

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

The Gorham Town Board held a regular meeting on Wednesday, November 12, 2008 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, Highway Superintendent Ayers, Assessor Davey, Code Enforcement Officer Freida, Ken and Sheila Lord, Barb and Don Christmas, Alan Grethel, Michele Rohring and son, Michele Cutri-Bynoe and Town Clerk Hollenbeck.

1. Call to Order/Pledge to the Flag:

2. Privilege of the floor:

a. Sheila Lord apologized to anyone who may feel that they are the ones being a pain because we have asked for a couple of things to be done in Town. We have no vendetta against our neighbors. We have always gotten along very well with them. All we did, the Town asked us if we would agree to let our neighbors put up a fence to keep his junk behind it. We agreed to that, but we can still see it. We realize that our road has always had yards looking the way they look, no property maintenance code has been enforced in years. But when our assessment went up 33% and it went up that much even after going to the grievance board. Then the next year it went up another 17%, \$4,000 for a \$2,000 shed that we put in, we felt that it was time that the Town enforce some of the other codes. That is all that we have been asking for. We really have no other improvements on our road. We built there 17 years ago, there were no sidewalks, street lights, we understood that, we lived in the country. No cable, no natural gas, we still live in the country. But when our assessment kept going up and up being compared to houses that didn't live on the road with some of the places that look like they do, that is when we asked for the property maintenance code to be enforced. We do not feel that we are asking too much.

Supervisor Calabrese thanked Sheila for her comments. There seems to be a difference of opinion of the standard of what we think and what you think should be done on the road. What will happen is Supervisor Calabrese will get together with Mr. Freida and we will put in writing our response to your comments. This document will be reviewed by the Town Board and legal counsel if needed.. This will take a few weeks, but you will receive our response in writing. It is the duty of the Supervisor, the Town Board and the employees to treat everyone fairly and we certainly are going to do that. We are aware of your concerns and you will be answered in writing.

b. Michele Rohring spoke on behalf of the Rohring family who lives across the road from the Lord's. She has lived with her husband for years and is well aware of the fact of his "collections" per se. Since we were informed in June

we have done our best and tried in a speedy manner along with dealing with some very serious illnesses in her family which resulted in a death. We now have another one in the hospital. It has been kind of low on our priority how our yard looked. But, we did work together as a family and removed everything that was in the front area of the house and we did finish the fence. It is up. What is behind the fence is allowable. It is fall, I am not going to plant anything right now to cover the bottom of the fence, but because it has to be leveled, there is a portion underneath that is visible. Come spring I will be more than happy to plant some greenery to make everyone happy. For now, we are doing the best that we can with two full time jobs and a family of eight.

Supervisor Calabrese thanked Mrs. Rohring for her comments. Letters will be sent to both property owners.

3. Approval of minutes of the October 8, 2008 meeting. On the motion by Councilmember Glitch seconded by Councilmember Busch, the minutes were approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (5-0) **096-2008**

4. Reports of Town Officials

a. Water/WasteWater Plants - Written report is on file. Mr. Erb informed the Board that the telemetry system installation is on track. Hope to be up and running mid December.

We do have a valve machine that we purchased several years ago, we tried to use it but it does not work for us. It is a gas operated machine that runs the valves on the main lines and exercises the valves, etc. Another municipality may be interested in purchasing it. Mr. Erb is asking permission to talk to others about purchase of the equipment. The Town Board agreed to open discussion with others about the equipment and bring it back to this Board when a sale is possible.

b. Highway Superintendent - Written report is on file. Mr. Ayers stated that they have been working on Bachelor Row, poured gutters yesterday. Staff is also working on putting up snow fence.

c. Zoning – Written report is on file. Mr. Freida stated that we have about twelve houses being built right now. Things have seemed to slow down a bit in the building department.

d. Assessor – Written report is on file.

e. Town Clerk – written report on file.

f. Supervisor – written report on file

On the motion by Councilmember Adam-Anderson, seconded by Councilmember Lightfoote, the reports of Town Officials were approved. Motion carried unanimously. (5-0) **097-2008**

5. Communications – on file

6.	Audit of Bills:		
	Abstract #11 A	371-413	\$162,772.56
	B	371-413	6,670.28
	SL	403	772.35
	DB	198-221	39,943.21
	SW1	222-240	27,852.33
	SW6	237	2,330.00
	SS	67-76	6,090.60
	HC	26,27	11,498.10
	HD	27-30	20,699.03

On the motion by Councilmember Busch seconded by Councilmember Glitch, the bills were audited and approved for payment. Motion carried unanimously. (5-0). **098-2008**

7. Business:

a. Leaf vacuum collector – Mr. Ayers stated that we are in need of a leaf vacuum collector. In the past we have relied on Ontario County to do some of this work for us, but it is always done after all of their own work is done or we have used equipment from another Town which also requires us to wait until late in the season when the leaves are wet and matted down in the ditches it is much more difficult to get them up. We have been talking to the Village of Rushville with the idea of buying a leaf collector with a 60/40 split. Both the Town and the Village would use the machine and make up an agreement for its use and storage, etc. It was also stated that within the next 2 – 3 years there will be grant money available for such a purchase and if we purchase the equipment now, we could be eligible for grant funding down the road. The cost of the machine is about \$22,100

Councilmember Glitch moved to authorize a collaborative purchase of a leaf vacuum collector with the Village of Rushville. Councilmember Adam-Anderson seconded the motion that carried unanimously. (5-0). **099-2008**

Supervisor Calabrese stated that we will need to draw up a use agreement. We do have funds available and can decide at a later date where to take the funds from.

b. Tree planting - Supervisor Calabrese went to Kelly Nursery to get tree planting ideas. It is our intent to offer trees to Town residents on a first come first served basis. Trees will be free and will be planted by Town staff. Trees to be planted in the front yard, out of the right of way. There will be five varieties to choose from. A newsletter should go out in March; April 1st to 14th for residents to make application and choose a tree type; we order by April 15th and start planting May 1st. For the first year we will purchase 75 trees.

Councilmember Lightfoote offered to let the Town borrow a skid steer for this project.

c. Park Committee: Supervisor Calabrese stated that he has about six people lined up to work together on design of the proposed park on the old Gorham Oil property. They will come up with a couple of sketches and bring them back to the Town Board by March for review. Board members all agreed to move forward with this committee.

d. Historian Appointment – George Henry of County Road #18 has been recommended to fill the position of Town Historian. After a brief discussion, Councilmember Adam-Anderson moved to appoint George Henry as Town of Gorham Historian. Councilmember Lightfoote seconded the motion that carried unanimously. (5-0). **100-2008**

e. Holiday hours – On the motion by Councilmember Busch, seconded by Councilmember Adam-Anderson, Town employees will have ½ day off Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day and one day to use at the discretion of their immediate supervisor. Motion carried unanimously. (5-0). **101-2008**

Happy Holidays to all!!!!

f. Survey – Comprehensive Plan – The Committee is working on the survey that will be sent to residents. They are doing their best to get the questions correct. It is anticipated that the Town Board will be able to review the survey before it is sent out.

g. Budget Transfers: On the motion by Councilmember Glitch, seconded by Councilmember Adam-Anderson, the following budget transfers were approved: \$4,000 from A1990.4 to A8810.4; \$163 from A1990.4 to A9950.9; \$163 from A9950.9 to HP5031; \$100,000 from A9950.9 to HD5031; \$50,000 from HD9950.9 to DB5031; \$50,000 from Amend DB599 to DB5110.4; \$1,800 from DB5142.1 to DB5140.1; \$40,000 from SW1-9950.9 to HM5031; \$10,000 from SW1-8320.4 to SW1-8340.4; \$2,000 from SS8130.4 to SS8110.4. Motion carried unanimously. (5-0). **102-2008**

8. Other:

a. NYSAT – Association of Towns annual conference February, NYC. If anyone is interested in attending we must know by 12/1/08

b. Pete Spoor has indicated that he intends to retire from his position in the Water/Wastewater Department effective 12/26/08. Mr. Erb stated that he would like to start the process to replace Mr. Spoor so that we can have an employee hired by April. The Town Board accepted Mr. Spoor's retirement with

appreciation for his many years of service. Mr. Erb is authorized to begin the hiring process keeping the Town Board informed.

c. Mower – The Gorham Cemetery Association has a mower for sale and thought maybe the Town would be interested in it. It is a 2003 Stiner. It was suggested that we review our needs and equipment before making a decision, as well as options for mowing such as contract, staff?

9. Privilege of the Floor: None requested

10. Set next meeting date: December 10, 2008

11. Adjournment: On the motion of Councilmember Busch, seconded by Councilmember Glitch, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Hollenbeck
Town Clerk