

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
GORHAM TOWN BOARD
January 14, 2009**

The Gorham Town Board held a regular meeting on Wednesday, January 14, 2009 at 7:30 PM at the Town Hall, Gorham, NY. Present were Supervisor Calabrese, Councilmembers Lightfoote, Busch, Glitch and Adam-Anderson, Chief Operator Water/Wastewater Departments Erb, Assessor Davey, Code Enforcement Officer Freida, Highway Superintendent Ayers, Joan Busch and Town Clerk Hollenbeck.

1. Call to Order/Pledge to the Flag:
2. Privilege of the floor: None requested
3. Approval of minutes of the December 10, 2008 meeting. On the motion by Councilmember Adam-Anderson seconded by Councilmember Glitch, the minutes were approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (5-0) **005-2009**
4. Reports of Town Officials
 - a. Water/WasteWater Plants - Written report is on file. Mr. Erb stated that they are looking into a generator for the water plant. We typically have four or more outages per year which can be very costly. When the electric goes down they have to work on the filters and it costs between \$650 and \$900 each time. They also lose heat and the computers go down. The approximate cost would be about \$7,000 to put a generator at the plant.

The Scada system is up and running. We will need to purchase a laptop computer in the near future so that the plant can be monitored from anyplace in the town.
 - b. Highway Superintendent - Written report is on file. Mr. Ayers stated that his department has been busy with the snow and ice, etc. The new truck is in the paint booth today. Should be ready soon. We have a good supply of salt and sand. The snow fence that was put up in various locations is doing a great job. It is very beneficial. On those windy days the crews do not have to go back quite so frequently to clear off the drifting on the roads.
 - c. Zoning – Written report is on file.
 - d. Assessor – Written report is on file. Talked briefly about a recent report by Robin Johnson, Director of RPTS, regarding county wide assessment. Supervisor Calabrese just received this report and will make it available should any one want to review it. The recommendation so far is to leave assessing as it is, the responsibility of each municipality.
 - e. Town Clerk – written report on file. Transfer Station permits are a big seller this time of year. Many residents are paying their taxes and getting their permits at the same time.

All Court, Town Clerk, Tax Collector and Bookkeeper checkbooks, statements and reports are available for review at any time.

f. Supervisor – written report on file

On the motion by Councilmember Glitch, seconded by Councilmember Adam-Anderson, the reports of Town Officials were approved. Motion carried unanimously. (5-0) **006-2009**

5. Communications – on file

6. Audit of Bills:

Abstract #13 A	447-498	\$14,110.64
B	448-494	5,460.44
SL	479	256.85
DB	244-261	185,833.34
SW1	262-275	6,888.61
SS	84-90	1,114.01
Abstract #1 A	1-18	\$91,729.11
B	7	91.80
SL	19	18.00
DB	1-3	42,371.32
SW1	1-10	5,384.84
SS	1-4	469.74
HN	1	1,842.83
HM	2	48,689.65

On the motion by Councilmember Busch seconded by Councilmember Lightfoote, the bills Abstract numbers 13 and 1 were approved for payment. Motion carried unanimously. (5-0). **007-2009**

7. Business:

a. Mailbox replacement policy - Supervisor Calabrese stated that we have talked about this before, but we do not have a written policy regarding replacement of mail boxes that succumb to snow removal. Some residents put up very expensive mail boxes and they are not happy when they get damaged by snow removal.

Mr. Ayers stated that there were a few mail boxes damaged on Angela Way and Carmelo Lane. Mr. Flook was the Town driver in that area and he stated that he did not hit those mail boxes. He watched contractors plowing driveways, when they come out of the driveways they go into the eyebrows and hit the boxes. We

are not to blame for the damage on Angela Way or Carmelo Lane. Homeowners apparently not aware of it.

Supervisor Calabrese had a long discussion with one resident and stated that our policy has been that if the mailbox is down, you call the Highway Department and they will come out when the storm is over and they get caught up and repair the mail box. The secret to that is to get back to them.

Mr. Ayers stated that it is his opinion, that the Town should not replace a \$200 mail box if it is in the right of way. You should set a limit, a standard 12 x 4 treated post and a metal \$12.00 mail box.

If a subdivision has a requirement for a certain type of mail box, it is up to them to pay the difference.

Technically, residents have a right to put a mail box in the right of way, but the Town does not have a legal obligation to repair or replace them.

Mr. Ayers stated that often times the majority of damage is due to rotten posts whether it be metal or wood and the heavy snow. Ninety percent of the time the plow or the wing does not hit the mail box, it's just the weight of the snow or slush. The drivers know if they actually hit a mail box. There is a lot of force from the snow itself. Sometimes you'll see the post and the box laying on the ground with no marks on them, has not been touched, just broke off. Is it our responsibility? He doesn't think so, but we do go and fix a lot of mail boxes. If we have a three or four day storm, we are not going to get out there and fix them for a few days.

Supervisor Calabrese stated that it should be up to the discretion of the Highway Superintendent.

Councilmember Glitch stated that it might be better to have a policy so Mr. Ayers wouldn't have to negotiate with each resident. If we had a policy that we would replace mailboxes not to exceed \$50, it takes the burden off Mr. Ayers to negotiate and monkey around. If the guy has a more expensive mail box, he can take the \$50 and then take care of the remainder himself.

Councilmember Busch stated that he thought it would be fair and reasonable to find out the cost of the average mailbox, the labor involved and say it is \$50, the Town will compensate a resident up to \$50 for replacement of a mailbox. Use that as the policy, which would take the onus off Kelly who may have to argue with someone about it.

All agreed that a policy should be written. We need to check the cost of a mail box and posts and write up a policy. Copies of the policy should be given to anyone who obtains a building permit as well as notice to any developments.

b. Resolution of appreciation , Gorham Oil, land donation. On the motion by Councilmember Adam-Anderson, seconded by Councilmember Glitch, the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS the Town of Gorham on August 13, 2008 accepted as a gift, ownership of the property owned by IPT, LLC, located at 4710 Main Street, Hamlet of Gorham,

WHEREAS the Town expects to make a mini-park on this property,

RESOLVE that a special thanks be given to Dave and Dean Williams from the Town of Gorham town Board for contributing this property to the Town.

Motion carried unanimously. (5-0).

008-2009

c. Resolution to approve Integrys for electricity supply. Supervisor Calabrese asked for a motion to authorize signing a contract with Integrys for 23 months of electric supply for Town of Gorham buildings, etc. He has done extensive research and have quotes from three different sources. NYSEG is \$.092, NYSEG Solutions who currently supplies our electric, is \$.082 and Ingegrys is \$.081. Last year we were with NYSEG Solutions, however, they do not offer a contract, it is all verbal, and we did not like how they billed the Street Lighting. By going with Integrys our savings will be about \$4000 per year over the standard NYSEG billing.

On the motion by Councilmember Busch, seconded by Councilmember Adam-Anderson, Supervisor Calabrese is authorized to sign the contract with Integrys for electric service. Motion carried unanimously. (5-0)

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d. Discuss residential building cap – Supervisor Calabrese has been working on a program limiting the number of new residential housing building permits to be issued per year. The intent of this program is to make sure development is accomplished in an orderly fashion. This will require an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan as well as adoption of a Local Law. Board members discussed the document at length. As written no more than 60 units per year would be approved (40 for subdivisions and 20 for individual lots). Talked about reducing the total number to fifty rather than sixty.

After some discussion, Councilmember Busch recommended that this document be forwarded to the Planning Board for their review.

8. Other

a. Gorham Free Library – Will be looking into the cost of putting storm windows on the Gorham Free Library this year

b. Pictures - Supervisor Calabrese encouraged Diane Hovey, Director of the Library to apply for a grant for historic pictures some months ago. Mrs. Hovey did apply and has been notified that she will indeed receive the poster type historic pictures. We plan to split them between the Library and the Town Hall and will get nice frames for them to be hung as appropriate.

c. Grants – Supervisor Calabrese stated that we will be working on two grants this year; one for the “mini-park” and one for the Crystal Beach Drainage project.

d. Zoning issues – There are a few items that need to be discussed and addressed with regard to the Zoning Ordinance. Steep slopes, extra large homes on small lots on the lakeshore, are two of the items that need to be addressed.

e. Farm preservation – A resident has talked to Supervisor Calabrese about the possibility of preserving some of his farmland. Right now, discussions are preliminary. If the resident agrees to follow through, this will come back to this board as well as the Conservation Board.

f. Election Year – 2009 is an election year for Supervisor, Town Clerk, Highway Superintendent, Tax Collector and two Councilmembers. Supervisor Calabrese stated that he plans to run one more time and at the end of the next two year term he plans to retire.

g. Councilmember Adam-Anderson stated that the Comprehensive Plan Update is progressing. The questionnaire should be going out in a couple of weeks.

h. Councilmember Lightfoote commended the Gorham Town Board and all Town staff. Everyone does a great job and everyone gets along so well.

9. Privilege of the Floor: None requested

10. Set next meeting date: February 11, 2009 at 7:30 PM

11. Adjournment: On the motion by Councilmember Busch, the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Hollenbeck
Town Clerk