

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
THE GORHAM TOWN BOARD
November 20, 2024 7:00pm**

The Gorham Town Board held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday November 20, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall in Gorham, NY.

Present were, Supervisor Dale C. Stell.

Councilmembers, Jake Chard, Phil Curtis, Brian Lazarus and Chrissy Watkins.

Town Officials in attendance; Chief Operator Water & Wastewater Districts Greg Coston & Deputy Nate Bay, Highway Superintendent Zach Eddinger, Code Enforcement Officer Jim Morse, Assessor Enza Mineo, Tax Collector Adrienne Smith and Town Clerk Darby Perrotte.

Employees and guests in attendance 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 –

Amanda Gibeau from Stanley/Hall/Gorham Ambulance updated the Board on recent developments with the Ambulance. They are settling into their new base. Mrs. Gibeau informed the Board of their upcoming events and fundraisers for the month of December.

3. Approval of Minutes - 10/16/2024 Regular & Public Hearing Meeting
10/30/2024 Special Meeting & Transfer Station Workshop

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

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

113-2024

4. Reports of Town Officials -

Chief Operator Water/Wastewater Plants – written report on file. Chief Operator Coston informed the Board that the County Road 1 tank has needed repairs twice in

the past few weeks. There is a need for more repairs before phase II of the plant upgrade is complete. There could be significant costs involved regarding the tank.

Councilmember Curtis and Supervisor Stell recognized Chief Operator Coston's 25 years of service as a Town of Gorham employee. Mr. Coston is retiring in January but with vacation time to use up this is his last "official" Town Board Meeting.

They thanked him for his years of service!

B. Highway Superintendent – written report on file. Highway Superintendent Eddinger stated he reached out to 3 companies for security cameras, 1 has responded. Green Renewable has all the paperwork needed for grinding the brush pile. He is waiting to find out when they will start. Councilmember Chard asked about the leaf collection schedule. Highway Superintendent Eddinger said the schedule depends on when the leaves fall and when they can get out to collect.

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

D. Assessor – written report on file. Assessor Mineo provided literature regarding reassessment and re-evaluation of properties.

E. Town Clerk – written report on file.

G. Town Supervisor –financial report on file. Supervisor Stell stated financials are up to date. They were way behind when he took office in January. Going forward the Board will receive financials every month.

Supervisor Stell stated there have been many discrepancies in the water billing uncovered, it is quite complicated, there are many inconsistencies in water billing, principal and interest and a few dozen customers are not being properly taxed or taxed at all within the water districts. It has been a team effort between the Supervisor's office, Bookkeeper's office, Town residents, Town Clerk, Water Billing and Assessor's office and some help from MRB to figure this out. The Town attorney is working on the resolution correcting the discrepancies. Supervisor Stell stated he will call a special meeting to approve the resolution once it is ready.

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

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

114-2024

5. Audit of Bills –

Abstract #11
Approval of Vouchers

On the motion by Councilmember Watkins, seconded by Councilmember Lazarus, the abstract of bills, totaling \$767,487.66, were approved for payment. The motion carried unanimously. 5-0

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

115-2024

6. Business –

a. Adopt Resolution to dedicate Deer Run and Maple Ave Extension

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

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

116-2024

**RESOLUTION REGARDING THE CONSENT OF THE TOWN BOARD
TO DEDICATE
DEER RUN AND MAPLE AVENUE EXTENSION**

TOWN BOARD CONSENT

WHEREAS, Upon reading the dedication of Deer Run and Maple Avenue Extension in the Deer Run Subdivision, dated the 23rd day of May, 2024 and the Release related thereto dated the 23rd day of May, 2024, all in the above entitled matter, wherein the owner of lands described therein have released the same to the Town of Gorham and its Highway Superintendent for highway purposes; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that consent be and the same hereby is given to the Town Superintendent of Highways of the Town of Gorham to make an order laying out the lands described in said dedication, dated the 23rd day of May, 2024, for highway purposes, in accordance with the provisions of the Highway Law and other statutes applicable thereto.

Town Board of the Town of Gorham,

Ontario County, New York

I, Darby 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 November 20, 2024, by the following vote:

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

b. Adopt Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of Easements—

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, Watkins, Lazarus

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF EASEMENTS

WHEREAS, the Town of Gorham, by its officers or representatives, has engaged in discussions with **Chrisantha, Inc. ("Owner 1")** regarding the Town's obtaining a temporary turn-around easement from it over a portion of its property in the Deer Run Subdivision and with **Finger Lakes United Cerebral Palsy, Inc. ("Owner 2")** regarding the Town's obtaining a temporary turn-around easement from it over a portion of its property located in the Town of Gorham, both as shown on a map prepared by Kocher Surveying, P.C.; and

WHEREAS, Town of Gorham officials have recommended to the Town Board that said Owner 1 and Owner 2 grant to the Town the easements over said lands of said Owners;

WHEREAS, said easements have been offered by Owner 1 and Owner 2 to the Town of Gorham; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Gorham is desirous of accepting said offered easements on behalf of the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Gorham has examined said instruments and finds the consideration described in said easements to be fair and reasonable.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Gorham does hereby accept the Easement attached hereto as Exhibit 1 from Owner 1 and the Easement attached hereto as Exhibit 2 from Owner 2 in accordance with the terms and conditions contained in said instruments and directs that the same be recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Ontario, the fees for said recording to be borne by Owner 1, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor shall be and hereby is authorized to take any and all further action necessary to carry forth the intent of this resolution, including but not limited to the execution of all documents necessary to complete the conveyances of the premises referenced herein.

I, Darby 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 November 20, 2024, by the following vote:

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

c. Adopt 2025 Budget –

Supervisor Stell asked if there were any questions from council members or residents.

Lynn Klotz, Lake Drive resident, asked if the budget included funds for the remainder of work that needs to be completed at Easton Park. Mrs. Klotz stated a storm water management plan has to be approved for residents before they can get a certificate of occupancy, she believes there should be a storm water management plan in place at Easton Park in 2025.

Mrs. Klotz asked if in district and out of district water customers will see the same increase in fees, in 2025, for the base rate of gallons and for the quarterly rate.

Supervisor Stell said yes and yes. The amounts are in the budget. Water customers will pay \$55.00 per quarter and 1.5 times that amount for out-of-district customers.

The Board will vote on those increases at the December Town Board meeting.

Sally Napolitano, Lake Drive resident, stated she will keep being a proponent for lowering the quarterly minimum gallons of water per the quarterly rate. A lengthy discussion was held.

More budget discussion was held about interest and earnings in the water district and capital projects in the district.

Councilmember Chard asked why Middlesex Ambulance needs an additional \$60,000.00.

Supervisor Stell stated it was their request last year, we chose not to meet their request last year but did chose to this year.

On the motion by Councilmember Chard, seconded by Councilmember Lazarus, more discussion was held, questions were answered. The 2025 Town Budget was adopted unanimously. 5-0

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

118-2024

d. Budget Transfers –

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

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

119-2024

\$1,006 from A1430.1 to A1010.1 to cover payroll
 \$5 from A1110.12 to A1110.1 to cover payroll
 \$2 from A1110.12 to A1220.1 to cover payroll
 \$4,000 from A1430.1 to A1310.1 to cover payroll
 \$2 from A1110.12 to A1330.1 to cover payroll
 \$306 from A1430.1 to A1355.1 to cover payroll
 \$979 from A1430.1 to A1355.12 to cover payroll
 \$118 from A1430.1 to A1410.1 to cover payroll
 \$445 from A1430.1 to A1410.12 to cover payroll
 \$13 from A1430.1 to A5010.1 to cover payroll
 \$6,257.05 from A1430.1 to A5010.13 to cover payroll
 \$9,736 from 1430.1 to A8160.1 to cover payroll
 \$3,821 from A1990.4 to A1355.4 assessment contractual
 \$277 from A1430.1 to A1430.4 personnel contractual
 \$9,600 from A1620.2 to A3310.4 traffic control
 \$5,795 from A1910.4 to A7550.4 celebrations
 \$12,710 from A8160.4 to A8090.4 Environmental watershed
 \$4,160 from A8710.1 to A8160.1 to cover payroll
 \$5,600 from A1990.4 to A8160.1 to cover payroll
 \$6,228 from A910.4 to A9050.8 unemployment
 \$1,836 from A1110.4 to A9050.8 unemployment
 \$4,418.25 from A7410.2 to A9950.9 transfer to Library H4 to close project.
 \$174 from B 1420.4 to B3620.1 to cover payrolls
 \$174 from B1420.4 to B8010.1 to cover payrolls
 \$174 from B1420.4 to B8020.1 to cover payrolls
 \$2 from B1420.4 to B802.13 to cover payrolls
 \$4,419 from B1420.4 to B8020.14 to cover payrolls
 \$3,135 from DB9010.8 to DB9089.8 Clothing allowance
 \$17,574 from DB5110.1 to DB9060.8 health insurance
 \$1,079 from DB9010.8 to DB9730.6 Ban Principal
 \$849 from SS8110.4 to SS8130.1 to cover payroll
 \$4133 from SS8130.4 to SS8130.12 to cover payroll
 \$13 from SS9055.8 to SS9060.8 health insurance
 \$2,575 from SW1-8340.1 to SW1-8320.1 to cover payroll
 \$9273 from SW1-8340.1 to SW1-8320.12 to cover payroll
 \$3,065 from SW1-9060.8 to SW1-9089.8 clothing allowance
 \$1,890 from SW1-8340.1 to SW1-9050.8 unemployment

e. Transfer Station Fee Increase -

On the motion by Councilmember Watkins, seconded by Councilmember Curtis, to approve 2025 transfer station fees. \$150.00 for a yearly permit for town residents. \$100.00 for Senior Citizens, Seasonal residents and Veteran's. The motion carried unanimously. 5-0

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

120-2024

d. Adopt Resolution to Re-Appoint John Alvord to the Town Board of Assessment Review –

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

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

121-2024

**TOWN OF GORHAM
RESOLUTION # 39-2024
APPOINTING BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW MEMBER**

**Re-Appointment of John Alvord
Town of Gorham Board of Assessment Review**

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 523 (1)(b) of the Real Property Tax Law the Town of Gorham Board of Assessment Review shall consist of five members appointed by the legislative body of the local government and;

WHEREAS, Mr. John Alvord has served as a member of the Board of Assessment Review for a term which ended on September 30, 2024;

WHEREAS, Mr. Alvord expressed interest in continuing to serve on the Town of Gorham Board of Assessment Review;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; Mr. Alvord is hereby reappointed as a member of the Board of Assessment Review for a five-year term of office ending September 30, 2028.

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 November 20, 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_____	_____

e. Sales Tax Revenue Transfer -

The Audit completed earlier in 2024 by OSC stated that in 2021 \$230,000 of sales tax revenue was inappropriately recorded into the A fund. \$200,000 should have been deposited into the

DB-Highway fund and \$30,000 should have been deposited in the B- fund. The auditors are asking that we make the transfers into the proper funds.

The following motion was made by Councilmember Watkins, seconded by Lazarus, to increase the A fund budget from Fund Balance in the amount of \$230,000 to expense line A9901.9 transfer to other funds for the 2021 inappropriately recorded sales tax revenue per the audit.

Motion to increase the DB Highway Fund budget in the amount of \$200,000 received from the A-fund to revenue code DB5031 Interfund Transfer and increase expense code DB9950.9 transfer to capital (H6-Highway Capital Garage Project). Motions carried unanimously. 5-0
5 - Ayes - Stell, Chard, Curtis, Watkins, Lazarus

122-2024

Motion by Councilmember Lazarus, seconded by Councilmember Watkins, to Move \$3,246.33 from account DB9010.8 to DB9950.9 transfer to Capital (H6-Highway Capital Garage Project). Motion carried. 4-1

4 - Ayes - Stell, Curtis, Watkins, Lazarus
1 – Nay - Chard

123-2024

Motion By Councilmember Chard, seconded by Councilmember Lazarus, to close the H6-Highway Capital Garage project after receiving transfer of \$203,246.33 from the Highway fund, Motion carried unanimously. 5-0

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

124-2024

7. Set the Next Meeting Date – December 18, 2024, 7:00 pm at the Gorham Town Hall.

8. Privilege of the Floor –

Danielle Ayers, E. Swamp Road resident, Asked questions regarding procedure of the upcoming special election regarding Local Law 3-2024.

Town Clerk Perrotte explained the process of the special election.

Christine Ayers, Robson Road resident, asked what the hiring process will be if the vote is in favor of Local Law 3-2024.

The Board outlined the process it follows through Ontario County Civil Service.

9. Adjournment – with no further business, on the motion by Councilmember Chard, seconded by Councilmember Watkins, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm. The motion carried unanimously. 5-0

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

125-2024

Respectfully Submitted,

Darby L. Perrotte
Town Clerk