

Report of the
Gorham Town Council
Regular Meeting
December 4, 2012

There were 11 members of the public present at the start of the meeting.

Chairman Gagnon opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call: Chairman Gagnon; Councilors; Benner, Moulton, Phillips, Phinney, Pressey, Robinson; Town Manager, David Cole and Town Clerk, Connie Loughran

Moved by Councilor Phinney, seconded by Councilor Moulton and VOTED to accept the minutes of the November 13, 2012 Special Organizational Town Council Meeting and the November 13, 2012 Regular Meeting as printed and distributed. 7 yeas

Open Public Communications

Hans Hansen of Gorham spoke in recognition of his granddaughter, Patti Smith's field hockey and academic accomplishments.

Councilor Communications/Committee Reports

Councilor Pressey thanked Public Works Director, Bob Burns, and the School Department for the successful completion of the Narragansett School parking and bus loop project.

Councilor Phinney reported that the Ordinance Committee had met and discussed the proposed Cumberland Farms Store project on County Road and the contract zone.

Councilor Phillips remembered Hank Hamblen who passed away this week and she invited Chief Lefebvre to speak about Hank. Chief Lefebvre paid tribute to Hank Hamblen and his 39 years of service to the Town of Gorham and 25 years of service to the City of Westbrook. He remembered Hank as a quiet individual and he never saw him angry. Hank was one of the earliest paramedics in Gorham and he will truly be missed.

Councilor Moulton also paid tribute to Hank Hamblen.

Chairman Gagnon reported that he is meeting with a few groups, one being the Parks and Conservation Commission. This is an open public meeting and anyone can attend. He is also meeting with Superintendent Sharp, School Committee Chair Currier and Town Manager, David Cole to start off the year.

Town Manager's Report

David Cole reported that the Town Clerk's office has 2013 Hunting and Fishing Licenses and 2013 Dog Licenses. He reported that we now have a contract with CMP regarding the Holiday lights and he is cautiously optimistic that they will be ready for this Holiday season.

School Committee Report

Chairman Currier reported that Ann Lawrence has resigned from the School Committee effective November 30, 2012 as she is moving out of Gorham. The Committee is in the process of searching for a replacement. She reported on who are the new chairs of the various sub-committees. There has been a temporary freeze on discretionary spending as they are anticipating a curtailment from the State. Ms. Currier reported that they are appealing the Class A Football designation as they don't feel Gorham is quite large enough. All Day Kindergarten Committee has been granted their request for an extension for their report. Gorham High School is going through an accreditation process through the New England Schools and Colleges; this is an 18 month process and is a peer review.

Moved by Councilor Phinney, seconded by Councilor Moulton and VOTED to take Item #8247 out of order and hear it at this time. 7 yeas For continuity Item 8247 will be reported on in its proper order.

Old Business

Item #8226 Moved by Councilor Phinney, seconded by Councilor Pressey; Moved by Councilor Robinson, seconded by Councilor Phinney and VOTED to send item #8226 to the Capital Improvements Committee to look at what the options are for 21 Main Street and include the Preble Street property. 7 yeas

Prior to the above vote it was moved by Councilor Phinney, seconded by Councilor Phillips to AMEND the previously moved and seconded order of October 2, 2012; by changing the amount to \$21,000 and change Contingency Account to Unallocated Capital Part 2 Account. 7 yeas A motion by Councilor Phinney, seconded by Councilor Pressey to take \$5,000 from Capital Part 2 for the design of parking at the site FAILED OF PASSAGE, 2 yea 5 nays (Pressey, Phillips, Robinson, Benner, Moulton)

New Business

Item #8246 Moved by Councilor Robinson, seconded by Councilor Phillips and ORDERED, that the Town Council change the date of the Regular January Town Council meeting from January 1, 2013 to January 8, 2013. 7 yeas

Item #8247 Arthur Handman, Chairman of the Gorham Economic Development Corporation presented the Village Traffic Survey. Moved by Councilor Phinney, seconded by Councilor Robinson and ORDERED, that the Town Council receive a report from the Gorham Economic Development Corporation regarding the need for parking in Gorham Village. 7 yeas

Item #8248 Moved by Councilor Phinney, seconded by Councilor Robinson and ORDERED, that the Town Council abate any remaining real estate taxes on property located at 55 Morrill Avenue, 21 Main Street and 10 Preble Street, because the Town recently acquired these properties. 7 yeas

Item #8249 Moved by Councilor Moulton, seconded by Councilor Robinson and ORDERED, that the Town Council authorize the Ordinance Committee, working with staff, to negotiate and develop a contract zone for a proposed subdivision (Sawyer Estates) located on South Street (Route 114) that would incorporate the principles of greater residential density and an extension of the sewer system down South Street, for the Town Council to consider at some point in the future. 7 yeas

Item #8250 Moved by Councilor Phinney, seconded by Councilor Robinson and ORDERED, that the Town Council approve a letter to Gorham's State Legislative delegation asking them to work to prevent the State diversion of local revenue sharing funds. 7 yeas

Item #8251 Moved by Councilor Robinson, seconded by Councilor Pressey and ORDERED, that the Town Council accept the bid of Ferrara Fire Apparatus for \$445,856 for a new Fire Engine to replace Fire Engine 5, and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the Town accept the alternate bid from Ferrara Fire Apparatus for a second Fire Engine for \$437,856 to replace Fire Engine 6. 7 yeas

Item #8252 Moved by Councilor Robinson, seconded by Councilor Phinney and ORDERED, that the Town Council accept the bid of LuAnn Littlefield in the amount of \$700 for tax acquired property located on Brackett Road (Tax map 8, Lot 22) in accordance with the bid specifications. 7 yeas

Item #8253 Moved by Councilor Robinson, seconded by Councilor Benner and ORDERED that the Town Council go into executive session pursuant to Title 36, MRSA, Section 841 (2) for the purpose of considering one (1) application for abatement of taxes based on poverty. 7 yeas

Moved by Councilor Phinney, seconded by Councilor Robinson and VOTED to come out of Executive Session. 7 yeas

Moved by Councilor Phinney, seconded by Councilor Phillips and VOTED to NOT APPROVE an abatement of taxes based on poverty, pursuant to Title 36, MRSA, Section 841 because the applicant does not own the property. 7 yeas.

Moved by Councilor Phinney, seconded by Councilor Phillips and VOTED to ADJOURN. 7 yeas Time of adjournment 8:45 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD OF MEETING

Attest: _____
Cornelia C Loughran, Town Clerk