

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

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

Present were, Supervisor Dale C. Stell.

Councilmembers, Jake Chard, Phil Curtis and Chrissy Watkins.

Councilmember Brian Lazarus was necessarily absent.

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

Tax Collector Adrienne Smith joined via Zoom.

Highway Superintendent Zach Eddinger was necessarily absent.

Members of the Town of Gorham Historical Society and The Gorham Free Library, along with many residents and guests in attendance, in person and via Zoom.

The full Zoom recording of this meeting is posted on the Town of Gorham Website.

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

Lizabeth Rasmussen and Ruth Freier spoke on behalf of the Historical Society and the Gorham Free Library, respectively, regarding their efforts to purchase the Hoffman House property in Gorham to house the Gorham Historical Society and Museum. The house is one of the most historical homes in the hamlet of Gorham. If the Historical Society is successful in their purchase, they would move from the building they currently share with the Gorham Free Library leaving more space for the Library. That also would negate the need for a proposed addition at a cost of approximately \$400,000 – \$600,000. The Town owns the Library building.

Supervisor Stell asked Mrs. Freier to explain the funding the library receives.

Mrs. Freier stated the library was previously funded by the school levy as well as Gorham and surrounding town's budgets. Now they are funded entirely by the school tax levy. The Towns no longer contribute from their yearly budgets.

Councilmember Chard stated it seems like a much better fit for both organizations. He believes this is a better plan and much cheaper in the long run.

Ken Grip, President of the Gorham Historical Society, stated the members are strictly all volunteers.

John Hoffman, owner of the Hoffman property, stated his family has lived in the house for 75 years. His parents were members of the Historical Society and very intricately involved. He wants to do this for the town, for his parents and for his extended family to further advance all the Library and the Historical Society do for the Town.

Zach Gibeau, Stanley/Hall/Gorham Ambulance, updated the Board. The ambulance is moving forward with closing on their property on Gorham Road in the Town of Seneca. Plans are in the works for building and parking expansion.

Debbie North, County Road 18 resident, stated she, along with Lynn Klotz and the Town Clerk, would like to form a Gorham Beautification Committee. Mrs. North said she will gladly Chair the committee. They would like to start by inviting community members to participate in a Barn Quilt Trail and Veteran Banners to honor residents and/or their family members.

Mrs. North also addressed the Welcome to Gorham signs at the town limits. Many are in disrepair, broken and faded. She requests that our Town Highway Department could remove the decrepit signs for repair or replacement.

3. Approval of Minutes – 12/13/2024 Organizational Meeting Minutes
12/13/2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

On the motion by Councilmember Curtis, seconded by Councilmember Watkins, both the meeting minutes were approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. 4-0

4 Ayes – Stell, Chard, Curtis, Watkins

014-2024

4. Reports of Town Officials -

- A. Chief Operator Water/Wastewater Plants – written report on file.
- B. Chief Operator Coston thanked Sally Napolitano for the work she did obtaining water rates from other towns. Discussion was held regarding a water rate increase.
- C. Highway Superintendent – written report on file.
- D. Zoning/Building Officer – written report on file.
- E. Assessor –written report on file.
- F. Town Clerk – written report on file.

Town Clerk Perrotte thanked Transfer Station Attendant Mike Ayers for the improvements at the Transfer Station. She is getting feedback from residents that they appreciate the helpful polite attitude of Mr. Ayers.

G. Tax Collector- Collector Smith said the town is well ahead of collection over previous years. 91% of the tax roll has been collected.

Supervisor Stell said the town is currently collecting interest at 4.7%, the town will utilize short term CDs, all at 5%, all are protected.

H. Town Supervisor – Supervisor Stell said he wants to inform the residents that the town has hired a part-time bookkeeper to help catch up on the bookkeeping. He wanted to make residents aware that the bookkeeping had not been completed since September 2023 but with the addition of Donna Wollschleger, as part-time bookkeeper to the Supervisor replacing the previous administration’s bookkeeper, they will get it accomplished. An extension for the Annual Financial Report has been granted.

On the motion by Councilmember Chard, seconded by Councilmember Watkins, the reports of Town Officials were approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. 4-0

4 Ayes - Stell, Chard, Curtis, Watkins

5. Audit of Bills -

Abstract #2

Approval of Vouchers

On the motion by Councilmember Watkins, seconded by Councilmember Chard, Councilmembers and residents had questions about a few highway vouchers. One was in reference to the purchase of 30 hats by the Highway Superintendent. Highway Superintendent Eddinger was not available to answer questions, Supervisor Stell said the purchase was approved although he didn't question the hat total at the time.

The abstract for February totaling \$263,941.74 was approved for payment. Motion carried unanimously. 4-0

4 Ayes - Stell, Chard, Curtis, Watkins

016-2024

6. Business –

a. Appoint Secretary to the Code Enforcement/Zoning Office -

On the motion by Councilmember Curtis, Seconded by Councilmember Chard, to appoint Sara Mitchell as Secretary to the Code Enforcement Office. Motion carried unanimously. 4-0

4 Ayes - Stell, Chard, Curtis, Watkins

017-2024

a. Adopt Resolution Approving Proposals by MRB Group

Councilmember Watkins offered the following resolution and called for adoption. Seconded by Councilmember Curtis, the resolution was adopted unanimously. 4-0

4 Ayes - Stell, Chard, Curtis, Watkins

018-2024

**TOWN OF GORHAM
RESOLUTION#2-2024
AUTHORIZING THE TOWN SUPERVISOR TO
SIGN THE PROPOSALS FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FROM
MRB FOR THE PREPARATION OF A PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT,
SEQR AND WIIA GRANT APPLICATION**

WHEREAS, MRB has submitted a proposal for professional services for a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for Water System Improvements,

WHEREAS, the proposal for the PER, MRB lists a total compensation for a cost not to exceed \$30,000 with any required additional services billed separately,

WHEREAS, the Town intends to use this PER for future funding applications, such as the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA) grant,

WHEREAS, MRB has also submitted a proposal for professional services for completing SEQR and preparing a WIIA Grant application for the Water System Improvements and lists a total compensation not to exceed \$13,000.00 with any additional services billed separately,

WHEREAS, the Town intends to complete the SEQR and PER and apply for a Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA) grant,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the expenditures will be disbursed out of the Town Water Fund, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor signs the MRB proposals,

FULLY RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk forwards a copy of the signed proposals to Gregory Hotaling PE, MRB Group, and provides a copy of the resolution and the proposals to the Water Department.

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

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

b. Adopt Resolution calling for a Public Hearing to approve Zoning Map Changes –

Councilmember Curtis offered the following resolution and called for adoption. Seconded by Councilmember Watkins the resolution was adopted unanimously. 4-0

4 Ayes - Stell, Chard, Curtis, Watkins

019-2024

c. Adopt Resolution Approving Susan Cummings as Program Administrator on Highway Credit Card

**TOWN OF GORHAM
RESOLUTION #4-2024
ADD SUSAN CUMMINGS TO
LNB HIGHWAY CREDIT CARD ACCOUNT**

WHEREAS, Susan Cummings has been hired by the Town to perform Bookkeeping/accounting duties, and;

WHEREAS, Lyons National Bank is the institution that the Town currently uses, and;

WHEREAS, Lyons National Bank requires Town Board approval for employees who will be performing transactions, then;

THEREFORE, The Gorham Town Board hereby gives approval for Susan Cummings to replace Brenda Jones as Program Administrator on the credit card account at LNB for the card issued to the Highway Superintendent.

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 February 21, 2024 by the following vote:

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

7. Set the Next Meeting Date – The next regular meeting and public hearing will be held on March 20, 2024 at 7:00pm, at the Gorham Town Hall.

8. Privilege of the Floor –

Bill Glitch, Main Street resident and former Councilmember, said he thinks every water customer should pay the minimum amount. Churches in Gorham do not pay for water. He stated it is time to do something about the Highway Superintendent position.

Debbie North said she has researched what it takes to remove an elected official in Towns in NY State.

Sally Napolitano asked what the background of the water master plan is regarding expanding the water districts.

Greg Hotaling, engineer from MRB Group, explained the steps to create a new district.

He explained some of the procedures and said it is spelled out in town law, the town is required to follow those guidelines.

Lynn Klotz, Lake Drive resident, asked if the town received the budget from Crystal Beach Fire Department and asked about the amount given to them this year.

Councilmember Chard said \$200,000.00 is what was budgeted and given to the Fire Department. He doesn't recall seeing their budget. Councilmember Lazarus was working with the Fire Department, he might have a copy of the budget.

Bill Glitch, stated, as a previous Councilmember there has been a problem getting their budget for many years. He said the appearance of shady stuff has been going on for far too long. It's time to hold their feet to the fire.

9. Executive Session –

On the motion by Councilmember Watkins, seconded by Councilmember Chard, the Board entered into executive session at 8:25 pm to discuss pending litigation, Town of Gorham v Kerrick.

On the motion by Councilmember Chard, seconded by Councilmember Curtis, the Board returned to regular session at 9:15pm.

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

4 - Ayes – Stell, Chard, Curtis, Watkins

020-2024

10. Adjournment – with no further business, on the motion by Councilmember Watkins, seconded by Councilmember Curtis, the meeting was adjourned at 9:22pm. The motion carried unanimously. 4-0

4 - Ayes – Stell, Chard, Curtis, Watkins

021-2024

Respectfully Submitted,

Darby L. Perrotte
Town Clerk

