

**MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING  
GORHAM TOWN BOARD  
OCTOBER 24, 2007**

The Gorham Town Board held a special meeting on Wednesday, October 24, 2007 at 7:30 PM at the Town Hall, Gorham, NY. Present were Supervisor Calabrese, Councilmembers Glitch, Lightfoote and Adam-Anderson, Highway Superintendent Ayers, Hank Reynders, Gus Antonelli, a student and his father, Michele Cutri-Bynoe, and Town Clerk Hollenbeck. Councilmember Busch is necessarily absent due to illness.

1. Call to Order/Pledge to the Flag:
2. Privilege of the Floor – none requested.
3. Business:
  - a. Crystal Beach Study – presentation by Roger Vanderbrook of Clarke Patterson. Mr. Vanderbrook provided a map of the project area that includes about 32 roads in the Crystal Beach area. He is working on the pavement and drainage evaluation and proposed mitigation and cost. A spread sheet was provided with very preliminary draft cost projections. These cost projections are based on bidding out the entire project and paying prevailing wages, etc. Also includes the required contingencies for legal, administration and engineering. There is much more work to be done and in discussions with Mr. Ayers we will determine if there are portions of the work that he and his staff can complete which will reduce the costs. The total cost for the project as presented as a preliminary draft is \$5.1 million.

Mr. Vanderbrook explained the various drainage issues within this project. The drainage must be taken care of before the resurfacing or reconstruction of any roads. Basically, most of the roads are in good shape, but many do not have the proper crown to allow the water to run off the roadway as it should. This was explained.

The draft report which Mr. Vanderbrook anticipates having prepared within about a month will include text descriptions of the conditions and pictures. This will be a fairly large report and will be very detailed.

Much of the drainage and ditch work, etc. could be done by Town Highway staff, but often times they do not have the time or other projects must be put on hold to accomplish this type of project. This is something that Mr. Ayers will need to review and make decisions on. Mr. Ayers indicated that he and his staff will most likely be able to do some of the work and may be able to get Ontario County to assist as well.

Mr. Vanderbrook and Mr. Ayers will work together to work on a schedule of the work and it will be presented to the Town Board who will be responsible for approving the work and providing the funding.

Supervisor Calabrese stated that at this point he probably has enough information to start working on applying for Grant funding. This project is not dependent on Grant funding, but it would certainly be helpful and would help the project get done quicker. We could also meet with Bill Wright to see about State or Federal grants for pavement that may be available.

b. Outdoor Furnaces – draft legislation was reviewed and discussed. Several changes were suggested. Although outdoor furnaces may provide an economical alternative to conventional heating systems, concerns have been raised regarding the safety and environmental impacts of these units. The chimney's are such that the smoke may not be taken far enough away from residences.

The Town Planning Board reviewed this draft and suggested that these devices only be allowed in the AG district. The Rural Residential District is fairly densely populated and these units may be a problem for neighbors.

Chimney height was briefly discussed.

This draft will be forwarded to the Attorney for further review.

c. Health Insurance - The Town currently provides single health insurance coverage to its employees and pays 80% of family or two person coverage. The plan that we currently have will change and no longer be available in the near future. Also, the costs have been increasing substantially every year. We have been investigating other alternatives. It appears that we may be able to change to another insurance plan, provide the same if not better benefits for the employees and save the Town a considerable amount of money in premiums (possibly as much as \$25-30,000 per year). When this has been narrowed down to one or two obvious choices we will bring it back to this board.

d. Authorization to pay Ontario County \$100,000 to reduce county property tax. Boardmembers discussed at length whether to keep these funds, return to the fund balance or send to the county. Financially, the Town is on track, but we will not be able to continue to contribute indefinitely to the County Property Tax without curtailing needed projects in the Town. Use of these funds towards the Crystal Beach project was discussed at length.

On the motion by Councilmember Adam-Anderson, seconded by Councilmember Lightfoote, Supervisor Calabrese is authorized to forward to Ontario County, \$100,000 to reduce the County Property Tax for Gorham residents. Motion carried unanimously. (4-0) **129-2007**

4. Other: Mr. Antonelli talked briefly about the Ontario County Landfill and its future.

Supervisor Calabrese stated that he has applied for a grant for the Agricultural portion of the Comprehensive Plan. He worked with Maria Rudzinski on getting this done. The amount of the grant is \$15,000

5. Set next meeting date: November 14, 2007 at 7:30 PM.

6. Privilege of the Floor

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

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Hollenbeck  
Town Clerk