

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
THE GORHAM TOWN BOARD
September 17, 2025 7:00pm**

The Gorham Town Board held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday September 17, 2025 at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall in Gorham, NY.

Present; Supervisor, Dale C. Stell

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

Town Officials in attendance; Chief Operator Water & Wastewater Districts Nate Bay, Deputy Highway Superintendent, Brandon Ayers, Code Enforcement Officer Jim Morse, Assessor Enza Mineo and Town Clerk Darby Perrotte.

Highway Superintendent Zach Eddinger was absent.

Residents & guests in person 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, Director of Operations Stanley Hall Gorham Ambulance. She provided a copy of their report and updated the Board on happenings with the Ambulance.

Ed Merritte, Deer Run resident, asked for an update regarding the ECO fire.
Supervisor Stell has a brief statement he will read after Privilege of the Floor.

Debbie North, County Road 18 resident, asked Councilmember Lazarus if he is willing to rescind his Sheriff's directive of 10/28/2022 allowing her to email him for the remaining 3 months of his term.

Councilmember Lazarus said no thank you.

Mrs. North stated she noticed a large amount of legal fees for Eduard Zaydman, ECO Operations. She stated she's sure the number is a running tally.

Mrs. North read a comment, in Ukrainian, she stated, "in case Eduard is listening, the comment, in English, translates to, May the Devil take you".

Jack Santee, Dewey Ave resident, stated he is one of 2 residents on Dewey Ave that does not have public water. He would like to see it extended to their house especially with concern of well contamination since the fire at ECO Operations.

Discussion was held regarding testing well water in the area of the fire.

3. Approval of Minutes – 08/20/25 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

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

078-2025

5. 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. Code Officer Morse thanked the Board for their support; they were behind the scenes and knew exactly how hard he worked to prevent a fire at ECO Operations from starting. The Board thanked Officer Morse for his diligence.

D. Assessor –written report on file.

E. Town Clerk – written report on file.

F. Town Supervisor – written report on file. Supervisor Stell further updated on the fire at ECO Operations. He stated the EPA is on site every day. While they are negotiating with the owner's attorney to conduct a clean-up, they are moving forward as if the owner is not going to do it or cooperate. Beginning 9/18/25 they will be removing the soil that's in the ditch in front of the property. They will be storing that soil temporarily on the fire site for later removal. They will be removing and re-packaging the sanitizer and test kits from the storage boxes on site. Those products will all be taken for incineration off-site. There will be a chemist on site to determine what is contained in the 55-gallon drums that remain on site and were not significantly damaged in the fire.

Supervisor Stell wants to publicly thank Code Enforcement Officer Morse for the huge role he played from the end of January right through the time of the fire, and up to this point in time. He stated "Jim kept the DEC's feet to the fire (no pun intended) it was necessary. When they didn't react, he took it to EPA and other agencies, his efforts are much appreciated."

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

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

079-2025

6. Audit of Bills -

Approval of Vouchers
Abstract #9

On the motion by Councilmember Chard, seconded by Councilmember Curtis, discussion was held regarding a highway bill from Verizon that is several months in arrears. The Board agreed to change the mailing address for the Highway Department back to the Town Hall address. Deputy Highway Superintendent Ayers agreed.

The abstract of bills totaling \$159,829.79 was approved for payment. Motion carried unanimously. 5-0

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

080-2025

7. Business –

- a. Middlesex Valley Ambulance and Crystal Beach Fire Department were present. Both supplied budgets and Data for their funding requests for 2026.

Discussion was held with both organizations; requests will be considered during the Town's upcoming budget workshop meeting.

- b. Gorham Hall Stanley Ambulance –

Amanda Gibeau, Director of Operations, supplied the Board with the Ambulance's request for funding. Mrs. Gibeau had a Power Point presentation showing where their money currently comes from. A lengthy discussion was held regarding their request and recommendations were made to pursue creating an ambulance district. To establish an ambulance district within Gorham the Town Board must follow procedures outlined by NYS Town Law by passing a resolution to create the district, which is then subject to a permissive referendum. The process can also be initiated by petition from taxpayers. Once formed, the town board can contract for ambulance services within the district or operate a municipal service, funded by the district's residents.

- c. Approval to Spend up to \$150,000.00 for work at Easton Park –

Supervisor Stell stated it will be to have the parking lot, drainage and storm drainage completed according to plan. The Town has \$50,000.00 in the 2025 budget for Easton and approximately \$240,000.00 in a separate fund for parks.

Supervisor Stell anticipates working with Highway and Water Department employees as well as a few outside people similar to the way Maple Ave Project was completed.

On the motion by Councilmember Lazarus, seconded by Councilmember Curtis, approval to spend up to \$150,000.00 for the projects at Easton Park. Motion carried unanimously. 5-0

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

081-2025

8. Set Next Meeting Date – The next Town Board meeting will be held Thursday September 25, 2025 at 4:30pm. The next regular Board Meeting and Budget Public Hearing will be held on Wednesday October 15, 2025 at 7:00pm at the Gorham Town Hall

9. Privilege of the Floor –

10. Executive Session –

On the motion by Councilmember Chard, seconded by Councilmember Watkins, the Board entered into executive session at 8:40pm for discussion of the medical, financial, credit, or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters concerning an individual's appointment, promotion, discipline, or dismissal.

On the motion by Councilmember Lazarus, seconded by Councilmember Curtis, the Board returned to regular session at 9:34 pm. No action was taken in executive session. Both motions carried unanimously. 5-0

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

082-2025

11. Adjournment – with no further business, on the motion by Councilmember Lazarus, seconded by Councilmember Chard, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm. The motion carried unanimously. 5-0

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

083-2025

Respectfully Submitted,

Darby L. Perrotte
Town Clerk