

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING and PUBLIC HEARING
THE GORHAM TOWN BOARD
July 16, 2025 7:00pm

The Gorham Town Board held a Regular Meeting & Public Hearing on Wednesday July 16, 2025 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 Nate Bay, Code Enforcement Officer Jim Morse and Town Clerk Darby Perrotte.

Town Engineer Greg Hotaling, residents & 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 –
3. Public Hearing - Proposed Water Treatment Plant Improvements

Supervisor Stell opened the public hearing. Discussion was held regarding the necessary steps for the bond resolution. Residents asked questions about increase in tax bill and water bills.

Greg Hotaling, MRB Group Engineer explained how rates are comprised and when those rates will be available.

With no further discussion the public hearing was closed.

4. Approval of Minutes – 06/18/25 Regular Meeting Minutes
07/02/25 Special Meeting Minutes

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

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

060-2025

5. Reports of Town Officials -

- A. Chief Operator Water/Wastewater Plants – written report on file.
- B. Highway Superintendent – written report on file.
- C. Zoning/Building Officer – written report on file.
- D. Assessor –written report on file.
- E. Town Clerk – written report on file.
- F. Town Supervisor – written report on file.

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

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

061-2025

6. Audit of Bills -

Approval of Vouchers
Abstract #7

On the motion by Councilmember Chard, seconded by Councilmember Curtis,
The abstract of bills totaling \$379,981.22 was approved for payment. Motion carried unanimously. 5-0

5 - Ayes - Chard, Curtis, Lazarus, Watkins

062-2025

7. Business –

a. Adopt 202-b Resolution –

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

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

063-2025

**TOWN OF GORHAM
RESOLUTION #14-2025
APPROVING PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO GORHAM WATER DISTRICT #1**

WHEREAS, the Town Engineer has prepared a map and plan and estimate of the cost for improvements to the Town Water Treatment Plant, which is owned and operated by Gorham Water District #1, being the construction of an ultrafiltration plant that would consist of the construction of a new Filter Building and an Equalization Tank of various sizes and which would replace the existing DE filters and UV system; and

WHEREAS, the plan shows the estimated costs of these improvements to be \$14,750,000.00, such estimated costs to be the responsibility of Gorham Water District #1; and

WHEREAS, the Town applied for a NYSEFC grant administered through its NYS Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA) program to pay for part of the cost of these improvements and was awarded \$3,000,000.00; and

WHEREAS, any remaining amount owing for these improvements will be borrowed from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and financed and repaid by the owners of property within Gorham Water District #1;and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Gorham duly adopted a resolution on July 2, 2025, calling a public hearing to consider said proposed improvements and estimate of expense, to be held at the Gorham Town Hall, 4736 South Street, Gorham, New York, on July 16, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, said public hearing was duly held at the time and place aforesaid, at which all persons interested were duly heard; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has duly considered all of the evidence given at such public hearing; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to part 617 of the implementing regulations pertaining to Article 8 (State Environmental Quality Review Act) of the Environmental Conservation Law it has been determined by the Town Board that approval of these improvements to Gorham Water District #1 would not have a significant effect upon the environment and could be processed by other applicable governmental agencies without further regard to SEQR.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Gorham that, based upon the evidence given at the aforesaid public hearing and its review of the environmental assessment form and findings based thereon, it is hereby found and determined to be in the public interest to provide for the aforesaid improvements of the facilities of Gorham Water District #1 in the Town of Gorham, as described in the preambles hereof, at an estimated cost of \$14,750,000.00, and the same is hereby authorized.

I, Darby L. Perrotte, Town Clerk of the Town of Gorham do hereby certify that the Town Board of the Town of Gorham adopted the aforementioned resolution on July 16, 2025 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_____	_____

b. Adopt Supplemental Bond Resolution -

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

064-2025

SUPPLEMENTAL BOND RESOLUTION DATED JULY 16, 2025 OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GORHAM, NEW YORK, AUTHORIZING GENERAL OBLIGATION SERIAL BONDS TO FINANCE WATER SYSTEM CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN THE TOWN, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN CONTEMPLATION THEREOF, THE EXPENDITURE OF SUMS FOR SUCH PURPOSE, AND DETERMINING OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

WHEREAS, the Town of Gorham Water District #1 is a Water District of the Town of Gorham, New York, duly established by the Town Board pursuant to the Town Law and, pursuant to a resolution adopted on November 22, 2021, the Town has duly authorized additional facilities therein pursuant to §202-b of the Town Law; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to a bond resolution dated November 22, 2021 (the "Original Resolution"), the Town Board of the Town of Gorham, New York (hereinafter referred to as the "Town") approved expenditures for, and the issuance and sale of, up to \$7,970,000 aggregate principal amount of general obligation bonds and bond anticipation notes relative to the construction of such water system capital improvements, which maximum amount so authorized is hereby confirmed; and

WHEREAS, actual project costs have proved to be approximately \$6,780,000 higher than the maximum estimated project costs, the Town has duly authorized such increase in maximum amount pursuant to Section 202-b of the Town Law, and the Town now desires to provide for the financing thereof by supplementing the Original Bond Resolution by the adoption of this Supplemental Bond Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Town, acting as lead agency under the State Environmental Quality Review Act and the applicable regulations promulgated thereunder ("SEQRA"), has completed its environmental review and, on November 10, 2021, has duly adopted a negative declaration and has determined that the implementation of the type I action as proposed will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts; now therefor, be it

RESOLVED BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GORHAM, NEW YORK (hereinafter referred to as the "Town"), by the favorable vote of not less than two-thirds of all of the members of such Board, as follows:

Section 1. The Town of Gorham shall continue to undertake certain capital improvements consisting of the acquisition and construction of water Improvements for the Town of Gorham Water District #1, to include upgrades to the existing water treatment plant, including, without limitation, construction of an ultrafiltration plant that would consist of the construction of a new Filter Building and an Equalization Tank of various sizes and which would replace the existing DE filters and UV system, and other miscellaneous improvements/water treatment enhancements, and the acquisition of land or rights in land necessary therefor, if any,

and the acquisition of original furnishings, equipment, machinery or apparatus, or the replacement of such equipment, machinery or apparatus, and other incidental improvements that may be required in connection therewith for such construction and district use as set forth in the Original Bond Resolution (hereinafter referred to as "purpose"), and general obligation serial bonds in an additional amount not to exceed \$6,780,000 of the Town are hereby authorized to be issued to finance said purpose, and bond anticipation notes in anticipation thereof (and renewals thereof) of the Town are hereby authorized to be issued to finance said purpose.

Section 2. The estimated maximum aggregate cost to the Town of Gorham of said purpose, which may include preliminary costs and costs incidental thereto and costs of the financing thereof, is now estimated to be \$14,750,000, and said amount is hereby appropriated therefore. The plan for financing of said purpose is to provide (i) up to \$7,970,000 of such maximum cost by issuance of bonds or bond anticipation notes as authorized under the Original Bond Resolution; and (ii) up to \$6,780,000 of such maximum cost by issuance of bonds or bond anticipation notes as herein authorized, to be offset and reduced dollar for dollar by the amount of any grants received, if any.

Section 3. It is hereby determined and declared that (a) said purpose is one of the class of objects or purposes described in Subdivision 1 of Paragraph (a) of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law, and that the period of probable usefulness of said purpose is forty (40) years, (b) the proposed maximum maturity of said bonds authorized by this resolution will be in excess of five years, (c) current funds required to be provided prior to the issuance of the bonds or notes herein authorized, pursuant to Section 107.00 of the Local Finance Law, to the extent applicable, if any, will be provided, (d) the notes herein authorized are issued in anticipation of bonds for an assessable improvement, and (e) there are presently no outstanding bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the sale of said bonds.

Section 4. The bonds and notes authorized by this resolution shall contain the recital of validity prescribed in Section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law and such bonds and notes shall be general obligations of the Town and all the taxable real property in the Town is subject to the levy of *ad valorem* taxes to pay the principal thereof, and interest thereon, without limitation as to rate or amount, subject to applicable statutory limitations, if any, sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on said bonds and notes.

Section 5. It is hereby determined and declared that the Town reasonably expects to reimburse the general fund, or such other fund as may be utilized, not to exceed the maximum amount authorized herein, from the proceeds of the obligations authorized hereby for expenditures, if any, from such fund that may be made for the purpose prior to the date of the issuance of such obligations. This is a declaration of official intent under Treasury Regulation §1.150-2.

Section 6. The power to further authorize the sale, issuance and delivery of said bonds and notes and to prescribe the terms, form and contents of said bonds and notes, including, without limitation, the consolidation with other issues, the determination to issue bonds with substantially level or declining annual debt service, all contracts for, and

determinations with respect to, credit or liquidity enhancements, if any, and to sell and deliver said bonds and notes, subject to the provisions of this resolution and the provisions of the Local Finance Law, including without limitation, the authority to determine whether to accept bids electronically to the extent allowed by the Local Finance Law, and the power to contract and issue indebtedness pursuant to §169.00 of the Local Finance Law, if applicable, is hereby delegated to the Town Supervisor, the Town’s chief fiscal officer. The Town Supervisor and the Town Clerk or Deputy Clerk are hereby authorized to sign by manual or facsimile signature and attest any bonds and notes issued pursuant to this resolution, and are hereby authorized to affix to such bonds and notes the corporate seal of the Town of Gorham.

Section 7. The faith and credit of the Town of Gorham, New York, are hereby irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds and notes as the same respectively become due and payable. Such bonds and notes shall be payable from a levy on real property in such district benefitted or user charges therefor, in the manner provided by law, but if not paid from such source, all the taxable real property in the Town is subject to the levy of *ad valorem* taxes to pay the principal thereof, and interest thereon, without limitation as to rate or amount, subject to applicable statutory limitations, if any, sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on said bonds and notes. An annual appropriation shall be made in each year sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such obligations becoming due and payable in such year.

Section 8. This supplemental bond resolution, or a summary hereof, shall be published in full by the Town Clerk of the Town of Gorham together with a notice in substantially the form prescribed by Section 81.00 of said Local Finance Law, and such publication shall be in each official newspaper of the Town, in the manner prescribed by law. The validity of said bonds or of any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the sale of said bonds may be contested only if such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which said Town is not authorized to expend money, or the provisions of law which should be complied with, at the date of publication of this resolution are not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty (20) days after the date of such publication; or if said obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

Section 9. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

The motion having been duly seconded, it was adopted and the following votes were cast:

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

c. Authorize an Intermunicipal Agreement with the Village of Rushville –

Discussion was held regarding intermunicipal cooperation with the Village of Rushville's need for occasional water supply during emergency situations.

On the motion by Councilmember Chard, seconded by Councilmember Lazarus, authorizing Supervisor Stell to sign an intermunicipal agreement for water supply to the Village of Rushville. Motion carried unanimously. 5-0

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

065-2025

8. Set Next Meeting Date –

*Special Meeting August 13, 2025 at 9:00 am

*Regular Meeting August 20, 2025 at 7:00pm

Both meetings will be held at the Gorham Town Hall

9. Privilege of the Floor –

Barb Frank, Goose Street resident, recommends more rolling data and metrics to provide tracking of transfer station loads compared to permit sales. This would help us to understand the variables in the amount of loads/tons hauled to the landfill each month.

10. Executive Session –

On the motion by Councilmember Chard, seconded by Councilmember Watkins, the Board entered into executive session at 7:37 pm for discussion related to proposed, pending or current litigation Town of Gorham v 4611 Dewey Ave LLC.

On the motion by Councilmember Lazarus, seconded by Councilmember Curtis, the Board returned to regular session at 8:11 pm. No action was taken in executive session. Both motions carried unanimously. 5-0

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

11. Adjournment – with no further business, on the motion by Councilmember Curtis, seconded by Councilmember Chard, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm. The motion carried unanimously. 5-0

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

066-2025

Respectfully Submitted,

Darby L. Perrotte
Town Clerk