

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
THE GORHAM TOWN BOARD  
August 21, 2024 7:00pm**

The Gorham Town Board held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday August 21, 2024, at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall in Gorham, NY.

Present; Supervisor Dale C. Stell. Councilmembers, Jake Chard, Phil Curtis, Brian Lazarus and Chrissy Watkins.

Town Officials in attendance; Chief Operator Water & Wastewater Districts Greg Coston, Deputy to Chief Operator Water & Wastewater Nate Bay, Code Enforcement Officer Jim Morse, Assessor Enza Mineo and Town Clerk Darby Perrotte.

Bookkeeper Susan Cummings and Tax Collector Adrienne Smith joined via Zoom.

Highway Superintendent Zach Eddinger was necessarily absent.

Residents and guests in attendance and via zoom.

1. Call to Order/Pledge to the Flag
2. Privilege of the Floor –

Candace Eldredge, West Swamp Road resident, stated she and her husband attended the Town Board meeting in November 2023. The Board approved fixing the erosion problem on their property. To date there has been no progress. The Town Highway Department has not responded.

Mrs. Eldredge stated they don't care who does the work, it would make sense for the Highway Department to do it but, they just want the erosion stopped. She would like an idea of a timeline to get going on the project.

The Board held discussion.

Supervisor Stell is in touch with Ontario County Soil and Water regarding the Eldredge property. He will call to set up a time for the Board to look at the plan they have to address the erosion problem.

Amanda Gibeau, Director of Operations, Stanley Hall Gorham Ambulance, updated the Board on the new Mutual Aid Plan for EMS in Ontario County. She is happy to provide the Board with a draft of that Plan.

She updated the Board on the progress of the new building for the Ambulance. The Ambulance is hosting a Grand Opening Party, the Town Board is invited.

Mrs. Gibeau is working with the Town Clerk to acquire an AED Defibrillator for the Town Hall.

Sally Napolitano, Lake Drive resident, asked about the area coverage of the Ambulance and the funds budgeted for the Ambulance.

Discussion was held. Gorham Ambulance does not receive funding from the Town.

Sally Napolitano thanked the Town for allowing residents access to the Transfer Station to dump debris after the storm that hit town from Hurricane Debby.

3. Approval of Minutes - 7/17/2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

On the motion by Councilmember Watkins, seconded by Councilmember Chard, the minutes were approved as submitted. The motion carried unanimously. 5-0

5 Ayes – Stell, Chard, Curtis, Watkins, Lazarus

**084-2024**

4. Reports of Town Officials -

- A. Chief Operator Water/Wastewater Plants – written report on file. Chief Operator Coston informed the Board that the booster station on Lake to Lake Road needs upgrading. He will get quotes and bring them to the Board. Chief Operator Coston stated the water plant needs new water meters. He would like to order 40 meters to have for replacing old meters and to have in stock when needed. The price is approximately \$10,000.00. Discussion was held. The Board approved ordering 80 for replacements needed now and to have in stock.

Deputy Nate Bay presented the Board with pricing for a new truck for the Water Department. They would like to go to a service body style truck. He provided 4 truck prices and 3 body prices. Discussion was held.

On the motion by Councilmember Chard, seconded by Councilmember Lazarus, the Board approved spending up to \$70,000.00 for the purchase of a F350 super duty extended cab truck with the service body from Maguire Ford and Thruway Spring. Motion carried unanimously. 5-0

5 Ayes – Stell, Chard, Curtis, Watkins, Lazarus

**085-2024**

- B. Highway Superintendent – written report on file.

C. Zoning/Building Officer – written report on file. Code Enforcement Officer Morse thanked everyone for their patience while the new doors at Town Hall and Court were installed.

D. Assessor –written report on file. Assessor Mineo said the building department and her department are working together with their IPS System. Assessor Mineo stated it's nice to work together with their department. She added the Town's equalization rate dropped to 97%. We were 100% for 1 year. Assessor Mineo explained the equalization rate and reasons for the drop.

- E. Town Clerk – written report on file.

F. Town Supervisor – Supervisor Stell stated the Town received a request from the Gorham Cemetery Association to include them in our town budget for 2025. The Board will consider the request at Budget time.

Supervisor Stell stated insurance is up 13% and explained a few reasons, water rates are increasing for residents and the Town of Hopewell. The Board held discussion and agreed that rates will increase at the start of 2025.

Supervisor Stell stated, regarding the Maple Ave Drainage Project, he has gone to Plan B. He explained; the job is designed to be done by the Town's Highway Department. It was put off,

put off and ignored by the Highway Superintendent. The previous Town Supervisor put it out to bid. The low bidder was not performing, the Town canceled their contract and decided to do it in-house. The Town Highway Superintendent is not responding. Supervisor Stell said the Town will do it in-house but in a different way. Plan B revolves around hiring 6 local former employees of contractors to oversee in the field and to install the new drainage in the field. They will be temporary, part-time employees. Half will be completed this Fall and the other half in the Spring. The Town is purchasing the material. Art Rilands will run the job in the field, he is lining up the other employees. The rate is approximately \$45.00 per hour for employees plus the cost of renting equipment for the project. The total projected cost will be less than the bid price of \$258,000.00. \$75,000.00 will come from ARPA Funding the Town has already received. The remainder of the ARPA Funding will be put towards the Water Plant Upgrade.

Ed Merritt, Deer Run resident, brought up the Highway Superintendent's Salary and stated he should not receive an increase at budget time.

Councilmember Watkins stated the Highway Superintendent's cell phone is provided by the Town and despite him stating his number shouldn't be given out Councilmember Watkins checked with other Town Officials that are provided a phone, they answer and are available on their phones 24/7.

Sally Napolitano, Lake Drive resident, stated the Board has been provided paperwork, from an Attorney, that says the Board has the power to vote to make the Highway Superintendent an appointed position. It would then go to Referendum. Another option is having a contract for every job between the Highway Superintendent and the Town Board. Residents have been complaining about this for years. Residents would like the Town Board to vote and get the process started.

Discussion was held. The Board will consult the Town Attorney for clarification.

On the motion by Councilmember Curtis, seconded by Councilmember Lazarus, the Reports of Town Officials were approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. 5-0

5 - Ayes - Stell, Chard, Curtis, Watkins, Lazarus

**086-2024**

5. Audit of Bills -

Abstract #8  
Approval of Vouchers

On the motion by Councilmember Chard, seconded by Councilmember Watkins, the abstract of bills, totaling \$ 806,991.18 were approved for payment. The motion carried unanimously. 5-0

5 -Ayes - Stell, Chard, Curtis, Watkins, Lazarus

**087-2024**

6. Business –

a. Adopt Resolution Appointing Edward Kaiser to the Town Zoning Board of Appeals -

Mr. Kaiser was present at the meeting. He already attends the Planning Board and ZBA meetings and is happy to join the ZBA. Code Enforcement Officer Morse said the Town is fortunate to have Mr. Kaiser.

Councilmember Curtis offered the following resolution and called for adoption. Seconded by Councilmember Watkins, the resolution was adopted unanimously. 5-0  
5 - Ayes - Stell, Chard, Curtis, Watkins, Lazarus

**088-2024**

**TOWN OF GORHAM  
RESOLUTION #31-2024  
APPOINTING ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS BOARD MEMBER**

**Appointment of Edward Kaiser, Alternate Member**

**WHEREAS,** Mr. Edward Kaiser has expressed interest in serving on one of the many Boards in the Town of Gorham and;

**WHEREAS,** the Town Zoning Board of Appeals is seeking alternate members and;

**WHEREAS,** Mr. Kaiser is interested in serving on the Town of Gorham Board of Zoning Board of Appeals as an alternate member and;

**RESOLVED;** Mr. Kaiser’s term is effective immediately

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** Mr. Edward Kaiser is hereby appointed to fill the ZBA term through 12/31/2031

I Darby L. Perrotte, Town Clerk of the Town of Gorham, do hereby certify that the aforementioned resolution was adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Gorham on August 21, 2024 by the following vote:

	<u><b>Aye</b></u>	<u><b>Nay</b></u>
Dale C. Stell	X_____	_____
Jake Chard	X_____	_____
Phil Curtis	X_____	_____
Brian Lazarus	X_____	_____
Chrissy Watkins	X_____	_____

b. Approve NYSERDA Grant –

The Town of Gorham received a \$10,000 grant from NYSERDA to perform an energy study at the Town Hall.

NYSERDA will pay a contractor \$3,400.00 to do the study, leaving \$6,600.00 for the Town to spend on future energy saving opportunities.

On the motion by Councilmember Chard, seconded by Councilmember Watkins, authorizing Supervisor Stell to sign the contract with NYSERDA for the energy study. The motion carried unanimously. 5-0

5 -Ayes - Stell, Chard, Curtis, Watkins, Lazarus

**089-2024**

c. Approve Kocher Surveying to Stake Out Maple Ave Drainage Project -

On the motion by Councilmember Chard, seconded by Councilmember Watkins, the Board authorizes Supervisor Stell to sign a contract with Kocher Surveying for the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the Maple Ave Drainage Project, this year, in the amount of \$3,500.00 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the project, next year, in the amount of \$3,200.00. The motion carried unanimously. 5-0

5 -Ayes - Stell, Chard, Curtis, Watkins, Lazarus

**090-2024**

d. Budget Transfer-

On the motion by Councilmember Chard, seconded by Councilmember Watkins, the Board approves the following budget transfer of \$10,000.00 from SW1-8340.2 to SW1-8320.2. The motion carried unanimously. 5-0

5 - Ayes - Stell, Chard, Curtis, Watkins, Lazarus

**091-2024**

7. Set the Next Meeting Date – The next regular meeting will be held on September 18, 2024 at 7:00pm at the Gorham Town Hall.

8. Privilege of the Floor –

Lynn Klotz, Lake Drive resident, stated, as a Conservation Board member, she sees the purchase of bottled water every other month. She said she would be willing to turn her stipend as a Conservation Board member over to purchase insulated jugs for each of the Highway employees. She feels it's a lot of wasted money and plastic going down the drain.

Mrs. Klotz asked about the SuitKote bill for Turner Road and how it's determined what roads are paved in Town.

Sally Napolitano stated they are still trying to get Lake Drive repaired from a water main break 2 years ago. Zach said he'd get to it at the end of June.

Supervisor Stell stated Zach provided a 284 agreement for Turner Road and Middle Road, the Board didn't sign the agreement.

Sally Napolitano stated having the Highway Superintendent as an appointed position would be beneficial to the Town and to the residents, because then there is accountability.

Councilmember Curtis stated Middlesex and Potter voted on appointed vs elected and it was voted down.

Mrs. Klotz stated she's not sure the same result would happen in Gorham.

9. Adjournment – with no further business, on the motion by Councilmember Chard, seconded by Councilmember Watkins, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm. The motion carried unanimously. 5-0

5 - Ayes – Stell, Chard, Curtis, Watkins, Lazarus

**092-2024**

Respectfully Submitted,

Darby L. Perrotte  
Town Clerk