

REPORT OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GORHAM TOWN COUNCIL May 5, 2009 - 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Robinson opened the meeting at 7:02 pm.

Roll Call: Present: Chairman Robinson, Councilors; Caldwell, Csoros, Loveitt, Miner, & Moulton, Town Manager, David Cole and Town Clerk, Christina Silberman

Absent: Councilor Phinney

Moved by Councilor Moulton, seconded by Councilor Miner and **VOTED** to accept the minutes of the April 7, 2009 Regular Town Council Meeting and the April 14, 2009 Special Town Council Meeting. **6 yeas.**

Open Public Communications

Matt Mattingly, owner of Pine Crest Bed & Breakfast Inn on South St., announced that the Second Annual Gorham Taste Walk is scheduled for July 25, 2009, watch for details to be available shortly.

Councilor Communications

Councilor Miner reported that he met with Ecomaine on April 16th. General Manager Kevin Roche provided a tour and it is quite a facility. There is an open house planned in October and Councilor Miner encouraged people to attend. Councilor Miner attended the site walk for the new elementary school at the Steven's property and he was impressed. Councilor Miner thanked the Elementary School Building Committee.

Councilor Caldwell reported that the Finance Committee met on April 27th. They reviewed a memo from the Assessor regarding the item on tonight's agenda, this was supported three to nothing. They reviewed a list of property tax accounts and wrote off several of them that were under \$500 and the remainder will be coming before the full Council. The Finance Committee also discussed rescue billing write offs. A current financial report was received from the Finance Director who also reported on the 2007 - 2008 audit and it was quite a bit over budget. A request from the Cable TV Advisory Committee will be on the next agenda and the next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for May 19th at 6 pm.

Councilor Loveitt reported that the Maine Department of Transportation and the Maine Turnpike Authority Advisory Committee met here last week at the Municipal Center. This is a diverse group designed to serve as an advisory committee relative to an east/west corridor improvement. This was a wonderful use of this building. The civil, thoughtful exchange of ideas bodes extremely well for something to happen on the east/west corridor.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Robinson thanked the Town Council and everyone for the budget workshops that took a lot of time. It is good to look at everything even more carefully this year. Another budget workshop is scheduled for May 19th with the School Committee. Chairman Robinson congratulated local business Jotul North America for earning the Governor's Award for Business Excellence.

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager David Cole reported that boat registrations can now be done online and he encourages citizens to use online services for boat and vehicle registration. Mr. Cole

congratulated Alan Grady of the Recreation Department for being named the Distinguished Young Professional for 2009 by the Maine Recreation and Park Association.

School Committee Report

School Committee Chairman, Dennis Libby, reported on the following:

- The proposed school budget has been submitted with a 28-cent reduction to the tax rate from last year
- H1N1 virus (swine flu) information
- The Village School playground construction is under way
- The site walk for the new elementary school was April 30th & the next Building Committee meeting will be May 6th
- The next regular School Committee meeting is May 13th

Chairman Robinson thanked Chairman Libby for taking the time to come in and report to the Council each month. Chairman Robinson asked if set figures have been released by the state, Chairman Libby replied that the proposed school budget is based on preliminary numbers that should be final but are open to potential change.

Legislative Report

Representative Jane Knapp expressed appreciation to the citizens of Gorham for giving her the experience in Augusta. She is on the Natural Resources Committee and one thing they are currently reviewing is composting. There will be a major problem with solid waste. They have also had windmill projects presented. Rep. Knapp provided a copy of the Governor's package that was presented May 1st. As a former Town Councilor she noted a 10% reduction in the homestead exemption program, a reduction in municipal revenue sharing, and an additional reduction to the homestead exemption program. There are state employee furlough days that will save an estimated 300 positions. A reduction in education funding for fiscal year 2011 will have long term effects. Funding by the federal stimulus package will help in the short term. This is a one time solution that does not look over the long term. The Taxation Committee and other committees are looking at these proposals. There is a lot of hard work ahead.

The Town Manager asked Rep. Knapp if she has any idea what is likely to happen on the bill for the tax exemption granted to hospitals for personal property. Rep. Knapp will report back on this. Chairman Robinson stated that the fiscal year 2011 cuts to education would cause an increase in property taxes and/or cuts to education. Chairman Robinson thanked Rep. Knapp for keeping us informed. Rep. Knapp thanked her constituents and stated that she will represent them as well as she can.

Department Report – Economic Development Corporation

Economic Development Director, Thomas Ellsworth reported on the Economic Development Corporation. The Gorham Economic Development Corporation was formed in 1991 and is a 9 member board made of volunteer citizens that meet monthly. Mr. Ellsworth has been the part time Director since 1995 and he thanked all of the volunteers who have been members of this board, they have all contributed greatly. Mr. Ellsworth stressed that even though his position is part time, the Town of Gorham has never missed out on any opportunities.

The mission statement of the Corporation is “To promote Gorham as a desirable location for new business and industry and the expansion of existing business”. Their objective is to broaden the tax base by the construction of new taxable facilities and increase the earning power of the people of Gorham. Mr. Ellsworth reviewed many of the projects that the Economic Development Corporation has assisted with. He pointed out that the Corporation is not just for industrial park business and they are involved with all business.

The question he is asked more than any other is “What are you going to do with this?” and he showed a photo of the vacant building in front of Hannaford. This is private property and the owner is aware of this property. Plans for this property have been attempted and efforts are ongoing continually.

The recession will end and business expansion and investment will resume. Gorham will continue to be a desirable place to locate and grow a business.

Chairman Robinson stated that there would be a 26% tax increase if not for the industrial park. Chairman Robinson expressed appreciation for all the hard work Mr. Ellsworth does to increase business in Gorham and he stated, “Gorham is open for business”.

New Business

Public hearing #1 Chairman Robinson opened the public hearing to consider approval to renew the liquor license for Aramark Educational Services, LLC. There were no comments from the public. Chairman Robinson closed the public hearing.

Item #7710 Moved by Councilor Loveitt, seconded by Councilor Moulton and **ORDERED** that the Town Council of the Town of Gorham, Maine, in Town Council assembled approve the renewal of the liquor license for Aramark Educational Services, LLC. **6 yeas.**

Item #7711 Moved by Councilor Moulton, seconded by Councilor Caldwell and **ORDERED** that the Town Council of the Town of Gorham, Maine, in Town Council assembled adopt the new Stormwater Management Plan, as presented. **6 yeas.**

Item #7712 Moved by Councilor Moulton, seconded by Councilor Loveitt and **ORDERED** that the Town Council of the Town of Gorham, Maine, in Town Council assembled abate taxes assessed to Kenneth J. and Brenda L. Plasz at 25 Distant Pines Drive (tax map 1, lot 6.207) in the amount of \$578.00 for the 2006/2007 fiscal year and \$614.40 for the 2007/2008 fiscal year because of an error in the assessment. **6 yeas.**

Item #7713 Moved by Councilor Moulton, seconded by Councilor Loveitt and **ORDERED** that the Town Council of the Town of Gorham, Maine, in Town Council assembled approve an updated Sewer Service Agreement between the communities of Windham, Gorham and Westbrook and the Portland Water District for the allocation of capacities, costs and maintenance responsibilities. **6 yeas.**

Item #7714 Moved by Councilor Csoros, seconded by Councilor Miner and **ORDERED** that the Town Council of the Town of Gorham, Maine, in Town Council assembled approve an updated agreement for joint use, ownership, operation and maintenance of sewer collector facilities. **6 yeas.**

Item #7715 was moved by Councilor Caldwell and seconded by Councilor Miner. Moved by Councilor Miner, seconded by Councilor Csoros and **VOTED** to amend the proposed order to strike the following words from the proposed order “...18 County Road (tax map 6, lot 8) in South Gorham from Suburban Residential to” and insert the following “property

located from Route 22 at the Scarborough line to the intersection of 114 to a use that is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan". **2 yeas (Miner & Csoros), 4 nays, motion fails.** Councilor Caldwell moved the question, seconded by Councilor Loveitt and **VOTED. 6 yeas.** The order was then voted. **ORDERED** that the Town Council of the Town of Gorham, Maine, in Town Council assembled refer a request to rezone property located at 18 County Road (tax map 6, lot 8) in South Gorham from Suburban Residential to Roadside Commercial to the Ordinance Committee for their review and recommendation. **1 yea (Robinson), 5 nays, motion fails.**

Item #7716 Moved by Councilor Csoros, seconded by Councilor Moulton and **ORDERED** that the Town Council of the Town of Gorham, Maine, in Town Council assembled authorize the Town Clerk to issue the warrant for the June 9, 2009 Special Referendum and School Budget Validation Referendum Election; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that the Town Council of the Town of Gorham, Maine, in Town Council assembled appoint the following persons as Wardens and Ward Clerks for the designated voting districts for the June 9, 2009 Election and if any of the following should fail to serve the Town Council hereby gives the Town Clerk the authority to appoint substitutes:

District 1 - Linda Deering, Warden and Laurel Smith, Ward Clerk

District 2 - Pat Clay, Warden and Nancy Kenty, Ward Clerk

Central - Connie Loughran, Warden and Christina Silberman, Ward Clerk

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that the Registrar of Voters be in session during regular office hours on Monday, June 1, 2009, Tuesday, June 2, 2009, Wednesday June 3, 2009, Thursday, June 4, 2009, Friday June 5, 2009, and Monday, June 8, 2009 and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that the Town Clerk be authorized to process absentee ballots at the Gorham Municipal Center on Monday, June 8, 2009 at 10:00 am and on Tuesday June 9, 2009 at 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:00 pm and at 8:00 pm. **6 yeas.**

Moved by Councilor Loveitt, seconded by Councilor Miner and **VOTED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm. **6 yeas.**

A TRUE RECORD OF MEETING

Attest: _____
Christina Silberman, Town Clerk