

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING & PUBLIC HEARINGS
THE GORHAM TOWN BOARD
October 15, 2025 7:00pm

The Gorham Town Board held a Regular Meeting & Public Hearings on Wednesday October 15, 2025 at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall in Gorham, NY.

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

Town Officials in attendance; Chief Operator Water & Wastewater Districts Nate Bay, Deputy Highway Superintendent, Brandon Ayers, Code Enforcement Officer Jim Morse, Assessor Enza Mineo and Town Clerk Darby Perrotte.

Highway Superintendent Zach Eddinger was absent.

Residents & guests in person and via zoom.

The minutes are written as a summary of the main points that were made and are the official and permanent record of the actions taken by the Gorham Town Board. Remarks delivered during privilege of the floor and discussions are summarized and are not intended to be verbatim transcriptions.

The full zoom recording of the meeting is posted on the town website for viewing.

1. Call to Order/Pledge to the Flag

2. Privilege of the Floor –

Residents thanked Code Enforcement Officer Morse and the Town Board for their quick and continued action regarding the recent fire in Gorham.

Lizabeth Rasmussen, Gorham Historical Society, informed the Board, and residents, that the Historical Society was able to purchase the Hoffman House for the new home of the Historical Society. They look forward to working on the House and being able to open soon.

Amanda Gibeau, Stanley Hall Gorham Ambulance, updated the Board on the upcoming events for the Ambulance. Mrs. Gibeau presented a letter of intention seeking establishing an ambulance district in the town to support them.

Barb Frank, Goose Street resident, appreciates the effort put into the budget this year. Would like to continue to encourage data indicators for cost effectiveness of the town. Mrs. Frank gave a few examples of what would be beneficial to taxpayers so that they know their tax dollars are being spent wisely.

3. Public Hearing –

1. 2026 Town Budget

Supervisor Stell opened the public hearing. The total Town Budget for 2026 is \$6,617,001.00. Several questions were asked regarding Crystal Beach Fire Department budget. Residents asked for better budget number from the Fire Department. With no further comments from the public the hearing was closed.

2. Local Law 1-2025 to Override the Tax Cap for the 2026 Town Budget

Supervisor Stell opened the public hearing. He explained the town will be exceeding the 2% taxcap for the 2026 budget. Residents stated it would be helpful to outline a list of cost cutting measures, in some capacity, for residents to understand where their tax dollars are being spent. With no further comment the hearing was closed.

4. Approval of Minutes – 9/17/2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

9/25/2025 Budget Workshop Minutes

10/8/2025 Budget Workshop Minutes

On the motion by Councilmember Chard, seconded by Councilmember Lazarus, the minutes were approved as submitted. The motion carried unanimously. 5-0

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

078-2025

5. Reports of Town Officials -

A. Chief Operator Water/Wastewater Plants – written report on file.

B. Highway Superintendent – written report on file.

C. Zoning/Building Officer – written report on file.

D. Assessor –written report on file. Assessor Mineo explained a need to hire help with commercial property evaluations for the 2026 revaluation and a need for a third party to to speak with, and listen to residents, about their assessments to avoid a confrontational atmosphere that the town has seen in past years.

E. Town Clerk – written report on file.

F. Town Supervisor – written report on file. Supervisor Stell reported year to date interest income is \$173,000.00.

On the motion by Councilmember Watkins seconded by Councilmember Curtis, the Reports of Town Officials were approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. 5-0

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

079-2025

6. Audit of Bills -

Approval of Vouchers

Abstract #10

On the motion by Councilmember Chard, seconded by Councilmember Watkins,
The abstract of bills totaling \$234,012.07 was approved for payment. Motion carried
unanimously. 5-0

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

080-2025

7. Business –

a. Adopt Local Law 1-2025 Taxcap Override

Councilmember Chard offered the following resolutions and called for adoption. Seconded by
Councilmember Curtis the resolution was adopted unanimously. 5-0

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

**TOWN OF GORHAM
RESOLUTION # 2025
AUTHORIZING ADOPTION BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GORHAM OF
LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2025**

WHEREAS, a resolution was duly adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Gorham for a public hearing to be held by said Town Board on October 15, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at Gorham Town Hall, 4736 South Street, Gorham, New York, to hear all interested parties on a proposed Local Law to override the tax levy limit established in General Municipal Law §3-c; and

WHEREAS, notice of said public hearing was duly advertised in the official newspaper of the Town of Gorham, on October 9, 2025 and all other notices required by law to be given were properly served, posted or given; and

WHEREAS, said public hearing was duly held on October 15, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the Gorham Town Hall, 4736 South Street, Gorham, New York, and all parties in attendance were permitted an opportunity to speak on behalf of or in opposition to said Proposed Local Law, or any part thereof; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Gorham, after due deliberation, finds it in the best interest of the Town of Gorham to adopt said Local Law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Gorham hereby adopts said Local Law No. 1 of 2025, entitled, "A local law to override the tax levy limit established in General Municipal Law §3-c", a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part of this resolution, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk be and she hereby is directed to enter said Local Law in the minutes of this meeting and in the Local Law Book of the Town of Gorham, and to give due notice of the adoption of said local law to the Secretary of State of New York.

I, Darby L. Perrotte, Town Clerk of the Town of Gorham do hereby certify that the aforementioned resolution was adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Gorham on October 15, 2025 by the following vote:

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Dale Stell	X_____	_____
Jake Chard	X_____	_____
Phil Curtis	X_____	_____
Brian Lazarus	X_____	_____
Chrissy Watkins	X_____	_____

Councilmember Chard offered the following resolutions and called for adoption. Seconded by Councilmember Lazarus the resolution was adopted unanimously. 5-0
5 - Ayes - Stell, Chard, Curtis, Lazarus, Watkins

SPECIAL DISTRICTS RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Gorham is the governing body of the special districts and/or fire protection districts set forth in the Schedule attached hereto and made a part hereof; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of this resolution to override the limit on the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by the Town of Gorham, on behalf of the aforesaid special districts and/or fire protection districts, pursuant to General Municipal Law §3-c, and to allow the Town of Gorham, on behalf of the aforesaid special districts and/or fire protection districts, to adopt a budget for the fiscal year 2026 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the “tax levy limit” as defined by General Municipal Law §3-c; and

WHEREAS, this resolution is adopted pursuant to subdivision 5 of General Municipal Law §3-c, which expressly authorizes a local government’s governing body to override the tax levy limit for the coming fiscal year by the adoption of a local law approved by a vote of sixty percent (60%) of said governing body.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Gorham, County of Ontario, is hereby authorized to adopt a budget for the fiscal year 2026 on behalf of the special districts and/or fire protection districts set forth in the Schedule attached hereto and made a part hereof that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the amount otherwise prescribed in General Municipal Law §3-c.

I, Darby L. Perrotte, Town Clerk of the Town of Gorham do hereby certify that the aforementioned resolution was adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Gorham on October 15, 2025 by the following vote:

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Dale Stell	X_____	_____
Jake Chard	X_____	_____
Phil Curtis	X_____	_____
Brian Lazarus	X_____	_____
Chrissy Watkins	X_____	_____

On the motion by Councilmember Lazarus, seconded by Councilmember Curtis, approval to spend up to \$150,000.00 for the projects at Easton Park. Motion carried unanimously. 5-0

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

081-2025

8. Set Next Meeting Date – The next Town Board meeting will be held Thursday September 25, 2025 at 4:30pm. The next regular Board Meeting and Budget Public Hearing will be held on Wednesday October 15, 2025 at 7:00pm at the Gorham Town Hall

9. Privilege of the Floor –

Barb Frank, reiterated the residents would like to be educated, where and when to be educated about what's going on in the town to help them participate.

10. Executive Session –

On the motion by Councilmember Chard, seconded by Councilmember Watkins, the Board entered into executive session at 8:40pm for discussion of the medical, financial, credit, or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters concerning an individual's appointment, promotion, discipline, or dismissal.

On the motion by Councilmember Lazarus, seconded by Councilmember Curtis, the Board returned to regular session at 9:34 pm. No action was taken in executive session. Both motions carried unanimously. 5-0

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

082-2025

11. Adjournment – with no further business, on the motion by Councilmember Lazarus, seconded by Councilmember Chard, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm. The motion carried unanimously. 5-0

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Darby L. Perrotte
Town Clerk