

## 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 12, 2024. Polls will be open from 10:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. to act upon Articles One (1) through five (5) 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) 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) Planning Board Member for a term of one (1) year, one (1) Water and Sewer Commissioner for a term of three (3) years, two (2) Budget Committee Members for a term of three (3) years, one (1) Library Trustee for a term of two (2) year, one (1) Library Trustee for a term of three (3) years, one (1) Supervisor of the Checklist for a term of six (6) years, and one (1) Moderator for a term of two (2) years. (To be voted on by written ballot while the polls are open for receipt of same.)

**ARTICLE #2** Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Gorham Zoning Ordinance as follows: to revise the definition of "Tourist Accommodation" in Article III in order to clarify that the term includes dwelling units offered for transient use, i.e., "short-term rentals," for more than 120 days per year; and revise the parking requirements in Section 5.03 C. to require that dwelling units used as Tourist Accommodations provide two parking spaces, the same number required for dwelling units used for Residential use?

**ARTICLE #3** Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Gorham Zoning Ordinance as follows: to remove the requirement that off-site parking be located within 400 feet and instead give the Planning Board the discretion to determine a reasonable distance based on a parking plan that documents the parking need, the adequacy of the parking proposed to serve that need, the safety of users, and the safety of those using adjacent roadways?

**ARTICLE #4** Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Gorham Zoning Ordinance as follows: to add a section regarding temporary construction structures to Section 5.05, and to make associated revisions to the Definitions of "Accessory Building or Use," "Building" and "Structure" in Article III?

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**ARTICLE #5** Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Gorham Zoning Ordinance as follows: for accessory structures that are no larger than 150 sq. ft., to make the minimum side and rear setbacks 5 feet in the Residential A, Commercial A and Commercial B districts and 10 ft. in the Residential B district (Article IV); to provide the Board of Adjustment with the ability to grant a Special Exception to any setback for any accessory structure in every zoning district except Industrial; and to make associated revisions to the Definitions of "Accessory Building or Use," "Building" and "Structure" in Article III?

**ARTICLE #6** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$1,540,000** for the purpose of acquiring 1109 acres contained in five parcels, four in Gorham and one in Shelburne, and to authorize the Selectmen to accept funds (Current secured funding equals \$1,365,000) from grants and other sources to this project and to accept such easements and other requirements as go with said funding; and to encumber \$75,000 from within the Town Forest Fund for land management purposes; and to authorize the Selectmen to withdraw up to \$100,000 from the "Undesignated Fund Balance" if needed to meet the budgeted purchase price of the land **\$1,262,000** and to further pay such acquisition costs as are necessary to purchase said land **\$278,000** for a total cost of **\$1,540,000**. Any grant or outside funds received beyond what has currently been secured will reduce the amount of unassigned fund balance used. No amount raised through taxation. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Town Forest Committee by a vote of 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 4-0.)

**ARTICLE #7** 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 4-0.) (Majority vote required)

**ARTICLE #8** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$150,000.00** to be added to the Road Resurfacing & Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2023: \$926,172.75.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.12 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 4-0.) (Majority vote required)

**ARTICLE #9** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's recommended amount of **\$5,372,632** 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 4-0.)

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	<b>Budget Committee</b>	<b>Tax Rate Impact Per \$1,000</b>
General Government	1,215,184	3.12
Public Safety	2,064,578	5.69
Highways, Streets, Bridges	1,139,892	2.92
Municipal Solid Waste/Recycling	327,590	.84
Health Purposes	2,050	<.01
Welfare	25,075	0.06
Recreation & Parks	230,781	.59
Patriotic Purposes	6,660	.02
Conservation Commission	250	<.01
Long-Term Debt	206,562	0.53
TOTAL:	5,372,632	

**ARTICLE #10 TENTATIVE** To see if the town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Gorham Board of Selectmen and the members of AFSME-Local 3657, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

**POLICE:**

Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase
2024	\$16,360
2025	\$13,250
2026	\$9,235

**DISPATCH:**

Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase
2024	\$12,126
2025	\$5,033
2026	\$5,221

And further to raise and appropriate **\$28,486** for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 4-0.) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE #11** Shall the town, if Article 10 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 10 cost items only? (Majority vote)

**ARTICLE #12** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$166,442.00** 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 4-0.) (Majority vote required.)

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**ARTICLE #13** 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, 2023: \$10,107.87.* 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 4-0.) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE #14** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$646,705.00** 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 4-0.)

**ARTICLE #15** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$616,145.00** 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 4-0.)

**ARTICLE #16** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$10,000.00** for the purpose of supporting the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee with the cost of fireworks for the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4-0.) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE #17** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$55,000.00** to be added to the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2023: \$260,684.55.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.14 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 4-0.) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE #18** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$10,000.00** to be added to the SCBA Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2023: \$7,500.00.* 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 4-0.) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE #19** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$45,000.00** to be added to the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2023: \$90,199.16.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.12 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 4-0.) (Majority vote required.)

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**ARTICLE #20** 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, 2023: \$66,501.79.* 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 4-0) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE #21** 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, 2023: \$28,929.68.* 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 4-0) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE #22** 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, 2023: \$69,532.27.* 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 4-0) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE #23** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$50,000.00** to be added to the Town Building Purchase & Repairs Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2023: \$269,941.18.* 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 4-0) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE #24** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$15,000.00** to be added to the Renewable Energy Projects Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2023: \$30,117.62.* 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 4-0) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE #25** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$127,000.00** to be added to the Highway Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2023: \$114,283.58.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.33 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 4-0) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE #26** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$25,000.00** to be added to the Sanitation/Recycling Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2023: \$926,172.75.* 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 4-0) (Majority vote required.)

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**ARTICLE #27** 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 Expendable Trust Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2023: \$18,562.23.* Tax Rate Impact: \$.01 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 4-0) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE #28** 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, 2023: \$68,201.79.* Tax Rate Impact: \$.01 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 4-0) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE #29** 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, 2023 unassigned fund balance. *Balance as of December 31, 2023: \$6,248.04.* 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 4-0) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE #30** 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, 2023: \$62,283.81.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.16 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 4-0) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE #31** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$15,000.00** to be added to the Information Technology Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2023: \$59,928.79.* 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 4-0) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE #32** 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, 2023: \$205,202.77.* 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 4-0) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE #33** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$3,000.00** to be added to the Special Insurance Expendable Trust Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2023: \$14,587.67.* Tax Rate Impact: \$.01 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 4-0) (Majority vote required.)

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**ARTICLE #34** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$5,000.00** to be added to the Longevity/Severance Expendable Trust Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2023: \$11,174.87.* 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 4-0.) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE #35** 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 4-0.)

**ARTICLE #36** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$2,895.00** for the purpose of supporting Northern Human Services (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 4-0.)

**ARTICLE #37** 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 4-0.)

**ARTICLE #38** 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 4-0.)

**ARTICLE #39** 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 4-0.)

**ARTICLE #40** 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 4-0.)

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**ARTICLE #41** 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 4-0.)

**ARTICLE #42** 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 4-0.)

**ARTICLE #43** To see if the town will adopt the provisions of RSA 72:62 for an exemption for property tax purposes from the assessed value of real estate equipped with one or more solar energy systems, for the purpose of heating, cooling, or providing electricity, which exemption shall be 100% if the assessed value if the solar energy systems. (By Petition).

**ARTICLE #44** To see if the town will vote to change the name of the Libby Soccer Field to the SSG Tanner Grone Memorial Soccer Field. (By Petition).

**ARTICLE #45** To hear any reports of any Town Officers, Agents and Committees heretofore chosen and to pass any votes related thereto.

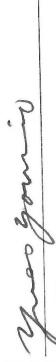
**ARTICLE #46** To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Given under our hands this 15th day of February, 2024.

We certify and attest that on or before February 15, 2024, 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

  
Yves Zornio