

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
THE GORHAM TOWN BOARD
December 18, 2024 7:00pm**

The Gorham Town Board held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday December 18, 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; Deputy Chief Operator Water & Wastewater Districts Nate Bay, Highway Superintendent Zach Eddinger, Assessor Enza Mineo, Tax Collector Adrienne Smith and Town Clerk Darby Perrotte.

Chief Operator Greg Coston and Code Enforcement Officer Jim Morse were necessarily absent.

Residents and guests in person 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 –

Debbie North, County Road 18 resident, asked about snow fence that was purchased a few years ago but not installed yet. She asked the Highway Superintendent when it will be installed, especially on County Road 29. She asked when it was purchased and what the cost was.

Highway Superintendent Eddinger stated the snow fence was purchased by Ontario County and when he has time they will put up as much as they can.

Mrs. North asked Councilmember Lazarus if he would allow her to email him. This pertains to the directive from Ontario County Sheriff on 10/28/2022 that states he does not want her to email him because her emails are repetitive.

Councilmember Lazarus stated no, he will not rescind the directive.

Mrs. North commented about the Town's Special Election on 11/5/2024. She was encouraged that many came out to vote and it's nice to see more residents in attendance tonight although not any of those who were very vitriolic with their comments on social media. She would like to see more of those residents in attendance to continue the discussions they started on social media.

There was a brief interruption as the audio was not operating for the zoom connection.

3. Approval of Minutes - 11/20/2024 Regular Meeting Minutes
11/26/2024 Special Meeting Minutes

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

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

129-2024

4. Reports of Town Officials -

- A. Chief Operator Water/Wastewater Plants – written report on file.
- B. Highway Superintendent – written report on file. Highway Superintendent Eddinger stated the Town received the FEMA Award for Cottage City damage. The 2025 10-wheeler arrived in Avon and will be built and delivered this time next year. He presented paperwork for the 2026 10-wheeler and asked the Board to approve it. He anticipates longer wait periods for trucks in the future. Supervisor Stell asked for the paperwork on the 2025 10-wheeler.

On the motion by Councilmember Curtis, seconded by Councilmember Watkins to approve the purchase order of 2026 10-wheel truck to replace truck #3. The Motion carried unanimously. 5-0

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

130-2024

Highway Superintendent Eddinger stated the weather cameras are absolutely wonderful. Councilmembers asked about quotes on the security cameras.

Highway Superintendent Eddinger stated he has not heard back from anyone.

Discussion was held regarding high liability areas where cameras should be installed at the highway facility. The fuel pump area, entry gates, the metal recycling, trash bins and the brush pile at the transfer station facility.

Highway Superintendent Eddinger gave the Board a quote for new doors at the highway barn and mentioned some other areas of concern at the highway barn. Green Renewable will be able to grind the brush pile in January.

- C. Zoning/Building Officer – written report on file.
- D. Assessor –written report on file.
- E. Town Clerk – written report on file.
- F. Town Supervisor – Supervisor Stell stated the Maple Ave Drainage project is nearly 60% completed. The cost so far is approximately \$212,000.00. The crew encountered a few issues, if the project was contracted out, those issues would have generated change orders increasing the cost substantially. Supervisor Stell is happy with the project progress; work will resume in the Spring.

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

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

131-2024

5. Audit of Bills -

Abstract #12

Approval of Vouchers

On the motion by Councilmember Chard, seconded by Councilmember Watkins the abstract of bills, totaling \$352,624.89 was approved for payment. The motion carried unanimously. 5-0

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

132-2024

6. Business –

a. Adopt Resolution Declaring Surplus Highway Truck - tabled. The Town Board held discussion and agreed to keep the truck until spring.

b. Adopt Resolution for Holiday Extra Day Off

The Board approves an extra day off at Holiday time each year. They agreed to approve the resolution at the November meeting in 2025 so that employees can utilize the extra day off at Thanksgiving if desired. Discussion was held.

Councilmember Chard 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

133-2024

**TOWN OF GORHAM
RESOLUTION # 43-2024
EXTRA DAY OFF AT HOLIDAY TIME**

Whereas: The Gorham Town Board has provided Town employees an extra day off during the holiday season for many years, and;

Whereas: The Board wishes to continue this tradition and;

Therefore: The Gorham Town Board directs that employees of the Town be allowed an extra day off to be used during the holiday season, and also;

Therefore: Employees shall work with their immediate Supervisor to schedule this day off on a day that will be advantageous to both the employee and the Town.

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 December 18, 2024 by the following vote:

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

c. Approve Budget Transfers –

Councilmember Chard moved to approve an increase in the budget, from the fund balance, in the amount of \$150,000.00 to A1420.4 for attorney fees. Seconded by Councilmember Watkins, the motion carried unanimously. 5-0

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

134-2024

On the motion by Councilmember Lazarus, seconded by Councilmember Chard the following budget transfers were approved. The motion carried unanimously. 5-0

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

135-2024

| Budget Transfer -December | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|--------|------------|--------|----------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|
| TO | | TOTAL | FROM: | AMOUNT | FROM | AMOUNT | FROM | AMOUNT | FROM | AMOUNT | FROM | AMOUNT |
| A1110.4 | CONTRACTUAL | 217 | A1010.4 | 217 | | | | | | | | |
| A1410.4 | CONTRACTUAL | 456 | A7410.2 | 456 | | | | | | | | |
| A1440.4 | ENGINEER | 29,185 | A5132.2 | 24201 | A1430.1 | 4984 | | | | | | |
| A1450.4 | ELECTION | 6,700 | A1670.4 | 3799 | A1330.12 | 1646 | A1430.4 | 135 | A5010.4 | 1087 | A5010.2 | 33 |
| A1620.4 | BUILDINGS | 58,116 | A9060.8 | 58,116 | | | | | | | | |
| A1310.4 | BOOKKEEPER | 4,073 | A1355.2 | 4073 | | | | | | | | |
| A1355.4 | ASSESSMENT | 1,352 | A1330.12 | 1352 | | | | | | | | |
| B9030.8 | SOCIAL SECURITY | 1,400 | B8020.4 | 1400 | | | | | | | | |
| DB9010.8 | RETIREMENT | 7,461 | DB5110.4 | 7461 | | | | | | | | |
| DB5142.4 | SNOW REMOVAL | 1,380 | DB5110.4 | 1380 | | | | | | | | |
| DB9089.8 | CLOTHING | 300 | DB5110.4 | 300 | | | | | | | | |
| SS8110.4 | ADMINISTRATION | 516 | SS8120.4 | 516 | | | | | | | | |
| SW1-8310.4 | ADMINISTRATION | 1,434 | SW1-8310.1 | 1434 | | | | | | | | |
| SW1-8320.2 | EQUIPMENT | 12,710 | SW1-8310.1 | 12710 | | | | | | | | |
| SW1- | SOURCE/SUPPLY | 9,853 | SW1- | 8500 | SW1- | 1353 | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|--------------|--------|------------|-------|------------|------|----------|------|--|--|--|--|
| 8320.4 | | | 8320.1 | | 8310.1 | | | | | | | |
| SW1-8340.4 | DISTRIBUTION | 25,782 | SW1-8340.1 | 10500 | SW1-8340.2 | 8703 | SW1-8340 | 6579 | | | | |
| SW1-9089.8 | CLOTHING | 125 | SW1-8310.1 | 125 | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |

d. Adopt New Water Rates –

Sally Napolitano, Lake Drive resident, stated the resolution to approve water rate increases was not listed on the agenda, she asked that the Board not vote on the increase this evening. Mrs. Napolitano was expecting more discussion before the proposed rates are approved.

Supervisor Stell stated the rate increase has been talked about for several months, the rates presented tonight are proposed.

A lengthy discussion was held.

Councilmembers agreed to accept the proposed rates, changes can be made or updated later if needed.

On the motion by Councilmember Lazarus, seconded by Councilmember Chard, to approve the following water rate increases. Motion carried unanimously. 5-0

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

136-2024

*In District user new rate \$55.00 per Quarter (8,000 gallons)
\$6.60 per 1,000 gallons over 8,000 gallons

*Out of District user new rate \$82.50 per Quarter (8,000 gallons)
\$6.60 per 1,000 gallons over 8,000 gallons

*Large Consumption users \$82.50 per Quarter (8,000 gallons)
\$5.80 per 1,000 over 8,000 gallons

*Wholesale users \$4.95/1,000 gallons

e. Adopt Resolution Appointing Planning Board Alternate Members-

Councilmember Chard offered the following resolution and called for adoption. Seconded by Councilmember Lazarus, the resolutions were adopted unanimously. 5-0

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

137-2024

**TOWN OF GORHAM
RESOLUTION #42-2024
APPOINTING PLANNING BOARD ALTERNATE
Appointment of Lynn Klotz**

Town of Gorham Planning Board

WHEREAS, Mrs. Klotz has expressed interest in serving on the Town Planning Board;

WHEREAS, with the resignation of a full-time Board member the Planning Board seeks alternate members;

WHEREAS, Mrs. Klotz expressed interest in serving on the Town of Gorham Planning Board as alternate member #1;

WHEREAS; Mrs. Klotz will fulfill the position of alternate previously held by Jeremy Stowe, who has been appointed as a full-time member, through 12/31/2031;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Mrs. Klotz is hereby appointed to a term commencing 1/1/2025 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 December 18, 2024 by the following vote:

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

**TOWN OF GORHAM
RESOLUTION #43-2024
APPOINTING PLANNING BOARD ALTERNATE**

**Appointment of Jon Willis
Town of Gorham Planning Board**

WHEREAS, Mr. Willis has expressed interest in serving on the Town Planning Board;

WHEREAS, with the resignation of a full-time Board member the Planning Board seeks alternate members;

WHEREAS, Mr. Willis expressed interest in serving on the Town of Gorham Planning Board as alternate member #2;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Mr. Willis is hereby appointed to a term commencing 1/1/2025 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 December 18, 2024 by the following vote:

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

f. Approve PFAS Litigation Contract –

Attorney Jerry King explained a Class Action lawsuit the Town of Gorham may qualify for if they can show contamination in their public water supply. The lawsuit is in regard to PFAS contamination. PFAS refers to a wide category of per and polyfluorinated substances. They are a group of chemicals that can contaminate water and pose health risks.

Attorney King attended the November 26, 2024 Special Town Board meeting to explain the lawsuit. He left an agreement/contract with the Board for their review. The Town Attorney reviewed the document and supplied feedback to the Board.

The contract is on file at the Town Clerk’s Office for review.

On the motion by Councilmember Lazarus, seconded by Councilmember Chard, the Board agreed to sign the contract to sign on for the class action suit. The motion carried unanimously. 5-0

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

138-2024

7. Set the Next Meeting Date – January 15, 2025 the Organizational and Regular Town Board Meeting will be held at 7:00pm at the Gorham Town Hall.

8. Privilege of the Floor –

Tax Collector Adrienne Smith stated residents are asking for their tax bills! She anticipates the warrant will be signed and tax bills will be mailed out before Christmas this year.

Sally Napolitano stated the Supervisor’s report shows a lot of money, she asked if it was invested.

Supervisor Stell stated \$2.7 million is invested at 4.7%.

9. Correspondence –

The Town of Gorham Conservation Board provided a Yearly Report for 2024. The report is on file in the Town Clerk’s Office for review.

The Board wished everyone a very Happy Holiday Season.

10. Executive session -

On the motion by Councilmember Chard, seconded by Councilmember Watkins, the Board entered into executive session at 8:36 pm to discuss the medical, financial, credit or employment history of any person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of any person or corporation.

On the motion by Councilmember, Chard seconded by Councilmember Curtis, the Board returned to regular session at 10:17 pm.

No action was taken in executive session. Both motions carried unanimously. 5-0

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

139-2024

After lengthy discussion the Board agreed to increase the wages for Water/Wastewater District employees. Resolution to be presented at the January meeting.

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

140-2024

11. Adjournment – with no further business, on the motion by Councilmember Watkins, seconded by Councilmember Curtis, the meeting was adjourned at 10:18 pm. The motion carried unanimously. 5-0

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

141-2024

Respectfully Submitted,

Darby L. Perrotte
Town Clerk