

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING/WORK SESSION
GORHAM TOWN BOARD
SEPTEMBER 5, 2007

The Gorham Town Board held a work session meeting on Wednesday, September 5, 2007 at 7:30 PM at the Town Hall, Gorham, NY. Present were Supervisor Calabrese, Councilmembers Glitch, Busch and Adam-Anderson, Acting Chief Water/Waste Water Erb, Highway Superintendent Ayers, Bookkeeper Barb Trautman, and Town Clerk Hollenbeck.

1. Call to Order/Pledge to the Flag:
2. Privilege of the Floor: none requested
3. Budget Review: The tentative budget has been filed with the Town Clerk (8/3/07) and submitted to the Town Board for review.
 - a. Water/Sewer budgets were discussed at length. Mr. Erb was present and talked to the Board about current and future needs of both plants. Both water and sewer rates have not been increased in several years. The costs to operate and maintain the plants has continued to increase. There will be a need to build a new water storage tank within the next several years and we should be putting funds aside in a capital reserve to prepare for this expenditure. The Sewer plant is almost twenty years old. It has been maintained very well, but has not been upgraded. We need to be prepared to repair and upgrade as needed. Rates must be increased in order to maintain the plants. We cannot just keep going backwards financially.

After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that steps will be taken to increase water rates by \$.30 per thousand gallons over the minimum quarterly amount of 8,000 gallons and to increase the sewer rates by \$15.00 per quarter per unit.
 - b. Highway Budget – Mr. Ayers was present and talked to the Board about the projects he has scheduled for this year and substantial increases that have been realized with materials, gas and diesel fuels. It appears that we will go over the 2007 budgeted amount and there will be need for Board approval for budget transfers before the end of 2007. Future purchase/replacement of vehicles, grad all, etc. were also discussed. The possibility of holding on to vehicles for another year was talked about.
 - c. Overall budget was reviewed a page at a time. Board members had a few questions that were answered by Supervisor Calabrese and/or Mrs. Trautman. Board members talked about putting funds in the tree planting line item on page 6. This could be used to replace trees throughout the Town where needed. It was agreed to put \$6,000 in this line item. We will come up with a plan to utilize these funds.

On the motion by Councilmember Glitch, seconded by Councilmember Adam-Anderson, a public hearing on the 2008 budget is set for Wednesday, October 10, 2007, at 7:30 PM. Motion carried unanimously. (5-0). **098-2007**

4. Library:

a. Renovations – The Gorham Free Library received a grant in the amount of \$50,000 for renovations to the library which may include relocation of the circulation desk, public use computer stations, access to the children’s book area, etc. Drawings were briefly reviewed.

b. Windows - Several of the windows are cracked and/or broken. Councilmember Adam-Anderson and Supervisor Calabrese have been investigating the cost to replace the glass in all of the windows. The windows are unique, they are very tall and narrow. The estimate they received was for \$9,000 to replace, reglaze all of the windows. It was thought that they may use a portion of the grant funds to put Plexiglas on the inside of the windows.

Whether to replace the glass with single pane glass or to investigate replacement type windows, thermal insulated, vinyl clad, etc. was discussed.

c. (Historic) Post Office roof replacement. The roof leaks, it needs replacement. Estimates were received from Hibbs in the amount of \$2100; Proctor in the amount of \$1800; Newswanger in the amount of \$2800.

Board members briefly discussed shingles versus metal roof, gutters or not.

On the motion by Councilmember Adam-Anderson, seconded by Councilmember Glitch, the bid from Proctor Roofing in the amount of \$1800 is accepted to reshingle the roof of the old Post Office building. Motion carried unanimously. (5-0). **099-2007**

5. Longevity award – Supervisor Calabrese had prepared a spread sheet showing the possibility of monetary awards to employees for longevity, length of service: 5,10,15,20,25,30 year increments. Lump sums would be payable the first payroll in December to all eligible employees when they reach a specified length of service. Elected officials are not eligible. This topic was briefly discussed. There was not enough support for this particular proposal at this time.

6. Other: Supervisor Calabrese talked about the new formula to be used in distribution of sales tax throughout the county. It is possible that this new formula may negatively impact the Town of Gorham. We will have to wait and see.

7. Adjournment: On the motion of Councilmember Busch, seconded by Councilmember Glitch, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Hollenbeck
Town Clerk