

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
THE GORHAM TOWN BOARD  
August 10, 2022 7:00pm**

The Gorham Town Board held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday August 10, 2022 at 7:00pm at the Town Hall in Gorham, NY.

Present were Supervisor Fred Lightfoote, Councilmembers; Brian S. Case, Jake Chard, Phil Curtis and Brian Lazarus.

Town Officials in attendance; Chief Operator Water & Wastewater Districts Greg Coston, Highway Superintendent Zach Eddinger, Code Enforcement Officer Jim Morse and Town Clerk Darby Perrotte.

Other guests in attendance; Lynn Klotz, Aaron Airth, Billing Clerk Brenda Jones, Ben Smith, Debbie North and Ed Merritt. Several guests joining via Zoom.

1. Call to Order/Pledge to the Flag – Supervisor Lightfoote opened the meeting and led the Pledge to the Flag.
2. Privilege of the Floor –

Debbie North, County Road 18 resident, Mrs. North said she is concerned about the continual lack of communication to residents about what is going on in the community.

She said in this day of social media, important news and events can be spread very quickly and very accurately. She added that, unfortunately, a large segment of the Gorham community is Mennonite and they do not use social media.

Mrs. North said it is a high concern that things happening in Town are not advertised. Most people do not buy the newspaper anymore to see the required legal notices. She is expressing the opinion of herself and other community members that there needs to be more thorough communication from the Town.

Supervisor Lightfoote said the Town will send postcards, in the future, to insure the Town reaches all community members including those that do not utilize the internet or newspaper.

Elke Schmitt – Crystal Beach resident, Ms. Schmitt asked what the result of the local election regarding the Cannabis Opt Out vote was.

Supervisor Lightfoote said the end result of the vote was to strike down the Town Board decision to Opt-Out of Cannabis Retail Sales and On-Site Consumption. 268 residents came out to vote.

3. Approval of Minutes – 7/14/2022 Meeting Minutes

On the motion by Councilmember Chard, seconded by Councilmember Case, the 7/14/2022 meeting minutes were approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. 5-0

5 - Ayes – Lightfoote, Case, Chard, Curtis, Lazarus.

**082-2022**

4. 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 – financial report on file. Supervisor Lightfoote said the Town Highway Department is interested in purchasing topsoil from Lightland Farms. For transparency reasons he wanted to get the approval of Councilmembers because it is his family farm. Highway Superintendent Eddinger did get quotes from Ontario County Bid Book and a guy out of Geneva, NY for unscreened topsoil. Supervisor Lightfoote said it would be approximately \$5,000.00 for the topsoil. Councilmembers agreed to the purchase.

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

**083-2022**

5. Audit of Bills – Abstract # 7

Abstract prepared by the Billing Clerk and the Town Clerk.

Approval of Vouchers

On the motion by Councilmember Chard, seconded by Councilmember Lazarus Abstract #7 totaling \$384,287.62 was approved for payment. Motion carried unanimously. 5-0

5- Ayes - Lightfoote, Case, Chard, Curtis, Lazarus

**084-2022**

6. Business:

a. Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association –

Ellen Polimeni and Doug Merrill, CLWA Members, representing the Government Relations Committee from Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association. They gave a very detailed and informative power point presentation.

Their focus of the CLWA is to preserve, protect and restore Canandaigua Lake. The Government Relations committee that Mrs. Polimeni and Mr. Merrill represent focuses on developing and nurturing relationships with local Municipalities.

Councilmember Chard suggested the Town implement Lake Friendly Lawn Care at the future Easton Park.

b. Supervisor Lightfoote said he was asked by the Town of Gorham Historical Society for permission to put a bench in the Hamlet Park. The Historical Society purchased a bench with a plaque in memory of Roland and Joan Hoffman. The Hoffman's were dedicated members of our community. Roland was on the Town's Board of Assessment Review for almost 40 years.

Councilmembers agreed to allow them to place the bench in the Town's Hamlet Park.

- c. Local Law #5-2022 Tax Cap Override  
Adopt Resolution calling a Public Hearing for the Tax Cap Override –

Supervisor Lightfoote offered the following resolution and called for adoption. Seconded by Councilmember Case, The resolution was adopted unanimously. 5-0  
Ayes - Lightfoote, Case, Chard, Curtis, Lazarus

**085-2022**

**TOWN OF GORHAM  
RESOLUTION # 37-2022  
RESOLUTION INTRODUCING LOCAL LAW AND CALLING A PUBLIC HEARING**

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Gorham, after due deliberation, finds it in the best interests of the Town to schedule a public hearing to solicit public comment upon a proposed Local Law to override the tax levy limit established in General Municipal Law §3-c; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Gorham has reviewed the draft of the aforementioned proposed Local Law attached hereto as Exhibit "1" and deems it in the best interests of the Town of Gorham to proceed in accordance with the Code of the Town of Gorham and the Laws of the State of New York in adopting said Local Law,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Clerk be, and she hereby is, directed to schedule a public hearing to be held on September 14, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at the Gorham Town Hall, 4736 South Street, Gorham, New York; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Clerk, be and hereby is, authorized to forward to the official newspapers of the Town a Notice of Public Hearing in the form substantially the same as that attached hereto as Exhibit "2"; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Clerk be, and she hereby is, directed to post a copy of the proposed Local Law on the Town of Gorham sign board and take any and all other necessary actions to properly bring the aforementioned Local Law before the Town Board of the Town of Gorham for its consideration; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Clerk be, and hereby is, authorized to provide all other notices as required by law for the adoption of this local law.

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 10, 2022 by the following vote:

	<u><b>Aye</b></u>	<u><b>Nay</b></u>
Frederick Lightfoote	X_____	_____
Brian S. Case	X_____	_____

Jake Chard	X_____	_____
Phil Curtis	X_____	_____
Brian Lazarus	X_____	_____

e. Healthcare Policy - Approve Options for Healthcare Policy

Supervisor Lightfoote said the Board has to approve Healthcare Plan options that will be offered to employees.

Supervisor Lightfoote said he is thinking the Town should provide two Plans for employees to choose from. Plan documents were provided to Board members. Gold 1 and Gold 6 are the Plans recommended by Supervisor Lightfoote.

Councilmember Lazarus asked which Plan the employees currently have.

Billing Clerk Jones said "The Platinum, they're are not offering it, it's not on the list for offering."

Councilmember Chard said "What do you mean they're not offering it?"

Supervisor Lightfoote said "They dropped the plan so we had to pick a new one anyway."

Councilmember Chard said "So the numbers they gave us for the Platinum 2, for 2023, they just dropped it?"

Billing Clerk Jones said "I don't know if Excellus dropped it or if the Town's not offering it."

Councilmember Chard said "Those are two very different things. If Excellus dropped it, that's one thing, but we haven't approached that part yet."

Supervisor Lightfoote said the Town pays \$226,000.00 for the current Platinum 2 Plan. That will increase to \$263,000.00 if the Town keeps the same Plan for employees. The Board has to make the decision on what Plan to provide the employees. He wants employees to choose from the Gold 1 or the Gold 6.

Councilmember Lazarus recommends offering the employees the same Plan if they pitch in some of the money, a percentage, to keep the same Plan.

Councilmember Chard said "Last year the employees were made aware of these Plans and were able to provide their input before we chose a Plan."

Supervisor Lightfoote said "We're trying to not get such a tangled up mess like we got last year. What I'm telling you is Dan Botsford needs to know, what Plans does he need to go to our employees with and council them and figure out which ones would be best for them. We can take input from all the employees."

Councilmember Chard said he wants the information out there for the employees. He wants them to know the Board didn't make a decision without their input.

Councilmember Lazarus said he thinks it's a good idea to keep the Platinum option and decide whether or not to pass on a percentage for the employees to contribute. He said "We need to see what the percentages would be to keep the Platinum. The guys may be absolutely happy with one of these other Plans and we wouldn't have to worry about it. I think it's important to offer them all 3, see what happens."

Supervisor Lightfoote said the Board will have a Workshop meeting and have this relatively settled before the Board has to make a decision.

7. Privilege of the Floor –

Aaron Airth said "I've put a lot of thought into this since the last meeting and I do understand the \$40,000.00 increase. I want to say the big draw, as long as I can remember, to a Town job in general, they maybe don't pay quite as much as other places but it's always been, the retirement is great and the healthcare is great. The retirement isn't what it used to be so now the only real draw to it is the healthcare being good and being paid for. You can go to a Dolomite or a Hansen, run a loader 7-8 months out of the year and make more money, be in a Union and you have great healthcare but, you've got to pay for it. If you continue to take away the things that draw good, qualified employees, in a market already hard to find good employees, you're going to put yourself in a situation, in my opinion, maybe 5 years from now, what you're attracting as employees to jobs like this are not qualified candidates. The healthcare is really one of the last things that is competitive in today's market. That's something you really need to think about. It might not affect you next year but it's going to affect you if you keep eliminating things that attract qualified people."

Debbie North said she was driving down Voak Road and noticed the 'Welcome to Gorham' sign is split in two.

Supervisor Lightfoote said he is aware of it. The County hit it with a mower. He said they did repair it but it must have split again.

Ben Smith, Kearney Road resident asked where the developer is at with the proposed Scenic Ridge Rise development on Route 364.

Supervisor Lightfoote said there are steps to be revised with the Planning Department. He has not submitted anything currently.

8. Set the Next Meeting Date – The next Regular Meeting and Public Hearing will be held on September 14, 2022 at 7:00 pm at the Gorham Town Hall.

9. Adjournment – with no further business, on the motion by Councilmember Lazarus, seconded by Councilmember Chard, the meeting was adjourned at 9:16 pm. The motion carried unanimously. 5-0

5 - Ayes – Lightfoote, Case, Chard, Curtis, Lazarus.

**086-2022**

Respectfully Submitted,

Darby L. Perrotte  
Town Clerk

