

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
THE GORHAM TOWN BOARD
June 26, 2024 6:00pm**

The Gorham Town Board held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday June 26, 2024, at 6:00 pm at the Town Hall in Gorham, NY.

Present; Supervisor Dale C. Stell. Councilmembers, Jake Chard, Phil Curtis and Chrissy Watkins. Councilmember Brian Lazarus joined via zoom.

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 and guests in attendance, in person and via zoom.

Due to technical difficulties there was no audio for the zoom user participation

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

Canandaigua Lake Watershed Manager, Kevin Olvany, gave a detailed update to the Town Board on where we stand with FEMA from the flood event on July 9, 2023. He spoke about the process they have been going through to get funding from FEMA to be able to do some of the projects that will mitigate ongoing drainage issues throughout the town.

Middlesex Valley Ambulance -

Dave Herrington, Middlesex Valley Ambulance Treasurer, stated they were present tonight to appeal to the Board to restore the amount of funding requested by the Ambulance for 2024. The amount of funding requested doubled from 2023 to 2024 but there was miscommunication from the previous Town Supervisor and the reason for the substantial increase was never shared with the Town Board during the Fall budget process.

Mr. Herrington explained why the requested increase was so significant. He provided the Town Board with a proposed budget packet and explained why they need the funding from all 4 towns covered in their district. They asked the Board to reconsider the request and to restore the 2024 funding for the Ambulance.

Supervisor Stell stated that the former Town Supervisor was out during the budget process, due to illness, and was not here to 'go to bat for the ambulance'. With no explanation, when the Board adopted the 2024 Budget they agreed to give the Ambulance an increase but, not the total increase.

Supervisor Stell said the Board will have further discussion and let the Ambulance know their decision.

Gorham Cemetery Association –

Bob 'Butch' Clark and Dan Bradley were present to ask the Board for any funding they can provide for the cemetery. They provided a financial packet to help the Board in their consideration to provide voluntary municipal assistance to the cemetery.

Mr. Clark and Mr. Bradley outlined what the cemetery's area of needs are and what the funding would go towards.

Councilmember Chard asked what amount would be helpful.

They are asking for approximately \$10-15,000.00 yearly to help cover the rising costs of labor for mowing, trimming and lawnmowing equipment and maintenance and for stone/oil paving for the entrance roadway. They are asking the Town Board to consider this request at 2025 budget time.

Brett Johnson, Conservation Board Chairman –

Chairman Johnson spoke to request participation from the Town Board members, Town Officials and Department Heads and Town Employees to help out at Gorham Fun Day on July 28, 2024 at Lincoln Hill Farms.

Barb Frank, Goose Street resident, thanked the Town for taking quick action to erase the racial graffiti on the Town bridge, that was brought up at the last Town Board meeting.

Supervisor Stell stated the next day, Code Enforcement Officer Morse, the State DOT, the Sheriff's Department and himself were all out there at the same time and it was taken care of.

Lynn Klotz, Lake Drive resident, asked if the Highway Department has plans to take care of the paving on Lake Drive and Mayflower that was scheduled for the end of June.

Highway Superintendent Eddinger said they'll get there as soon as they can.

- 3. Approval of Minutes - 5/15/2024 Regular Meeting Minutes
5/23/2024 Special Meeting Minutes

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

4 Ayes – Stell, Chard, Curtis, Watkins

069-2024

4. Reports of Town Officials -

- A. Chief Operator Water/Wastewater Plants – written report on file. Chief Operator Coston stated the Water Plant will be getting quotes for repair on the Ross Valve, He is anticipating a cost of \$5,000.00 to \$7,500.00
- B. Chief Operator Coston formally announced he will be retiring in 2025. Mr. Coston said it's been less than a year since they interviewed candidates for an operator trainee position. He would like to move forward to hire one of the guys that interviewed so he can start training. The Board agreed to get another employee in place for training before Mr. Coston retires.

- 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 – Supervisor Stell stated the WWTP work is on schedule except

for the delay in getting the transformer and generator. They will be asking for an extension into the fall to get those two items installed and operational.

The Maple Avenue Drainage process has been canceled with the contractor who was low bidder. The Town is in the process of canceling the contract 'for convenience with no fee or penalty from either side'.

Supervisor Stell said "the work will be done with our Highway Department, which was the original intent. Between Zach and I and some help from MRB we're going to get it done."

Highway Superintendent Eddinger agreed.

Supervisor Stell has an updated drawing from Marks Engineering for Easton Park Drainage and Rain Garden. The new drawing was available for resident to view at the meeting.

Supervisor Stell said "There is a lot of work that should have been done before the building was constructed so now we'll go back and try to get it done. It's a bit backwards, it's expensive, we will try to do much of the work with our own forces and we'll start working in that direction as soon as we can. We will work on getting things mowed down and looking presentable."

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

070-2024

5. Audit of Bills -

Abstract #7

Approval of Vouchers

On the motion by Councilmember Chard, seconded by Councilmember Watkins, the abstract of bills, totaling \$416,120.19 were approved for payment. The motion carried unanimously. 4-0

4 -Ayes - Stell, Chard, Curtis, Watkins

071-2024

6. Business –

- a. Adopt Resolution Appointing ZBA Member –

Councilmember Chard 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

072-2024

**TOWN OF GORHAM
RESOLUTION #27-2024**

APPOINTING ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS BOARD MEMBER

**Appointment of Mary Ellen Oliver
Town of Gorham ZBA**

WHEREAS, Mrs. Mary Ellen Oliver has served the Town Zoning Board of Appeals Board as an alternate member;

WHEREAS, with the resignation of a fulltime Board member the ZBA seeks a fulltime member;

WHEREAS, Mrs. Oliver expressed interest in continuing to serve on the Town of Gorham Board of Zoning Board of Appeals as a fulltime member;

WHEREAS; Mrs. Oliver will fulfill the term of ZBA member Robert Morris,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Mrs. Oliver is hereby appointed to fill the ZBA term through 9/30/2026,

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 June 26, 2024 by the following vote:

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Dale C. Stell	X_____	_____
Jake Chard	X_____	_____
Phil Curtis	X_____	_____
Brian Lazarus	no vote due to zoom malfunction	
Chrissy Watkins	X_____	_____

b. Adopt Resolution Approving Planning Board Member –

Councilmember Chard 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

073-2024

**TOWN OF GORHAM
RESOLUTION #28-2024
APPOINTING PLANNING BOARD MEMBER**

**Appointment of Jeremy Stowe
Planning Board Alternate Member**

WHEREAS, Mr. Jeremy Stowe has expressed interest in serving as a Town of Gorham Planning Board Member;

WHEREAS, Mr. Stowe will serve as an alternate member of the Planning Board;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Mr. Stowe is hereby appointed to the Town of Gorham Planning Board as an Alternate Member

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 June 26, 2024 by the following vote:

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Dale C. Stell	X_____	_____
Jake Chard	X_____	_____
Phil Curtis	X_____	_____
Brian Lazarus	no vote due to zoom malfunction	
Chrissy Watkins	X_____	_____

c. Adopt Resolution Authorizing the Supervisor to Sign the Proposal for a Professional Survey of Cottage City Drive from Kocher Surveying, PC

Councilmember Chard 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

074-2024

**TOWN OF GORHAM
RESOLUTION# 29-2024
AUTHORIZING THE TOWN SUPERVISOR TO
SIGN THE PROPOSAL FOR A PROFESSIONAL SURVEY OF COTTAGE CITY DRIVE
FROM KOCHER SURVEYING, PC**

WHEREAS, Cottage City Drive has experienced significant flooding over the recent years, and

WHEREAS, Town is currently working with FEMA for some potential grant funding to remediate the flooding, and

WHEREAS, Town requested MRB solicit a proposal from Kocher Surveying, PC to perform professional survey of Cottage City Drive, and

WHEREAS, Kocher Surveying, PC has submitted a proposal to perform the survey, and

WHEREAS, the proposal from Kocher Surveying, PC lists a total compensation for at a cost of \$7,200.00 with any required additional services billed separately,

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

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor signs the Kocher Surveying, PC proposal,

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

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 June 26, 2024 by the following vote:

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Dale C. Stell	X_____	_____
Jake Chard	X_____	_____
Phil Curtis	X_____	_____
Brian Lazarus	no vote due to zoom malfunction	
Chrissy Watkins	X_____	_____

7. Set the Next Meeting Date – The next meeting will be a workshop meeting on July 10, 2024 at 5:00pm at the Gorham Town Hall.

8. Privilege of the Floor –

Lynn Klotz, Lake Drive resident, asked if the grading for the driveway was still scheduled for Easton Park. She had questions regarding the surveying for Cottage City. Mrs. Klotz invited all to the Watershed Association annual meeting. She informed the Board that the first HAB’s bloom has been reported on Canandaigua Lake.

Supervisor Stell said the grading is the first step at Easton Park and the survey is pertaining to drainage.

Sally Napolitano, Lake Drive resident, asked questions about Cottage City drainage and asked several questions about the water rate increase and water districts within the Town.

9. Executive Session –

On the motion by Councilmember Chard, seconded by Councilmember Watkins, the Board entered into executive session at 8:09pm 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 8:46pm.

No action was taken in executive session. Both motions carried unanimously. 4-0

4 - Ayes – Stell, Chard, Curtis, Watkins

075-2024

10. Adjournment – with no further business, on the motion by Councilmember Watkins, seconded by Councilmember Curtis, the meeting was adjourned at 8:47 pm. The motion carried unanimously. 4-0

4 - Ayes – Stell, Chard, Curtis, Watkins

076-2024

Respectfully Submitted,

Darby L. Perrotte
Town Clerk