

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
THE GORHAM TOWN BOARD
October 16, 2024 7:00pm**

The Gorham Town Board held a Regular Meeting and Public Hearing on Wednesday October 16, 2024, at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall in Gorham, NY.

Present were, Supervisor Dale C. Stell.

Councilmembers, Jake Chard, Phil Curtis, Brian Lazarus and Chrissy Watkins.

Town Officials in attendance; Chief Operator Water & Wastewater Districts Deputy Nate Bay, Highway Superintendent Zach Eddinger, Code Enforcement Officer Jim Morse, Assessor Enza Mineo, Bookkeeper Susan Cummings, Tax Collector Adrienne Smith and Town Clerk Darby Perrotte.

Employees and guests in attendance and via zoom.

The minutes are written as a summary of the main points that were made and are the official and permanent record of the actions taken by the Gorham Town Board. Remarks delivered during privilege of the floor and discussions are summarized and are not intended to be verbatim transcriptions.

The full zoom recording of the meeting is posted on the town website for viewing.

1. Call to Order/Pledge to the Flag
2. Privilege of the Floor –
3. Public Hearing – 2025 Town Budget

Supervisor Stell opened the public hearing. Town Clerk Perrotte confirmed with the Board that the meeting and public hearing was duly advertised.

Lynn Klotz, Lake Drive resident, stated that she listened to the 9/25/2024 Budget Workshop meeting and commented she appreciates how carefully the Board is going through the budget and the attention they are giving the process, she thanked the Board.

Sally Napolitano, Lake Drive resident, stated she sent the Board a list of questions via email. Her first question is in regard to the audit findings from the State Comptroller's Office, what needs to be done to clean up the Towns reporting, she asked where the Board is in that process and asked about the timeline for the corrective action plan.

Supervisor Stell stated the Comptroller's Office will accept the Board's corrective action plan whenever it is submitted, they have been easy to work with throughout the whole audit process.

Mrs. Napolitano had lots of questions regarding fund balance, restricted, unrestricted, reserve funds and how money shifts between accounts during the year. She asked for clarification on different fund balances and stated it is very hard for residents to understand the town budget.

Greg Hotaling, MRB Group, tried to clarify a bit for Mrs. Napolitano. He explained some of the general aspects of municipal accounting in regard to townwide, special districts and the village inside the Town. He stated, municipal budgets are based on anticipated expenditures and revenues. Municipal budgets don't work the same way as a conventional business ledger, so to speak.

Mrs. Napolitano had more questions regarding the budget. She would like to see how much of what the town has budgeted has been spent.

Mr. Hotaling stated a fund balance report may be a useful tool to supply for residents.

The following discussions were based off questions she had for the Board.

Discussion was held regarding fire districts and ambulance districts and how residents are taxed for various districts.

Discussion was held regarding bond payment for the wastewater project.

Discussion was held regarding water district one, metered retail water sales, wholesale metered water sales and out of district user sales and the water treatment plant improvements being funded by everyone who benefits from the water districts.

Discussion was held regarding the transfer station deficit, implementing seasonal and senior permits use and overall cost of yearly permits increasing.

Barb Frank, Goose Street resident, asked about the tax cap calculation. The Board discussed the 2% calculation, overall budget numbers are less than 2024. More discussion was held about the general budget and special districts, what services are received per resident, overall appropriations and revenues.

With no further comment the public hearing was closed at 7:42pm.

4. Approval of Minutes - 9/18/2024 Regular Meeting Minutes
9/25/2024 Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes
10/2/2024 Special Meeting & Public Hearing Minutes

On the motion by Councilmember Chard, seconded by Councilmember Watkins, as a block, the minutes of all three meetings were approved as submitted. The motion carried unanimously. 5-0

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

104-2024

4. Reports of Town Officials -

- A. Chief Operator Water/Wastewater Plants – written report on file.

- B. Highway Superintendent – written report on file.

Councilmember Lazarus asked Highway Superintendent Eddinger what needs to happen to move forward on grinding of the brush pile at the transfer station.

Highway Superintendent Eddinger said the price he got to grind the pile is \$60,000.00 plus fuel.

Discussion was held regarding repurposing the mulch for town projects or for residents to utilize.

Supervisor Stell stated the town needs 2 more quotes and if none are obtained the town can move forward with the quote received. The Board can act on quote approvals at the next meeting.

- C. Zoning/Building Officer – written report on file.
- D. Code Enforcement Officer Morse stated his Clerk has taken on the task of updating fees for building permit costs. He also informed the Board that new code cycles for 2025 anticipate single family homes will be required to have a sprinkler system installed.
- E. Assessor –written report on file.
- F. Town Clerk – written report on file.
- G. Town Supervisor – Supervisor Stell stated he has been working on finalizing the 2025 Town Budget.

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

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

105-2024

5. Audit of Bills -

Abstract #10
Approval of Vouchers

On the motion by Councilmember Watkins, seconded by Councilmember Lazarus, the abstract of bills, totaling \$603,084.85, were approved for payment. The motion carried unanimously. 5-0

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

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6. Business –

a. 2025 Budget Discussion. Supervisor Stell stated the 2025 Budget will be adopted at the November 20th Meeting.

b. Adopt Resolution Approving OC Hazard Mitigation Action Plan – tabled until the next meeting to allow more time for the Board to review the Plan.

7. Set the Next Meeting Date – October 30, 2024 Special Workshop Meeting 6:00 pm at the Gorham Town Hall

8. Privilege of the Floor –

Mike Ayers, Town Transfer Station Attendant, asked if the Town can provide residents with another Free Stone Day. Many residents have had washouts with the recent storms. The Town Board and Highway Superintendent agreed to November 2nd, 2024.

Mike said he will visit other Transfer Stations in the County to see how they operate before the workshop.

Sally Napolitano asked if the Board must hold a meeting to approve the new water & sewer rates.

The Board will approve the rate increases by resolution at the next meeting.

Lynn Klotz asked if free trees will be available in 2025.

Supervisor Stell said yes, the Board has budgeted for the shade tree program in 2025.

Ben Smith asked if the Town will be receiving sales tax revenue from Cannabis sales.

Supervisor Stell has not heard about that if we are.

Councilmember Chard will reach out to NY State Office of Cannabis Management for an answer.

Sally Napolitano asked about the weather cameras throughout the Town.

Highway Superintendent Eddinger stated there are six cameras, they were provided by grants. They monitor the road conditions, the temperature, and humidity on the roads to enable the highway crew to get ahead of storms and have better usage of salt on the roads.

9. Adjournment – with no further business, on the motion by Councilmember Watkins, seconded by Councilmember Lazarus, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm. The motion carried unanimously. 5-0

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

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Respectfully Submitted,

Darby L. Perrotte
Town Clerk