke about the Main Street Relief Fund.
- Ms. Vallee said they had filed an intent to apply for a grant with the National Parks Service for the Limitless Playground. She indicated that Jeff got a response stating that the National Parks Service will be visiting the town on Friday to do a site visit.
- Ms. Vallee indicated that the grant application for the NBRC has been submitted.
- Ms. Vallee informed the Board that she has ordered all of the health and safety equipment to install in Town Hall. She added that they will probably still have residents go to the Town Clerk window rather than enter and exit the building, in order to limit the foot traffic, weather permitting.
- Ms. Vallee discussed the Police Department celebrating the 5th Grade promotion, the high school graduation, and a car parade on Saturday. She added that the School had purchased the banners and the brackets, for which the brackets will be available for the town's use for future events.

b. **Abatements - 15 Parcels**

Chairperson Waddell requested to table this issue.

MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to table the abatements to discuss at the next meeting on June 22, 2020. It was seconded by Selectman White.

Selectman LeBlanc: Aye

Selectman White: Aye

Chairperson Waddell: Aye

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

c. **Approve Minutes of May 27, 2020 (Regular & Non-Public Hearing)**

MOTION: Selectman White moved to accept the Minutes of the May 27, 2020 Regular and Non-Public Meeting. It was seconded by Selectman LeBlanc.

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

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

d. Other

- Chairperson Waddell indicated that the Library Board has requested that the Board of Selectmen appoint Melissa LaPlante to the position of Alternate Trustee.

MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to appoint Melissa LaPlante to the position of Alternate Trustee. It was seconded by Selectman White.

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

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

- Chairperson Waddell spoke about the building permit fee grace period that was decided upon at the last meeting. Ms. Vallee indicated that the Building Permit Fee Waiver flyer was posted on the Town's website under News, as well as at the Transfer Station and the Town's Facebook page.
- Chairperson Waddell inquired regarding A/V equipment and laptops for remote work. Ms. Vallee responded that they are anticipating receiving the laptops shortly. She provided an update regarding the A/V and Wi-Fi work that has to take place. She announced that everybody has been moved over to the new phone system.

7. Non-Public Session

MOTION: At 6:46 pm Selectman LeBlanc moved to go back into non-public session, under RSA 91-A:3, II(e). It was seconded by Selectman White.

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

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

Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3, II(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 anybody or board shall not constitute a threatened or filed litigation against any public body for the purposes of this subparagraph.

8. Public Session

MOTION: At 8:32 pm Selectman LeBlanc moved to go back into Public session. It was seconded by Selectman White.

Selectman LeBlanc: Aye
Selectman White: Aye

Chairperson Waddell: Aye


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


Chairman Waddell announced that no action was taken during the Non-Public session.


The meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Victoria O'Connor, Recording Secretary
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Michael Waddell


Judith LeBlanc


Adam White