

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING and PUBLIC HEARING
THE GORHAM TOWN BOARD
November 10, 2021 7:00pm

The Gorham Town Board held a Regular Meeting and Public Hearing on November 10, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

Present were Supervisor Fred Lightfoote, Councilmembers; William Glitch, Brian S. Case and Jake Chard.

Highway Superintendent Zach Eddinger, Billing Clerk Brenda Jones and Town Clerk Darby Perrotte.

Assessor Enza Mineo joined via video/phone conference.

Councilmembers Richard Malcolm and Water Wastewater Chief Operator Greg Coston were necessarily absent.

Other Guests in attendance; Conservation Board Chairman Brett Johnson, Conservation Board Councilmember Lynn Klotz, Sally Napolitano, Phil Curtis, Annie St. George and guests joining via video conference; Rita Kulp, Ben and Adrienne Smith. Sharon Schinsing, Elke Schmidt, Jon Willis,

1. Call to Order/Pledge to the Flag. Supervisor Lightfoote called the meeting to order and led the pledge to the flag.
2. Public Hearing -
2. Privilege of the Floor –
3. Approval of Minutes – 10/06/2021 Special Meeting
10/13/2021 Regular and Public Hearing Meeting
10/27/2021 Special Meeting

On the motion by Councilmember Chard, seconded by Councilmember Glitch, the meeting minutes were approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (4-0)

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4. Audit of Bills -

Abstract #11

A	763-837	\$106,784.80
B	764-836	8,698.42
SL	835,837	764.93
DB	751-838	294,520.44
SS	767-824	6,786.93
SW1	749-826	15,082.29

On the motion by Councilmember Glitch, seconded by Councilmember Case, the bills were approved for payment. Motion carried unanimously. (4-0)

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7. Reports of Town Officials –

A. Chief Operator Water/Wastewater Plants – written report on file. Supervisor Lightfoote said Chief Operator Coston is not here tonight because of a water main break. Operator Coston and his Deputy Nate Bay, were up all night looking for the break and then repairing it. The break stemmed from practice training by the fire department. Occasionally if someone shuts a hydrant off to quickly it creates water hammer that blows a hole in the water main. Crystal Beach Fire Department and Town of Gorham Water Department have been in touch with each other. The Fire Department is extremely apologetic. Because of the amount of water lost and the loss of pressure the NYS Department of Health is involved and they are not happy with the situation. There is a precautionary boil water notice issued. The Department of Health is going to participate with the Water Department to initiate some education to our fire companies associated with the town.

Residents asked how much water was lost.

Supervisor Lightfoote guessed approximately 80,000 to 100,000 gallons.

Councilmember Chard asked who ends up paying for the repairs.

Supervisor Lightfoote said the Water District.

B. Highway Superintendent – written report on file. Supervisor Lightfoote asked Highway Superintendent Eddinger to explain some of the off right of way drainage problems that have been brought up.

Highway Superintendent Eddinger said there are 2 within the hamlet. Kevin Farnsworth has a problem he would like addressed on his Main Street property and there is an area on Route 245 that flows down to Dewey Avenue.

Supervisor Lightfoote read an excerpt from Town Highway Law regarding authorization by a town board to enter private property to open ditch or drain for the drainage of highways.

Supervisor Lightfoote said what Superintendent Eddinger would like to know is if the Board feels there is significant benefit to the community, and not just to certain individuals, to be able to go out and do this work.

The Board agreed, this is work that should be addressed by the town. It would include replacing pipe and old infrastructure. It is a good opportunity to fix drainage problems.

Councilmembers suggest prior written permission from private property owners to enter their property to fix the drainage problems.

C. Zoning/Building Officer – written report on file. The Town has to weigh in on the Planning Board being declared lead agency regarding Scenic Ridge Subdivision.

Supervisor Lightfoote asked for votes for the Planning Board to be Lead Agency on the proposed Scenic Ridge Subdivision. Ayes- Lightfoote, Glitch, Case and Chard. Nays- 0

Motion carried unanimously.

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- D. Assessor – written report on file.
- E. Town Clerk – written report on file.
- F. Town Supervisor – financial report on file.

Councilmember Glitch asked if non property tax distribution by County is the sales tax. Supervisor Lightfoote said sales tax is the largest part of it and real estate transfer tax is included in that.

On the motion by Councilmember Chard, seconded by Councilmember Glitch, the reports of Town Officials were approved. Motion carried unanimously. (4-0)

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8. Business -

a. 2022 Town Budget –

Councilmember Chard would like to propose no increase in pay for the 5 members of the Town Board. Seconded by Councilmember Glitch, the board held discussion.

Councilmember Chard said due to situations that are under our control, and some that are not, our town has had to create a tax and the least we could do in an effort to save money it's our responsibility to take care of the town if there is a way to save money it should start with us.

Ayes - Glitch, Chard.

Nays – Lightfoote, Case. (2-2). Motion failed.

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Councilmember Glitch made a motion that none of the elected officials get a raise in 2022. Motion died.

Councilmember Glitch questioned a 7.5 to 9 percent increase in the budget lines for a particular position.

Supervisor Lightfoote said to get with him in the morning to check the figures.

Councilmember Glitch had a few other questions that were answered.

Councilmember Glitch asked about real property tax, if that is the projected tax that was implemented in 2021. He asked for clarification on the figure. Councilmember Glitch said the tax was implemented because of the fear of the unknown last year. It is a significant increase. A lot of our fears have turned out to be inflated.

Supervisor Lightfoote said he will look through his detailed figures to know the answer. The figure is a total of all funds and special districts. It is very close to 2021. He said he can break it all down later but it will take enough time we can't do it right now.

Councilmember Chard had a question that needs to be addressed in executive session.

On the motion by Supervisor Lightfoote, seconded by Councilmember Case, to approve the preliminary budget for final approval and adopt the 2022 final budget. Motion carried. 3-1 Ayes – Lightfoote, Case, Chard. Nays – Glitch.

Town resident Sally Napolitano stated "You're going to adopt a final budget tonight?" Supervisor Lightfoote said yes.

Mrs. Napolitano said I am really disappointed in the Board because there are a lot of unanswered questions. I'm going to say it in a different way. You came out with a town tax last year because of covid and the unknown of revenue you were going to have from county sales tax and you yourself said to me it was because of the revenue in the county, it was one of the best revenue generating counties in the state. You didn't need the money. This year you've already been told by the state it's going to be a good year. I had asked you for a list of where you have attempted to reduce costs to increase efficiencies you told me you would provide that and I've never seen the list. It's been almost a year."

Supervisor Lightfoote said "I've still got that I will certainly do that. At the same time you've got to remember I said we didn't need to do that, we could fully fund ourselves but we would gut our reserves our fund balances. In order to maintain our fund balances we have to maintain the tax for this year. I thought we were going to be able to cut it quite drastically but looking at the increased costs we realize we need to maintain that same number as far as the budget goes."

Mrs. Napolitano said "I asked this question last meeting, I don't have confidence in my town board that they understand the budget, I think it was demonstrated again tonight. How you can approve and adopt something you don't fully understand leaves me a little concerned."

Supervisor Lightfoote said You're welcome to your opinion. I will say the board has had 2 months to review, go over, ask questions, make comments."

On the motion by Supervisor Lightfoote, seconded by Councilmember Case, to approve special districts budgets. Motion carried 3-1. Ayes – Lightfoote, Case, Chard. Nays – Glitch.

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b. Wastewater Treatment Plant Project – MRB Group, being lead agency, described SEQR for

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SCHEDULING OF PUBLIC HEARING
TO CONSIDER PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO GORHAM WATER DISTRICT #1**

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Gorham, after due deliberation, finds it in the best interests of the Town to schedule a public hearing, pursuant to § 202-b of the NYS Town Law, to solicit

public comment upon proposed improvements to the Town Water Treatment Plant, which is owned and operated by the Gorham Water District #1; and

WHEREAS, the Town Engineer has prepared a map and plan showing the proposed improvements being the construction of an ultrafiltration plant that would consist of the construction of a new Filter Building and an Equalization Tank of various sizes and which would replace the existing DE filters and UV system; and

WHEREAS, the plan shows the estimated costs of these improvements to be \$7,970,000.00, such estimated costs to be the responsibility of Gorham Water District #1. The Town intends to apply for a NYSEFC grant administered through its NYS Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA) program to pay for part of the cost of these improvements. Any remaining amount owing for these improvements will be borrowed from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and financed and repaid by the owners of property within the Gorham Water District #1.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk be, and she hereby is, directed to schedule a public hearing, to be held on November 22, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. at the Gorham Town Hall, 4736 South Street, Gorham, New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk, be and hereby is, directed to forward to the official newspapers of the Town a Notice of Public Hearing in the form substantially the same as that attached hereto as Exhibit "1", such notice to be published not less than ten nor more than twenty days before the day set herein for the public hearing; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk be, and she hereby is, directed to post a copy of the Notice of Public Hearing on the Town of Gorham sign board, not less than ten nor more than twenty days before the day set herein for the public hearing.

I, Darby L. Perrotte, Town Clerk of the Town of Gorham do hereby certify that the aforementioned resolution was adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Gorham on November 10, 2021, by the following vote:

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Frederick Lightfoote	X_____	_____
William Glitch	X_____	_____
Brian S. Case	X_____	_____
Richard Malcolm	absent_	_____
Jake Chard	X_____	_____

9. Set Next Meeting Date –. The next regular board meeting will be held on December 8, 2021 at 7:00pm at the Gorham Town Hall.

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10. Executive Session –

Respectfully Submitted,

Darby L. Perrotte
Town Clerk