

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
GORHAM TOWN BOARD
MARCH 12, 2008**

The Gorham Town Board held a regular meeting on Wednesday, March 12, 2008 at 7:30 PM at the Town Hall, Gorham, NY. Present were Supervisor Calabrese, Councilmembers Lightfoote, Busch and Adam-Anderson, Code Enforcement Officer Freida, Highway Superintendent Ayers, Assessor Davey, Chief Operator Water/Wastewater Departments Erb, Carl Sheen, Michele Cutri-Bynoe and Town Clerk Hollenbeck. Councilmember Glitch was necessarily excused.

1. Call to Order/Pledge to the Flag:
2. Privilege of the floor:
3. Approval of minutes of the February 13 and 27, 2008 meetings. On the motion by Councilmember Adam-Anderson seconded by Councilmember Lightfoote, the minutes were approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (4-0) **028-2008**

4. Reports of Town Officials

- a. Water/WasteWater Plants - Written report is on file. Councilmember Lightfoote commented, that with the snow and icy conditions the Highway Crew has done a great job, we can always count on the Town Highway to keep the roads clean and he has also reminded residents that our Water Department also does a great job, they are also out there working in the same conditions. They seem to be taken for granted because the water always comes out of the faucet, but Rick, you and your crew do a great job, thank you. Councilmembers and Supervisor Calabrese agreed. Mr. Erb should be commended for his actions taking care of certain emergency items and dealing with public health issues every day. He and his crew do a great job.

- b. Highway Superintendent - Written report is on file. Mr. Ayers provided specs for a new 10 wheeler with plow and equipment from State Bid in the amount of \$165,077.07. He is requesting authorization to order the new truck. The new Emission Reduction Act of 2006 is adding \$10-\$20,000 to the price of this vehicle. It is possible that we may be required to retrofit existing trucks to comply with this law. There are serious concerns about retrofitting the older trucks, this was briefly discussed. We try to keep our vehicles for ten years before replacing them. The truck we want to replace now is eleven years old.

On the motion by Councilmember Lightfoote, seconded by Councilmember Busch, authorization is granted to order a new 10 wheel International 5500SFA 6x4 with Tenco plow equipment from State Contract PC 2176 at a price of \$165,077.07. Motion carried unanimously. (4-0). **029-2008**

c. Zoning – Written report is on file. Supervisor Calabrese commended Mr. Freida for going above and beyond his normal duties in assisting whenever asked. Every time Supervisor Calabrese asks Mr. Freida to assist in any way, he is more than willing to do so. Thank you very much.

d. Assessor – Written report is on file. Gorham has received its Residential Assessment Ratio rating from the State Office of Real Property Services. It is 84.57% , down from 99.56% only last year. The RAR is the direct correlation between Assessments and Sale Prices. Clearly it is a difficult time to be expected to raise assessments throughout the town 15%. While the scope of this years project is large enough to accomplish something close to 15%; great care must be taken to do it fairly and most disturbing is the looming possibility that the market may actually take a downturn and some of our greatly increased assessments may end up being too high. We must move ahead and try to accommodate the State’s determination

The RAR was discussed as well as the potential impact of assessment increases. Councilmember Busch asked Mr. Davey to take the report from the State and tell which ones are lakefront properties and percentage of deviation and the rest townwide properties and percentage of deviation. Mr. Davey stated that he can certainly do that and will include it in the next packets. This was discussed briefly.

- e. Town Clerk – written report on file.
- f. Supervisor – written report on file.

On the motion by Councilmember Busch, seconded by Councilmember Adam-Anderson, the reports of Town Officials were approved. Motion carried unanimously. (4-0) **030-2008**

5. Communications – on file

6. Audit of Bills:

Abstract #3 A	86-115	\$13,482.95
B	86-112	3,118.21
SL	104	766.75
DB	45-66	52,610.61
SW1	39-61	15,388.74
SS	10-12	427.25

On the motion by Councilmember Adam-Anderson seconded by Councilmember Lightfoote, the bills were audited and approved for payment. Motion carried unanimously.(4-0). **031-2008**

7. Business:

a. Court Audit Resolution: On the motion by Councilmember Lightfoote, seconded by Councilmember Adam-Anderson the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS the Town Board of the Town of Gorham met on March 12, 2008

WHEREAS the Town Supervisor made available the Judges balance sheets and checkbooks for the year 2007

RESOLVE that the Town Board did examine to the best of their ability these items,

RESOLVE that a copy of this resolution will be sent to NYS Office of Court Administration, Dennis W. Donnelly, CPA at 25 Beaver Street, New York, NY 10004.

Motion carried unanimously. (4-0).

031-2008

b. ZBA Appointment – Denise Fake and Robert Craugh were recently interviewed for the vacancies on the ZBA. Both candidates interviewed well and are qualified to serve.

Councilmember Busch moved to appoint Denise Fake and Robert Craugh as members of the Zoning Board of Appeals. They are both appointed for four year terms. Councilmember Adam-Anderson seconded the motion that carried unanimously. (4-0).

032-2008

In discussions with the Town Clerk, Mr. Freida indicated that he would be willing to meet with any new appointees to provide training materials and information regarding the next ZBA meeting. The Town Board unanimously agreed that meeting with the appointees would be more than acceptable and wholeheartedly thanked Mr. Freida for this extra effort.

c. Heritage Park – equipment and bike rack. Supervisor Calabrese has been looking into purchase of swings, seats, chain, etc. for Heritage Park, as well as a bike rack to be placed at the Town Hall. He has received a price quote for \$1,920 for some of the equipment, but would like to continue looking at bike racks of a smaller size.

After a brief discussion, Councilmember Busch moved to authorize expenditure of up to \$2,000 for necessary playground equipment for Heritage Park and a bike rack for the Town Hall. Councilmember Lightfoote seconded the motion that carried unanimously. (4-0)

033-2008

8. Other:

a. The informational meeting regarding the Crystal Beach Drainage project has been set for Wednesday, April 16th, 2008 at 7:00 Pm at the Crystal Beach Fire Department. A letter will be going out next week.

b. The Town of Gorham has been awarded a grant under the Justice Court Assistance Program in the amount of \$3,187.99 for office furniture, etc. Supervisor Calabrese is requesting authorization to expend up to \$4,000 for required furnishings.

Councilmember Adam-Anderson moved to authorize expenditure of up to \$4,000 for furniture for the court offices. Councilmember Busch seconded the motion that carried unanimously. (4-0) **034-2008**

c. Copier Purchase – Town Clerk Hollenbeck informed the Board that she has been compiling information regarding purchase of a new copier. We received quotes from four vendors. She recommended purchase of the Panasonic machine at a cost of \$6,800.

After a brief discussion, Councilmember Adam-Anderson moved to authorize purchase of the Panasonic Copier at a cost of \$6,800. Councilmember Busch seconded the motion that carried unanimously. (4-0). **035-2008**

Discussion followed regarding disposition of the existing copier that is over eight years old. Sales representatives told us it really has no value, but it is still in working condition and we are aware that an area church may be interested in it. After some discussion, it was agreed that we would put a legal notice in the paper and put the machine out to bid.

On the motion by Councilmember Busch seconded by Councilmember Adam-Anderson, Supervisor Calabrese is authorized to sell the old copier. Motion carried unanimously. (4-0) **036-2008**

9. Privilege of the Floor: None requested.

10. Adjournment: On the motion of Councilmember Busch, seconded by Councilmember Adam-Anderson, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Hollenbeck
Town Clerk