

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING
THE GORHAM TOWN BOARD
May 10, 2023 7:00pm

The Gorham Town Board held a Regular Meeting and Public Hearing on Wednesday May 10, 2023 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, Assessor Enza Mineo and Town Clerk Darby Perrotte.

Many residents/guests in attendance in person and via zoom.

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

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

Robert Baxter, County Road 11 resident, Mr. Baxter thanked the Board for responding to his questions from the last meeting. The questions he is asking tonight he put into letter form, attached at the end of the minutes in the correspondence. Mr. Baxter read a letter with questions and data pertaining to the Town's Policy and Procedures Book, audit requirements, Town management and spending. After several meetings and exchange of documents Mr. Baxter has been designated Resident Appointee and the NY State Comptroller's Office has agreed to come and take a look at the Town of Gorham's Management and Financial Practices.

Supervisor Lightfoote said he welcomes that. It is one way to show how far off base Mr. Baxter is with his comments.

Debbie North, County Road 18 resident had questions regarding the Supervisors son and the Highway Clerk's son having access to Town computers. She asked for clarification, in writing, from the Town Attorney as to why this is not a security risk.

Pam Doore, Main Street resident, asked if trees can be trimmed around Town. She encounters many low hanging branches over the sidewalks. She said a lot of them are eye level and can contain bees which forces walkers and those pushing strollers into the street.

Highway Superintendent Eddinger said he will look into it.

3. Public Hearings;

Town Clerk Perrotte sent notification to the Town Board confirming the public hearings were properly advertised.

1. Comprehensive Plan Update Public Hearing

Supervisor Lightfoote re-opened the Comprehensive Plan Update Public Hearing that was adjourned from April 12, 2023 meeting.

Mrs. Doore asked about the trail that is mentioned in the Plan that is near the Town Sewer Plant. She asked where it leads.

Supervisor Lightfoote said he will provide a map and answer to her question on the Town website.

With no further comment from the public Supervisor Lightfoote closed the public hearing.

2. Local Law #2-2023 Public Hearing

Supervisor Lightfoote opened the Public Hearing.

With no comment from the public, the hearing was closed.

4. Approval of Minutes – 4/12/2023 Regular & Public Hearing Meeting Minutes

On the motion by Councilmember Curtis, seconded by Councilmember Chard, the minutes were approved as submitted. 5-0

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

049-2023

5. Reports of Town Officials -

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

Chief Operator Coston said he received a letter from Crystal Beach Fire Department that clarified some of the misinformation shared at last month's meeting. The letter is on file in the Town Hall and at the Water Department also included in the correspondence.

B. Highway Superintendent – written report on file.

Councilmember Chard asked about quotes to grind the brush pile at the Transfer Station.

Highway Superintendent Eddinger said he has calls out for quotes and has not heard back from anyone yet. It was not budgeted for 2023 it was supposed to be 2024.

Councilmember Curtis said the Highway Crew have done a good job over the past few months.

Highway Superintendent Eddinger said the Free Stone Day will be held on Saturday June 17, 2023.

C. Zoning/Building Officer – written report on file.

D. Assessor - written report on file. Assessor Mineo said security has been requested by the Board of Assessment Review. She has received 100's of FOIL requests, she

will do the best she can to get the information out. She discussed the Question and Answer session she has scheduled for May 20, 2023.

- E. Town Clerk – written report on file.
- F. Town Supervisor – written report on file.

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

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

050-2023

6. Audit of Bills -

Abstract #5

Abstract prepared by the Bookkeeper, Town Clerk and Highway Clerk
Approval of Vouchers

On the motion by Councilmember Case, seconded by Councilmember Curtis, the Board held discussion. Councilmember Chard asked about the website domain bill. He asked about review emails with the Town Attorney and another Attorney.

Supervisor Lightfoote said we pay for the domain yearly the lawyers reviewed information that the Town did not have, the Town Attorney and the Bond Attorney.

Councilmember Chard asked about the Rushco bill for Highway, there is a miscalculation.

Supervisor Lightfoote asked Highway Superintendent Eddinger to recalculate, with the potential change for the correct amount, the abstract for May totaling \$179,085.47 was approved for payment. Motion carried unanimously. 5-0

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

051-2023

7. Business –

- a. Adopt Local Law #2-2023 -Deputy Highway Superintendent Residency Requirement

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

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

052-2023

**TOWN OF GORHAM
RESOLUTION # 18-2023
AUTHORIZING ADOPTION BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE
TOWN OF GORHAM OF LOCAL LAW NO. 2 OF 2023 ENTITLED "A LOCAL LAW TO
ESTABLISH THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE APPOINTED OFFICE OF
DEPUTY HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE TOWN OF GORHAM"**

WHEREAS, a resolution was duly adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Gorham for a public hearing to be held by said Town Board on April 12, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Gorham Town Hall, 4736 South Street, Gorham, New York, to hear all interested parties on a proposed Local Law entitled, "A Local Law to Establish the Residency Requirements for the Appointed Office of Deputy Highway Superintendent for the Town of Gorham"; and

WHEREAS, notice of said public hearing was duly advertised in the official newspaper of the Town of Gorham, on April 29, 2023 and other notices required to give by law were properly served, posted or given; and

WHEREAS, said public hearing was duly held on May 10, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Gorham Town Hall, 4736 South Street, Gorham, New York, and all parties in attendance were permitted an opportunity to speak on behalf of or in opposition to said Proposed Local Law, or any part thereof; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Gorham, after due deliberation, finds it in the best interest of the Town of Gorham to adopt said Local Law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Gorham hereby adopts said Local Law No. 2 of 2023, entitled "A Local Law to Establish the Residency Requirements for the Appointed Office of Deputy Highway Superintendent for the Town of Gorham", a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part of this resolution, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk be and she hereby is directed to enter said Local Law in the minutes of this meeting and in the Local Law Book of the Town of Gorham, and to give due notice of the adoption of said local law to the Secretary of State of New York.

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 May 10, 2023 by the following vote:

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Frederick Lightfoote	X_____	_____
Brian S. Case	X_____	_____
Jake Chard	X_____	_____
Phil Curtis	X_____	_____
Brian Lazarus	X_____	_____

b. Adopt Resolution to Establish Deputy Zoning Officer Position

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

054-2023

**TOWN OF GORHAM
RESOLUTION # 19-2023
TO ESTABLISH DEPUTY CODE OFFICER POSITION**

WHEREAS, There has been a need for additional help within the Planning and Zoning office for quite some time, and;

WHEREAS, The Gorham Town Board has budgeted for this position for 2023, then;

THEREFORE, The Gorham Town Board hereby establishes the position of Deputy Building and Zoning Inspector for the Town of Gorham.

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 May 10, 2023 by the following vote:

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Frederick Lightfoote	X_____	_____
Brian S. Case	X_____	_____
Jake Chard	X_____	_____
Phil Curtis	X_____	_____
Brian Lazarus	X_____	_____

- c. Adopt Resolution to contract with MRB Group for Feasibility Review

Councilmember Lazarus offered the following resolution and called for adoption. Seconded by Councilmember Chard, the Board held discussion. The resolution was adopted 4-1
4 - Ayes Lightfoote, Case, Chard, Lazarus 1 Nay - Curtis

055-2023

**TOWN OF GORHAM
RESOLUTION # 20-2023
TO CONTRACT WITH MRB GROUP
TO PERFORM A FEASIBILITY REVIEW FOR THE TOWN OF**

GORHAM HIGHWAY GARAGE

WHEREAS, The Gorham Town Board, after much debate and investigation, decided to build a new Highway Building, and;

WHEREAS, The Board engaged MRB Group for engineering services for said project, and;

WHEREAS, A public vote was held on 10/25/22 where the public voted against the building project, and;

WHEREAS, The Town Board would like a feasibility study performed to ascertain funding needed to bring the current Highway shop up to date and up to code, and;

WHEREAS, The MRB Group proposes to perform this feasibility study utilizing sub-contractors Jadestone Engineering for mechanicals; Watts Architects and Engineers for Hazmat survey and reporting; and Campus Construction for cost estimating purposes for no greater than \$34,500 then;

THEREFORE, The Gorham Town Board hereby approves this resolution and instructs the Town Supervisor to sign the contract permitting associated work to proceed.

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 May 10, 2023 by the following vote:

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Frederick Lightfoote	X_____	_____
Brian S. Case	X_____	_____
Jake Chard	X_____	_____
Phil Curtis	_____	X_____
Brian Lazarus	X_____	_____

d. Approve Employee Handbook Updates

On the motion by Councilmember Chard, seconded by Councilmember Case, the Employee Handbook was approved. 5 -0

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

056-2023

e. Job Description Book Update

Councilmember Case said all the jobs within the Town have a description. They have been brought up to date, they are on file and open to employees for review.

f. Policy Book Update

Councilmember Chard said overall updates have been made. He updated the Board on what the Solar Committee is working on.

g. Easton Park Update

Councilmember Curtis said he and the Town Clerk visited the Park. The Town is waiting on the lateral permit from the County for sewer hookup. There is a lot of work to be done inside and out. He is working on putting a committee together to get everything finalized at the Park. He is working with the Town Clerk on Park regulations.

h. Crystal Beach Fire Department Update

Councilmember Lazarus said the Fire Department has had their audit completed, they will provide that to him once the auditors have presented it to the Fire Department.

8. Privilege of the Floor –

Chrissy Watkins, Lake to Lake Road resident, asked lots of questions regarding May abstract payments.

Kathy Baxter, County Road 11 resident, asked Assessor Mineo what the cutoff date was for sales used to determine Comp's.

Assessor Mineo said the model build was July 2022 as a last sale date.

Dale Stell, County Road 1 resident, asked about the potential sewer district with Chateau Olivia what has to happen next.

Supervisor Lightfoote said he spoke with Tom Harvey, Mr. Harvey is working with MRB Group to put together a proposal for the County to look at along with other potential businesses.

Debbie North asked for clarification about the \$10,000.00 legal settlement to Aramark. She asked who ended the contract early and if the contract is available for residents to look at.

Supervisor Lightfoote said it was a Town Board decision. He will ask the Town Attorney about public review of the contract.

Amanda Gibeau, Gorham/Hall/Stanley Ambulance, updated the Board on the Ambulance financing. They are working on grant opportunities and also working with Lyons National Bank.

Sally Napolitano, Lake Drive resident, said she would like the Town Board to understand why residents are upset about the re-assessments. Residents saw increases very much over the predicted 30 percent.

Assessor Mineo answered by saying she is reporting the data. Her job is to put properties at market value. She explained the process she goes through to determine that value. She plans on answering questions like this on May 20, 2023.

Mrs. Napolitano expressed her thoughts on short term rentals and how they are impacting the Town.

Discussion was held on how short term rental properties are impacting towns throughout the Country, especially on the Lakes.

9. Set the next Meeting Date – The next regular Town Board Meeting will be held on June 14, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Gorham Town Hall.

10. Executive Session –

On the motion by Supervisor Lightfoote, seconded by Councilmember Chard, the Board entered into executive session at 8:30 pm to discuss the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation or relating to promotion demotion, discipline, appointment or removal.

On the motion by Supervisor Lightfoote, seconded by Councilmember Case, the Board returned to regular session at 9:37 pm. No action was taken in executive session.

Both motions carried unanimously. 5-0

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

056-2023

11. Adjournment – with no further business, on the motion by Councilmember Chard, seconded by Councilmember Case, the meeting was adjourned at 9:38pm. The motion carried unanimously. 5-0

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

057-2023

Respectfully Submitted,

Darby L. Perrotte
Town Clerk