

**MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING  
THE GORHAM TOWN BOARD  
March 5, 2025 6:30 pm**

The Gorham Town Board held a Special Meeting on March 5, 2025 at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall in Gorham, NY.

Present; Supervisor Dale C. Stell. Councilmembers Jake Chard, Phil Curtis, Brian Lazarus and Chrissy Watkins.

Town Officials in attendance; Code Enforcement Officer Jim Morse and Town Clerk Darby Perrotte. Town Planning Board Chairman Tom Harvey.

Town employees, residents and guests attending in person and via Zoom.

**The full Zoom recording of this meeting is posted on the Town of Gorham Website.**

1. Call to Order/Pledge to the Flag
2. Privilege of the Floor – none requested
3. Business –

a. Discuss Potential Code Changes

Town Planning Board Chairman, Tom Harvey, discussed potential updates to the town zoning local laws. Chairman Harvey explained the need to update laws and codes so that they remain current, consistent, and enforceable, while also addressing potential conflicts and gaps. The town's Solar and Farm Market laws are in need of updates. The Town has found there seems to be a gray area concerning lot coverage on solar farms.

Chairman Harvey stated there needs to be more clear and precise definition of a farm stand, farm market and/or home business in the agricultural district.

Chairman Harvey discussed setting a moratorium on farm markets while the town drafts changes to the codes.

Councilmember Chard made a motion to set a public hearing on March 19, 2025 at 7:00pm at the Gorham Town Hall, for a Moratorium to be put in place regarding farm markets in the Town of Gorham. Seconded by Councilmember Watkins the motion carried unanimously.

5 - Ayes – Stell, Chard, Curtis, Lazarus, Watkins

**021-2025**

b. Discuss needed Highway Barn Repairs –

Supervisor Stell stated Code Enforcement Officer Morse is obtaining quotes for roof repair at the Highway Barn. Discussion was held regarding the condition of the barn and what repairs are needed.

Code Enforcement Officer Morse arrived at this time and discussed getting quotes on building repairs and a generator at the Highway Barn. With power outages overhead doors and the fuel

station are not operational at the highway facility. Discussion was held about the missing generator and other repairs needed at the Highway facility.

Code Enforcement Officer Morse discussed creating a committee to study potential code changes that are needed. Officer Morse stated town codes need to be updated especially in the lakefront overlay district regarding lot coverages and the section of code which addresses home businesses.

Officer Morse Recommends the committee go over the codes, section by section, to effectively address the needed changes.

c. Discuss adopting a local law to allow non-residents to run for Highway Superintendent.

Supervisor Stell stated community members and Town Board members expressed wanting to discuss the possibility further.

A 44-minute discussion was held with residents and employees, in person and via zoom, for and against the potential local law.

The Board thanked everyone for their comments.

d. Discuss implementing a Town Parks Department –

Supervisor Stell stated the Town has kicked around the idea of creating a Parks Department. Discussion was held regarding the scope of work the Parks employees would be responsible for and employment options such as part-time employees, seasonal workers and county programs for summer employment. The Town Board will look into more options.

4. Executive Session –

On the motion by Councilmember Chard, seconded by Councilmember Watkins, the Board entered into executive session at 9:02 pm to discuss matters relating to proposed, pending or current litigation & the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation relating to appointments, promotion, demotion, discipline or removal.

On the motion by Councilmember Chard, seconded by Councilmember Lazarus the Board returned to regular session at 10:18 pm. No action was taken in executive session. Both motions carried unanimously.

5 - Ayes – Stell, Chard, Curtis, Lazarus, Watkins

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5. Adjournment – with no further business, on the motion by Councilmember Watkins, seconded by Councilmember Lazarus, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05am.

The motion carried unanimously. 4-0

5 - Ayes – Stell, Chard, Curtis, Lazarus, Watkins

**023-2025**

Respectfully Submitted,

Darby L. Perrotte  
Town Clerk