

**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE GORHAM TOWN COUNCIL  
May 8, 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, Finance Director Maureen Finger and Town Clerk, Christina Silberman. Councilor Willett arrived at 7:05 pm during the public hearing.

**Public Hearing #1** Chairman Justice opened the public hearing regarding the 2007-2008 Fiscal Year Budget.

School Committee Chairman Jim Hager addressed the council to report that the School Committee met last night to review the school budget request. The school's original request was \$29,400,181. Mr. Hager reported that the School Committee requests that their budget be reduced to \$28,893,861, a \$506,320 decrease in the original request.

Scott Dunn, Lieutenant for the Gorham Fire Department, asked the Council to approve Councilor Loveitt's proposed amendment to the budget that was distributed at the May 1, 2007 regular Town Council meeting.

Jay Daniels of West Gorham stated that he is upset about the proposed tax increase and feels that the budget needs to be cut. He has to make cuts and go without and the town departments should do without also.

Chairman Justice closed the public hearing.

**Item # 7425** Moved by Councilor Phinney, seconded by Councilor Dugas and **VOTED** to waive the rules and dispense with the clerk reading of the proposed order. **7 yeas.** The proposed order was moved by Councilor Phinney and seconded by Councilor Dugas.

Moved by Councilor Phinney, seconded by Councilor Loveitt and **VOTED** to amend the proposed order to reduce the school budget by \$627,730. **6 yeas, 1 nay (Willett).**

Moved by Councilor Phinney, seconded by Councilor Willett and **VOTED** to amend the proposed order to increase the rescue fee revenues by \$79,257, transfer \$3,250 from the library and appropriate \$9,037 to pay for the fire call company pay increase of \$1.00. **6 yeas, 1 nay (Moulton).**

Moved by Councilor Moulton, seconded by Councilor Phinney and **VOTED** to amend the proposed order to appropriate \$58,500 to the public safety budget to fund an additional EMT/firefighter position. **4 yeas, 3 nays (Dugas, Willett & Caldwell).\***

Moved by Councilor Loveitt, seconded by Councilor Caldwell and **VOTED** to amend the proposed order by adding \$340,000 to public safety funds for the purpose of adding both fire/rescue personnel and police officers to patrol. Said monies to be placed in a specified reserve account to be available for public safety personnel hiring and jointly administered by the Fire Chief, Police Chief, the Town Manager, and the Council Chairman. Moved by Councilor Caldwell, seconded by Councilor Willett and **VOTED** to amend the proposed amendment to reduce the amount to \$200,000. **6 yeas, 1 nay (Moulton).** The amended amendment to amend the proposed order by adding \$200,000 to public safety funds for the purpose of adding both fire/rescue personnel and police officers to patrol. Said monies to be placed in a specified reserve account to be available

for public safety personnel hiring and jointly administered by the Fire Chief, Police Chief, the Town Manager, and the Council Chairman was then **VOTED. 4 years, 3 nays (Phinney, Moulton, & Dugas).**

Moved by Councilor Moulton, seconded by Councilor Phinney and **VOTED** to amend the proposed order to make a \$65,000 reduction from the capital road projects fund, add a police revenue line of \$20,000, and appropriate \$85,000 to the police department patrol line to hire an officer. **4 years, 3 nays (Dugas Phinney and Justice).\***

Moved by Councilor Phinney, seconded by Councilor Dugas and **VOTED** to suspend debate and move the question. **1 yea (Phinney), 6 nays.**

The amended order was then **VOTED.**

**ORDERED** that the Gorham Town Council vote to adopt the 2007-2008 Fiscal Year Budget with the following departmental totals:

General Government	<u>\$1,215,421</u>
Public Safety	<u>\$3,225,159</u>
Public Works/Solid Waste/Engineering & Insp Services	<u>\$2,353,172</u>
Health & Welfare and Social Service Agencies	<u>\$69,385</u>
Recreation/Community Center/Cable	<u>\$306,821</u>
Libraries and Museum	<u>\$450,845</u>
Planning and Development	<u>\$261,886</u>
Debt & Interest	<u>\$1,115,986</u>
Capital Items	<u>\$470,717</u>
Insurance	<u>\$1,840,000</u>
Other Town Services and Unclassified	<u>\$359,466</u>
Education	<u>\$28,772,451</u>
Cumberland County Property Tax	<u>\$720,760</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$41,162,069</b>

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED** that the Gorham Town Council will appropriate \$24,848,342 for the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Program and Services Funding Act and that the Town of Gorham raise \$9,182,448 as the municipality's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688.

*Explanation: The Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act is the amount of money determined by state law to be the minimum amount that the Town must raise in order to receive the full amount of state dollars.*

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED** that the Gorham Town Council will raise and appropriate \$500,034 for the annual payments on debt service previously approved by the Legislative body for non-state-funded school construction project, non-state-funded portions of school construction projects and minor capital projects in addition to the funds appropriated as the local share of the Town's contribution to the total cost

of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12.

*Explanation: Non-state-funded debt service is the amount of money needed for the annual payments on the Town's long-term debt for major capital school construction projects and minor capital renovation projects that are not approved for state subsidy. The bonding of this long-term debt was previously approved by the voters or other legislative body.*

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED** that the Gorham Town Council authorize the Gorham School Committee to expend \$28,772,451 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2008 from the Town's contributions to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, non-state-funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, and additional operating expenditures which may result from Federal, State or other grants and subsidies not requiring local taxation; and

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED** that the Town of Gorham authorize the School Committee to expend for the fiscal year July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008 from the foundation allocation, debt service allocation, unexpended balances, and other sources of revenues and receipts for the support of schools and adult education, a total of \$16,035,763 that the Town Council raise and appropriate towards the total cost of funding kindergarten to grade 12 education a local share of \$9,182,448, including a local share of debt service of \$793,507 and additional local funds of \$3,554,240 including \$157,799 for adult education; that the revenues from the state allocation of \$15,665,894, balances and miscellaneous receipts of \$369,869, which includes a transfer of \$155,000 from the Middle School Impact Fee account to be applied towards the Middle School Project debt service; that adult education subsidy and fees of \$108,600 be used for education purposes. This budget does not include the estimated amount of \$2,159,702 in employer share of teacher retirement costs that is paid directly by the State. The total budget to be \$41,162,069.00. This total less estimated credits of \$22,073,837 and a transfer in from the TIF Fund's Industrial Park TIF Fund Balance of \$203,000, and a transfer from Special Revenue Fund's School Operations Undesignated Fund Balance of \$1,269 result in a Net Appropriation of \$18,883,963, which shall be raised by assessment on the estates of resident and nonresident property owners in the Town of Gorham; and

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED** that the Town Council vote to adopt the Capital Budget Part II in the amount of \$622,345.00 to be funded from the town's undesignated fund balance; and

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED** that all taxes on real estate and personal property shall be due and payable upon approval of this Order and that one-half of all real estate and personal property taxes that remain unpaid on November 15, 2007 shall commence bearing interest on November 16, 2007, and that the final half of all real estate and personal property taxes that remain unpaid on May 15, 2008, shall commence bearing interest on May 16, 2008 at the interest rate of 12.0% per annum as authorized by Maine Law until paid and collected and the Tax Collector and Treasurer are authorized to collect and receive thereof; and

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED** that the Gorham Town Council authorizes the Finance Director to accept prepayment of real and personal property taxes; and

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED** that pursuant to Title 36, M.R.S.A., Section 506A, the Gorham Town Council establishes an interest rate of **8.0%** per annum to be paid on all real estate and personal property taxes rebated due to overpayment of taxes; and

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED** that pursuant to Title 36, M.R.S.A., Section 906, the Gorham Town Council hereby require and direct that any tax payment received from an individual as payment for any property tax be applied against outstanding or delinquent taxes due on that property in chronological order beginning with the oldest unpaid tax bill, provided, however, that no such payment shall be applied to any tax for which an abatement application or appeal is pending unless approved in writing by the taxpayer. This order shall remain in effect until rescinded by the Municipal Officers; and

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED** that the Gorham Town Council raised and appropriated \$3,554,240 in additional local funds that are included in the appropriation resolution, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model by 100% by \$1,956,896.

The Gorham School Committee recommends \$3,554,240 for the following reasons: the state's funding model does not support all of the costs of the schools because it includes only those costs considered essential by the new state Essential Programs and Services (EPS) model.

Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the school department's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual debt service payment on non-state-funded school construction projects and the non-state-funded portion of a school construction projects and minor capital projects that will help achieve the Town's budget for educational programs. **7 yeas.**

Moved by Councilor Phinney, seconded by Councilor Dugas and **VOTED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 pm. **7 yeas.**

A TRUE RECORD OF MEETING

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

\* Please note that this amount includes the cost of benefits and insurance.