

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
GORHAM TOWN BOARD
MAY 10, 2017**

The Gorham Town Board held a regular meeting on Wednesday May 10, 2017 at 7:00 PM at the Gorham Town Hall. Present were Supervisor Lightfoote, Councilmembers; Glitch, Case, and Chard. Chief Operator Water/Wastewater Plants Coston, Code Enforcement Officer Freida, Assessor Mineo, and Town Clerk Perrotte. Highway Superintendent Ayers and Councilmember Malcolm were necessarily absent.

Other guests in attendance; Craig Ploof, Jessica Rossi, Rita Kulp, Bob Clark and Kyle Gruschow.

1. Call to Order/Pledge to the Flag

2. Privilege of the Floor – Jessica Rossi – “I got my assessment in the mail from Mrs. Mineo, I came to speak with her informally, and she couldn’t have been more rude to me. She didn’t have any factual information to give me of how she came up with the assessment. At one point told me if I was uncomfortable that I could just come and grieve. I said I wasn’t uncomfortable, was she uncomfortable? So we kind of went back and forth and she had no data to show me with how she came up with the assessment. The meeting lasted for a few minutes and then ended abruptly with her telling me that she would send something in the mail and she did and just based on the conversation we had she reduced it, a lot. It went up \$23,000.00 and she reduced it \$13,000.00. I know she didn’t look at the property because I asked her if she had and then I asked her if she was going to and she didn’t tell me if she was going to or not. I am disappointed by the way she treated me and if there are other people in the community that couldn’t stand up for themselves it’s not fair. There are elderly people in the community and I’m sure their assessments have gone up and if they can’t come in person to speak to her and maybe some of them aren’t outgoing enough or outspoken enough to speak up and advocate for themselves. I really feel like I don’t know what can be done about it but I wasn’t happy with the way she treated me.”

Supervisor Lightfoote said “I will have a discussion with Enza and will be back in touch with you, that’s about all I can offer at this point. Thank you for bringing this to our attention.”

Mrs. Rossi said “what do I do to come to Grievance?”

Supervisor Lightfoote said “talk to Sue Yarger to set up an appointment.”

Code Enforcement Officer Freida said “Sue is there now you can go down and make an appointment.”

Mrs. Rossi asked "who can answer a question about, I have a fence between my property and my neighbors and there's an easement there and it's near the easement but it's still my property do I need to maintain that? I do, right?"

Supervisor Lightfoote said that is a question for Gordy given that there is an easement it may be a little more involved I would encourage you to speak to Gordy at another time.

Ms. Rossi said she would follow up with Mr. Freida and thanked the Board for listening to her.

3. Approval of Minutes – 4/12/17 Regular Meeting Minutes.

On the motion by Councilmember Case, seconded by Councilmember Chard, the minutes from the 4/12/17 meeting were approved as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously. (4-0)

038-2017

4. Audit of Bills:

Abstract #5

A 107-132	\$27,763.53
B 111-121	338.38
SL 117	541.21
DB 83-103	11,334.16
SS 34-48	2,894.00
SW1 67-86	11,133.70
HM 46	1,500.00
HI 47	2,145.00
SW6 82	1,329.75

On the motion by Councilmember Chard, seconded by Councilmember Glitch, the bills were approved for payment. Motion carried unanimously. (4-0)

039-2017

5. Reports of Town Officials:

a. Water/Wastewater Plants - written report on file. Councilmember Chard asked Mr. Coston how many applicants they had for the position at the Water Department.

Mr. Coston said "around fifty because we took the ones from before. New applications, there were about twenty-five and then we narrowed it down to twelve to fifteen that had the proper qualifications."

Supervisor Lightfoote said with the couple storms we've had you guys have some extra time in.

Mr. Coston said "yes, it messed us up the past two Saturdays, it's always a Saturday!"

Supervisor Lightfoote said "I'll give you guys a plug because if we have a blizzard everyone, rightfully so, thanks the Highway Department. When people turn the spicket on and water comes out that's all they think about. What you guys do, whether it be from weather or line breaks, thank you for your additional services beyond the routine, you guys do a great job and we appreciate it."

b. Highway Superintendent – written report on file. Supervisor Lightfoote said "Highway Superintendent Ayers had a family emergency he had to tend to so he's not here. Are there any questions or concerns for the highway?"

Councilmember Case said "I don't have any questions but I would like to see Kelly here at a meeting, haven't seen him in quite a while."

Supervisor Lightfoote gave Councilmember case Kelly's cell phone number and said "that's how you'll get a hold of him, or stop in and see him."

c. Zoning – written report on file. Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer Freida said he fielded a lot of calls with the flooding, with the rain. He said he has been dealing with a couple applications that the Town Board will see. Pelican Point is one, the Auction Barn on Yautzy Road and a new project on Route 247.

d. Assessor – written report on file. Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer Freida said Mrs. Mineo gave him her report to pass on to the Town Board. Mrs. Mineo has informal meetings regarding re-evaluations tonight until 8 pm. She will not be able to attend tonight's meeting.

Mr. Freida asked if it would be appropriate to comment on the first Privilege of the Floor, Jessica Rossi.

Supervisor Lightfoote said yes.

Mr. Freida said "she came in guns a blazing so I think she was ready for a fight and I think Enza treated her as appropriate as Enza could treat her. She did do some work on her property, she put a fence up, six foot stockade fence, she rebuilt a deck/porch in the front, a quite extensive deck, probably four hundred square feet and as you know, it's a Re-Val year."

Supervisor Lightfoote said "yes, there is sales data and everything else that enters in to that and there are two sides to every story. I appreciate you bringing that up, Gordy. It's a hard thing to deal with but we'll talk it through."

e. Town Clerk - written report on file.

f. Supervisor – verbal report on file. Supervisor Lightfoote said "It has been a very busy month once again. With all the drainage issues, we have calls coming out of the woodwork. It's amazing, at home on the farm, I saw damage there I've never seen before. I've never seen problems in these areas. It's amazing the amount of water that was running during a very short period of time. In regards to the Shared Services Initiative, the goal is to save taxpayers money by identifying opportunities for shared services between as many local governments as possible. Supervisor Lightfoote said "this morning I was at a shared service study meeting out at the County, kind of being forced to go through this exercise to see what we can do. We already do the best we can. We share equipment with the Village of Rushville and four other Towns, our Water guys are back and forth our Highway helps other Towns. Towns have to be able

to show what savings we will have with the shared services. We already have a zero percent tax rate, the State should be looking to us to see what efficiency is!" The yearly inspection at the Ford Garage is coming up with a few things to be addressed.

There has been a little activity with the school crosswalk as far as trying to get the State to put in flashing lights. The people at the school wondered if the Town would participate with them in paying for flashing lights. The State put up the new crosswalk signs but would not put out any blinking lights to go along with them. The State would be happy to allow us to pay for some and put them up.

Supervisor Lightfoote said he would look into the cost.

Councilmember Chard suggested looking to other State Agencies that may contribute to cover the cost.

On the motion by Councilmember Chard, seconded by Councilmember Glitch, the reports of Town Officials were approved. Motion carried unanimously. (4-0)

040-2017

6. Business:

a. Gorham Cemetery Association request for Driveway Stone – Mr. Bob Clark, President of the Association said there were a couple reasons he wanted to attend the meeting tonight. Mr. Clark said "First off, I had the pleasure of serving as Town of Benton Supervisor for twelve years. I wanted to come over and see how the big boys did it! It's kind of ironic I see that you have the same problems we had. I've been elected as President of the Gorham Cemetery Association and we're running tight on funds. We asked for some crusher run stone for the driveway. We would like the Town to see if they could help us out in that category a little bit. We have the old dump lot that we have to keep mowed. We don't have the equipment to do that. Jerry Hey has been using his own equipment. I wondered if things like that we could work together a little bit to save us some money. Maybe make a donation towards our general operating funds. A couple loads of stone dumped out back we could work out of it and fill in some of our driveway holes. The guys do a pretty darn good job taking care of that cemetery and if we could just get a little help in some of these areas it would be greatly appreciated."

Supervisor Lightfoote said the stone would cost a couple hundred bucks.

Councilmember Chard suggested contacting the Boy Scouts. He said "The National Honor Society is usually looking for volunteer efforts, they could ease the burden on you and your crew. Eagle Scouts are always looking for something they can do to show community service."

Mr. Clark said the Boy Scouts set all the flags last year for Memorial Day, he is seeking their help again this year.

On the motion by Supervisor Lightfoote, seconded by Councilmember Glitch, approval to bring the Gorham Cemetery Association two loads of stone with the haul truck. Motion carried unanimously. (4-0)

041-2017

Supervisor Lightfoote said "Let's get that started. Councilmember Malcolm is not here, one of his great concerns was to know exactly what moneys were going where. He didn't have a problem with funding, he just wants to know exactly what the money is going towards instead of just going into a pot. Between now and the next meeting we can figure some of it out. I will talk with Highway Superintendent Ayers to see about the roadside mowing tractor, maybe our guys could swing in there to mow the lot that was the old dump."

Mr. Clark said they have their yearly meeting on May 11, 2017 and anything the Town can do to work with the cemetery will be greatly appreciated.

b. Budget Transfers – On the motion by Councilmember Case, seconded by Councilmember Glitch, the following budget transfers were approved. \$2,500.00 from A599 to A1670.4, \$500.00 from A599 to A1010.4, \$10,000.00 from HM8340.4 to HM8397.4, \$700.00 from SS8120.2 to SS8130.2. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

042-2017

c. Executive Session – at 7:47pm Councilmember Glitch moved to enter into executive session to discuss pending litigation in the case of Town of Gorham v Cregg. Councilmember Case seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote. (4-0)

Supervisor Lightfoote moved to return to regular session at 8:23pm. Councilmember Case seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote. (4-0) No action was taken in executive session.

043-2017

d. Appoint Water District Employee – Water District Chief Operator Coston, and Supervisor Lightfoote interviewed candidates for the open position at the Water Department.

With careful consideration, Supervisor Lightfoote and Chief Operator Coston recommend Kyle Gruschow as the most qualified applicant.

Mr. Gruschow gave the Board a brief description of his background and work history.

On the motion by Councilmember Glitch, seconded by Councilmember Case, to hire Kyle Gruschow for the position of Water/Wastewater Plant Operator. Motion carried unanimously. (3-0) Councilmember Chard abstained.

044-2017

7. Privilege of the Floor – none requested

8. Set Next Meeting Date – the next regular meeting of the Gorham Town Board will be on June 14, 2017 at 7pm at the Gorham Town Hall.

9. Adjournment - With no further business, on the motion by Councilmember Chard, seconded by Councilmember Glitch, the meeting was adjourned at 9:08pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Darby Perrotte
Town Clerk