

**REPORT OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GORHAM TOWN COUNCIL  
APRIL 3, 2007**

Chairman Justice opened the meeting at 7:01 pm.

Roll Call: Present: Chairman Justice, Councilors Phinney, Dugas, Loveitt, Caldwell, & Moulton, Town Manager, David Cole, and Town Clerk, Christina Silberman. Councilor Willett arrived after the acceptance of the minutes at 7:03 pm.

Moved by Councilor Phinney, seconded by Councilor Dugas, and **VOTED** to accept the minutes of the March 6, 2007 regular meeting as printed and distributed. **6 yeas.**

**Open Public Communications**

There were no communications from the public.

**Councilor Communications**

Councilor Dugas reported that there are still vacancies available on the following town Boards and Committees; Park & Conservation Commission, Recycling Committee, Fair Hearing Board, Cable Television Committee, & the Board of Health.

Councilor Willett reported that the Finance Committee met on March 20<sup>th</sup> and reviewed an increase in fees that is on the agenda tonight.

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Justice reported that the White Rock Building Committee continues to meet monthly. Superintendent Sharp gave a report at this month's meeting regarding new versus renovation, which substantiated that the current White Rock School would not be renovated.

Chairman Justice attended an event at the Portland Elks Lodge where Chief Lefebvre was recognized as Person of the Year for his contributions not only to Gorham but also to the Greater Portland Community. Chairman Justice offered congratulations to him on this well deserved recognition.

A workshop was held with the Maine Turnpike Authority last Thursday that was well attended by the Council and neighboring communities. They discussed a proposed turnpike spur that was well received. The Town Manager is meeting tomorrow with the 4 affected communities to draft a resolution for the Maine Turnpike Authority. Chairman Justice thanked Jeri and Dawn in the Town Manager's Office as well as Cindy Hazelton and other staff for their work in coordinating this event.

**Town Manager's Report**

Town Manager, David Cole, reported that the South Street sidewalk project should begin next Monday, weather permitting.

Mr. Cole has left a memo for each Councilor from Superintendent Sharp that provides information regarding the EPS formula.

The mill grinding stone from Mosher's Corner is being held at the Public Works Garage during the sewer conveyance project and it will be relocated at a suitable time.

The town has received a letter from the First Parish Congregational Church to accept the offer regarding the Town Clock.

Mr. Cole thanked everyone who participated in the Gorham Marketplace. There was a fairly good turnout despite the bad weather.

The Town recently won a court case regarding the Rust Road. The plaintiff has been ordered to get a permit within 60 days or remove the airstrip and restore the site to its previous condition. The plaintiff has asked the judge to clarify the question of whether or not the town was wrong when it concluded that the airstrip caused an obstruction.

Mr. Cole announced that the proposed budgets are available and he reminded the Council to take their copy when they leave tonight. The proposed budget is for \$11,381,321.00, a 3.7% increase over this year's budget. As proposed, this would increase the tax rate 24 cents for the town portion of the budget. This does not include the school or the county share of the budget. Budget workshops are scheduled for this Thursday April 5<sup>th</sup> and next Tuesday April 10<sup>th</sup> for the town budget. The school budget workshop is scheduled for April 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **School Committee Report**

School Committee Chairman James Hager thanked Vice Chairman Caldwell for reporting at previous Town Council meetings on his behalf.

Mr. Hager reported on the Sebago Education Alliance plans to use the Little Falls School for a three-year term as a Day Treatment facility.

The School Committee has approved the hiring of Mr. Robert Riley as the new Middle School Principal and Mr. Leighton O'Connor as the new Business Manager effective July 1, 2007.

Mr. Hager reported the proposed school budget would have an increase of 6.4% over last years budget. The proposed school budget proposal is available on the school website, [www.gorhamschools.org](http://www.gorhamschools.org).

The White Rock Project Committee met March 4<sup>th</sup> and will meet again on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

The 07-08 school calendar has been approved and is also available on the school website.

### **New Business**

**Public Hearing #1** Chairman Justice opened the public hearing regarding a new Victualer's License application from Khone Sanasy doing business as Lucky Thai Restaurant. There were no public comments. Chairman Justice closed the public hearing.

**Item #7408** was moved by Councilor Dugas and seconded by Councilor Willett. Moved by Councilor Willett, seconded by Councilor Phinney and **VOTED** to amend the order and add "pending the payment of outstanding property taxes". **7 yeas**. The amended order was then voted. **ORDERED** that the Town Council of the Town of Gorham, Maine, in Town Council assembled approve issuance of a Victualer's License for Khone Sanasy doing business as Lucky Thai Restaurant pending the final approval of the Code Enforcement Officer and pending payment of outstanding property taxes. **7 yeas**.

**Public Hearing #2** Chairman Justice opened the public hearing regarding a new Liquor License application from Khone Sanasy doing business as Lucky Thai Restaurant. There were no public comments. Chairman Justice closed the public hearing.

**Item #7409** Moved by Councilor Phinney, seconded by Councilor Dugas, and **ORDERED** that the Town Council of the Town of Gorham, Maine, in Town Council assembled approve issuance of a Liquor License for Khone Sanasy doing business as Lucky Thai Restaurant. **7 yeas.**

**Public Hearing #3** Chairman Justice opened the public hearing regarding a Municipal Development and Tax Increment Financing District for Olde Canal Business Park located on Mosher Road (Route 237). Jim Damicis of Policy One introduced himself and indicated he is present to answer any questions. Town Manager David Cole explained the request. There were no comments from the public. Chairman Justice closed the public hearing.

Moved by Councilor Phinney, seconded by Councilor Willett and **VOTED** to waive the reading of the proposed order. **7 yeas.**

**Item #7410** regarding a proposed Municipal Development and Tax Increment Financing District for Olde Canal Business Park was moved by Councilor Phinney and seconded by Councilor Dugas. Moved by Councilor Willett seconded by Councilor Caldwell and **VOTED** to refer this item to the Finance Committee for their review. **7 yeas.**

**Item #7411** was moved by Councilor Caldwell and seconded by Councilor Loveitt. Moved by Councilor Caldwell, seconded by Councilor Loveitt and **VOTED** to amend the proposed order to change the total number of members to 9 with 6 members at large. **7 yeas.** Moved by Councilor Caldwell, seconded by Councilor Loveitt and **VOTED** to amend the proposed order to include the names of the appointed members as read. **7 yeas.** The amended order was then voted. **ORDERED** that the Town Council of the Town of Gorham, Maine, in Town Council assembled establish a Fire and EMS Study Committee of 9 members to review the recommendations of the Fire & EMS Study completed in February 2006; and,

1. Determine, within the communities ability to pay, the number of additional personnel needed to provide a stable level of service at the present time and in the future,
2. Review the protocols for the number and type of vehicles responding to emergency calls and whether the number of responding vehicles can be reduced,
3. Review the organizational structure of the Department to determine if the current structure is the most efficient for delivering service,
4. Determine if the current level of service can be financially sustained and if not, what adjustments could be made; and,

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED** that the Town Council appoint 9 members to the committee to consist of 1 member from the Fire or Rescue Department full time employees, 1 officer in the department, 1 member of the Town Council and 6 members at large, as submitted, and request that the Committee report their recommendations to the Town Council by September 4, 2007. Appointed members are Brenda Caldwell, Steve Rines, Mike Kucsma, Steve Willis, Chuck Crockett, Lyle Merrifield, Janice Labrecque, Harold Parks, and one pending member. **7 yeas.**

**Item #7412** Moved by Councilor Phinney, seconded by Councilor Willett, and **ORDERED** that the Town Council of the Town of Gorham, Maine, in Town Council assembled, pursuant to a request from John Emerson for the town to assume operation and maintenance responsibilities of Hillside Cemetery effective July 1, 2007, refer this request to the Finance Committee for their review and recommendation. **7 yeas.**

**Item #7413** Moved by Councilor Willett, seconded by Councilor Dugas, and **ORDERED** that the Town Council of the Town of Gorham, Maine, in Town Council assembled approve an adjustment in Rescue Fees, as recommended by the Finance Committee and submitted by Chief Lefebvre in his memo of March 13, 2007. **7 yeas.**

**Item #7414** was moved by Councilor Willett and seconded by Councilor Dugas. Moved by Councilor Caldwell, seconded by Councilor Loveitt and **VOTED** to amend the order to add the name of the Animal Control Officer, Wilmont Southworth. **7 yeas.** The amended order was then voted. **ORDERED** that the Town Council of the Town of Gorham, Maine, in Town Council assembled issue the 2007 Warrant for Prosecuting Unlicensed Dog Owners-Keepers to the Animal Control Officer, Wilmont Southworth. **7 yeas.**

Moved by Councilor Phinney, seconded by Councilor Dugas, and **VOTED** to adjourn at 7:52 pm. **7 yeas.**

A TRUE RECORD OF MEETING

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Christina Silberman, Town Clerk