

TOWN WARRANT

To the inhabitants of the Town of Gorham in the County of Coos in said State qualified to vote in Town affairs.

You are hereby notified and warned that the Annual Town Meeting and elections will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2023. Polls will be open from 10:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. to act upon Article One (1) by written ballot in the Medallion Opera House, Gorham Town Hall at 20 Park Street.

The Business Meeting will be held at 7:00 P.M. at the GRS Cooperative Middle-High School Gymnasium to act upon the remaining articles.

ARTICLE #1 To elect one (1) Selectman for a term of three (3) years, one (1) Town Clerk for three (3) years, one (1) Trustee of Trust Funds for a term of three (3) years, two (2) Planning Board Members for a term of three (3) years, one (1) Water and Sewer Commissioner for a term of three (3) years, three (3) Budget Committee Members for a term of three (3) years, two (2) Budget Committee Members for a term of one (1) year, one (1) Library Trustee for a term of one (1) year, one (1) Moderator for a term of one (1) year. (To be voted on by written ballot while the polls are open for receipt of same.)

ARTICLE #2 To see if the Town will vote to adopt Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Gorham Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amendment No. 1 would amend Article IV. Districts and District Regulations by removing churches from the list of uses requiring a Special Exception in Residential A and Residential B and add "Land or structures primarily used for religious purposes" to the list of uses permitted by right in order to comply with the new state law (RSA 674:76) that prohibits restricting the use of land or structures for primarily religious purposes.

ARTICLE #3 To see if the Town will vote to adopt Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Gorham Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amendment No. 2 would amend Article III. Definitions by updating and clarifying the definition of Manufactured Housing by adding reference to HUD certification and removing references to size and pre-site-built housing. Would also clarify that the definition of single-family dwelling does not include manufactured housing.

ARTICLE #4 To see if the Town will vote to adopt Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Gorham Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amendment No. 3 would update Section 5.02 Temporary Residences Paragraph B to treat tiny homes on wheels the same as recreational vehicles and require compliance with applicable codes for both.

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ARTICLE #5 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$900,000.00** (gross budget) for engineering, reconstructing, and paving Clay Brook Road (2,300 linear feet), and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$900,000.00 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6-2.) (3/5 ballot vote required.)

ARTICLE #6 **Optional Veterans' Tax Credit** – To see if the Town will vote, in accordance with RSA 72-27a, to change the existing Standard Veterans' tax credit to the optional Veterans' tax credit pursuant to RSA 72:27-a in the amount of \$200.00. The Optional Veterans' tax credit shall replace the Standard veterans' tax credit in its entirety and shall not be in addition thereto.

Also, to adopt the changes to RSA 72:28 IV a: The following persons shall qualify for the standard veterans' tax credit or the optional veterans' tax credit: (a) Every resident of this state who is a veteran, as defined in RSA 21:50, and served not less than 90 days on active service in the armed forces of the United States in any qualifying war or armed conflict listed in this section, and continues to serve or was honorably discharged or an officer who continues to serve or was honorably separated from service; or the spouse or surviving spouse of such resident, provided that training for active duty by a member of the national guard or reserve shall be included as service under this subparagraph.

ARTICLE #7 **All Veterans' Tax Credit** – To see if the Town will vote, in accordance with RSA 72-27a, to adopt the provisions of RSA 72-28b in its entirety:

RSA 72-28b I. A town or city may adopt or rescind the all-veterans' property tax credit granted under this section by the procedure in RSA 72:27-a.

II. The credit granted under this section shall be the same as the amount of the standard or optional veterans' tax credit in effect in the town or city under RSA 72:28. A town or city with an existing standard or optional veterans' tax credit under RSA 72:28 prior to August 18, 2016, adopting the credit under this section, may phase in the amount of the all-veterans' tax credit over a 3-year period to match the standard or optional veterans' tax credit. **III.** The all-veterans' tax credit shall be subtracted each year from the property tax on the veteran's residential property. **IV.** A person shall qualify for the all veterans' tax credit if the person is a resident of this state who is a veteran, as defined in RSA 21:50, and served not less than 90 days on active service in the armed forces of the United States and continues to serve or was honorably discharged or an officer who continues to serve or was honorably separated from service; or the spouse or surviving spouse of such resident, provided that training for active duty or state active duty by a member of the national guard or reserve shall be included as service under this paragraph; provided however that the person is not eligible for and is not receiving a credit under RSA 72:28 or RSA 72:35.

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ARTICLE #8 To see if the Town will vote to increase the Veterans' Tax Credit per NH RSA 72:28 and the All-Veterans' Tax Credit, NH RSA 72:28-b, from \$200.00 to \$300.00. (By petition American Legion Auxiliary Unit 82 Gorham.)

ARTICLE #9 To see if the Town will vote to modify the **elderly exemptions** from property tax in the Town of Gorham, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for persons 65-75 years of age, \$25,000; for persons 75-80 years of age, \$50,000; for persons 80 years of age or older, \$100,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least three (3) consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such a person's spouse, they must have been married for at least five (5) consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income from all sources of not more than \$24,400.00 for single or if married, a combined net income of \$32,400.00, and own assets not in excess of \$50,000, excluding the value of the person's actual residence and the land upon which it is located up to 2 acres (RSA 72:39-a).

ARTICLE #10 To see if the Town will vote to modify the **disabled exemption** from property tax in the Town of Gorham, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be **\$25,000**. The exemption may be applied only to property which is occupied as the principal place of abode by the disabled person. The exemption may be applied to any land or buildings appurtenant to the residence or to manufactured housing if that is the principal place of abode. Nothing in this section shall preclude a qualified applicant from earning an income. The exemption applies to any person who is eligible under Title II or Title XVI of the federal Social Security Act for benefits to the disabled. To qualify, the applicant must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least five (5) years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such a person's spouse, they must have been married for at least five (5) consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income from all sources of not more than \$24,400.00 for single or if married, a combined net income of \$32,400.00, and own assets not in excess of \$50,000, excluding the value of the person's actual residence and the land upon which it is located up to two (2) acres (RSA 72:37-b).

ARTICLE #11 To see if the voters will accept Imp Trail Road (925 linear feet of gravel road) located in Imp Trail Heights as shown on Plan 2915 on file at the Coos County Registry of Deeds and on Town of Gorham Tax Map R1. (Approved by the Planning Board by a vote of 5-1.)

ARTICLE #12 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of **\$80,000.00** for the purpose of highway and sidewalk asphalt repaving and curbing projects. Tax Rate Impact: \$0.21 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

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ARTICLE #13 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$250,000.00** to be added to the Road Resurfacing & Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2022: \$923,714.79.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.65 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE #14 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's recommended amount of **\$4,793,830** for the general municipal operations. This article does not include special or individual articles addressed. (Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6-2.)

	Budget Committee	Tax Rate Impact Per \$1,000
General Government	1,105,390	2.87
Public Safety	2,064,578	5.36
Highways, Streets, Bridges	1,033,733	2.69
Municipal Solid Waste/Recycling	315,910	.82
Health Purposes	2,050	<.01
Welfare	25,260	<.01
Recreation & Parks	238,103	.62
Patriotic Purposes	7,056	.02
Conservation Commission	250	<.01
Long-Term Debt	1,500	<.01
TOTAL:	4,793,830	

ARTICLE #15 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$165,932.00** for the operation of the Gorham Public Library. Tax Rate Impact: \$0.43 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6-2.)

ARTICLE #16 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$5,000.00** to be added to the Library Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2022: \$5,050.69.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.01 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE #17 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$593,916.00** for the operation of the Sewer Department. (This amount will be offset by user fees and Sewer funds. It will not affect general taxation.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

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ARTICLE #18 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$586,712.00** for the operation of the Water Department. (This amount will be offset by user fees and Water funds. It will not affect general taxation.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE #19 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$10,000.00** for the purpose of supporting the 4th of July Committee with the cost of fireworks for the 4th of July Celebration. Tax Rate Impact: .03 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 7-1.)

ARTICLE #20 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$50,000.00** to be added to the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2022: \$208,341.27.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.13 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6-0, 2 abstentions.)

ARTICLE #21 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$12,500.00** to be added to the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2022: \$88,509.99.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.03 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6-0, 2 abstentions.)

ARTICLE #22 To see if the town will vote to establish a SCBA Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of providing SCBA equipment to firefighters. And further to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$7,500.00** to be placed in such fund and to designate the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend as may be necessary for this purpose. Tax Rate Impact: \$0.02 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6-0, 2 abstentions.)

ARTICLE #23 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$40,000.00** to be added to the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2022: \$49,643.92.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.10 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6-0, 2 abstentions.)

ARTICLE #24 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$20,000.00** to be added to the Ambulance Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2022: \$30,476.33.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.05 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6-0, 2 abstentions.)

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ARTICLE #25 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$25,000.00** to be added to the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2022: \$41,949.12.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.06 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE #26 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$10,000.00** to be added to the Police Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2022: \$20,106.78.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.03 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE #27 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$13,000.00** to be added to the Dispatch Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2022: \$57,398.71.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.03 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE #28 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$100,000.00** to be added to the Town Building Purchase & Repairs Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2022: \$190,926.80.* Tax Rate Impact: \$.26 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE #29 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$20,000.00** to be added to the Renewable Energy Projects Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2022: \$10,000.00.* Tax Rate Impact: \$.05 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE #30 To see if the Town of Gorham will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred and Nineteen Thousand, Three Hundred and Forty Four Dollars (**\$219,344**) (Gross Budget) for the purpose of purchasing and installing a 59kw roof-mounted solar array and related equipment at the Public Works Garage and to authorize the issuance of **\$59,000** in a CDFA Loan, **\$130,344** in federal grants and **\$30,000** from the Renewable Energy Capital Reserve Fund; to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver said bonds and notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any other action, which may include declining an agreement for the project which terms and conditions are not in the best interest of the Town of Gorham, or to pass any other vote relative thereto. This project moving forward is subject to the

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award of \$41,344 from the USDA Community Facilities Grant Program. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0) (3/5 vote required.)

ARTICLE #31 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$120,000.00** to be added to the Highway Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2022: \$108,381.87.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.31 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE #32 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$30,000.00** to be added to the Sanitation/Recycling Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2022: \$141,641.03.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.08 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE #33 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$3,600.00** to be added to the Cates Hill Land Fill Trust Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2022: \$21,305.18.* Tax Rate Impact: \$.01 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE #34 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$3,500.00** to be added to the East Milan Monitoring Expendable Trust Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2022: \$63,978.63.* Tax Rate Impact: \$.01 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE #35 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$900.00** to be added to the Medallion Opera House Capital Reserve Fund as previously established, with said funds to come from December 31, 2022 unassigned fund balance. *Balance as of December 31, 2022: \$6,247.26.* No amount to be raised from taxation. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE #36 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$62,000.00** to be added to the Assessment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2022: \$50,014.48.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.24 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

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ARTICLE #37 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$30,000.00** to be added to the Information Technology Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2022: \$49,095.58. Tax Rate Impact: \$0.08* (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE #38 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$15,000.00** to be added to the River Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2022: \$188,078.29. Tax Rate impact: \$0.04* (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE #39 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$3,000.00** to be added to the Special Insurance Trust Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2022: \$11,458.88. Tax Rate Impact: \$0.01* (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE #40 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$5,000.00** to be added to the Longevity/Severance Trust Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2022: \$37,355.31. Tax Rate Impact: \$0.01* (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE #41 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$14,000.00** for the purpose of supporting Gorham residents needing home care services from Androscoggin Valley Home Care. *Tax Rate Impact: \$0.04 (By Petition.)* (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6-2.)

ARTICLE #42 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$2,895.00** for the purpose of supporting The Mental Health Center in providing outpatient and emergency mental health services for the citizens of Gorham. *Tax Rate Impact: <\$0.01 (By Petition.)* (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE #43 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$6,745.00** for the operation of Tri-County Community Action Program, Inc. service programs in Gorham: Transportation, Energy Assistance, Weatherization, Guardianship, Head Start, Homeless Intervention and Prevention, RSVP, ServiceLink, Senior Meals, Tamworth Dental Center. *Tax Rate Impact: \$0.02 (By Petition.)* (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

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ARTICLE #44 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$10,000.00** for the purpose of supporting the Gorham Community Learning Center in Gorham. Tax Rate Impact: \$0.03 (By Petition.) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 5-3.)

ARTICLE #45 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$4,000.00** for the purpose of supporting the ongoing public service of the Gorham Historical Society, the museum, and their work to protect and preserve the history of Gorham. Tax Rate Impact: \$0.01 (By Petition.) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE #46 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$10,000.00** for the purpose of supporting the Family Resource Center at Gorham. Tax Rate Impact: \$0.03 (By Petition.) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 5-2, 1 abstention.)

ARTICLE #47 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$2,000.00** for the purpose of supporting the Androscoggin River Athletes local Special Olympics team. Tax Rate Impact: <\$0.01 (By Petition.) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE #48 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$3,000.00** for the purpose of supporting the Androscoggin Valley Chamber's marketing efforts through our branded marketing program, "Your Adventure Starts Here". Tax Rate Impact: <\$0.01 (By Petition.) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 4-4.)

ARTICLE #49 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$5,000.00** for the purpose of supporting Hospice, Home Health, Palliative Care, and Long-Term Care services provided by North Country Home Health & Hospice Agency. Tax Rate Impact: \$0.01 (By Petition.) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6-2.)

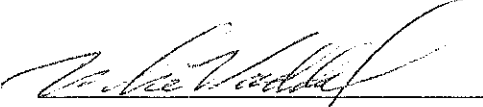
ARTICLE #50 To hear any reports of any Town Officers, Agents and Committees heretofore chosen and to pass any votes related thereto.

ARTICLE #51 To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

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Given under our hands this 17th day of February, 2023.

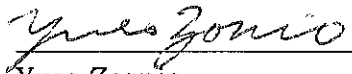
We certify and attest that on or before February 17th, 2023, we posted a true and attested copy of the within Warrant at the place of meeting, and like copies at Gorham Town Hall and delivered the original to the Town Clerk.



Michael Waddell, Chairman



Judith LeBlanc



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