

2016 TOWN WARRANT

To the inhabitants of the Town of Gorham in the County of Coos in the State of New Hampshire qualified to vote in town affairs, you are hereby notified and warned of the Annual Town Meeting and elections which will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2016. Polls will be open from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM to act upon Articles One (1) through Five (5) by written ballot in the Gorham Auditorium, Town Hall at 20 Park Street.

The Business Meeting will be held at 7:00 PM at the Gorham Middle/High School Gymnasium to act upon the remaining articles.

ARTICLE 1: To elect one Selectman for a term of three (3) years, one Water & Sewer Commissioner for a term of three (3) years, one (1) Library Trustee for a term of three (3) years, one (1) Trustee of Trust Funds for a term of three (3) years, two (2) Planning Board Members for a term of three (3) years, one (1) Planning Board Member for a term of one (1) year, four (4) Budget Committee Members for a term of three (3) years, one (1) Supervisor of the Checklist for a term of six (6) years. (To be voted on by written ballot while the polls are open for receipt of same.)

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the changes to the Zoning Ordinance: to add a definition of "Directional Sign" to Article III, to move paragraph 5.04X to Definitions and revise the definition of "Entity", to amend the definition of "Sign" in Section 3.51 and to adopt the changes to Section 5.04 Signs, as proposed by the Planning Board. Text of these changes has been available at the Gorham Town Hall and on the Town of Gorham Website since proposed. (Recommended by Planning Board.)

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Clerk to collect an additional motor vehicle registration fee for the purpose of supporting a municipal and transportation improvement fund. Of the amount collected, up to 10 percent, but not more than \$0.50 of each fee paid, may be retained by the local official designated by the municipal government or by the Town Clerk for administrative costs. The remaining amount shall be deposited into the municipal transportation improvement fund established to allow a community to fund, wholly or in part, improvements in the local or regional transportation system including roads, bridges, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, parking and inter-modal facilities and public transportation. The funds may be used for engineering, right-of-way acquisition, and construction costs of transportation facilities, and for operating and capital costs of public transportation only. The funds may be used as matching funds for state or federal funds allocated for local or regional transportation improvements. Such funds shall not be used to offset any other non-transportation appropriations made by the municipality.

The maximum fee charged under this paragraph shall be \$5. The municipality shall establish the required fee, up to the maximum amount allowable, based on anticipated funding needs for transportation improvements. The additional fee shall be collected from all vehicles, both passenger and commercial, with the exception of all-terrain

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vehicles as defined in RSA 215-A:1, I-b and antique motor vehicles or motorcycles, as defined in RSA 259:4.

And further, to require the Town Clerk, after deducting the \$0.50 from each fee to cover administrative costs, to deposit the remainder into a Municipal Transportation Capital Reserve Fund, which is hereby created, to be held by the Town Treasurer in a separate account and to be spent under the direction of the Board of Selectmen as Agents of said fund for the purposes described above.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's recommended amount of **\$3,826,789.00** for the general municipal operations. This article does not include special or individual articles addressed. (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

	Budget Committee	Tax Rate Impact
General Government	\$1,298,913.00	\$ 4.72/ \$1,000
Public Safety	1,289,259.00	4.69
Highways, Streets, Bridges	737,326.00	2.68
Municipal Solid Waste/Recycling	308,449.00	1.12
Health Purposes	1,700.00	< .01
Welfare	30,000.00	.11
Recreation, Parks	144,580.00	.53
Patriotic Purposes	4,825.00	.02
Information Booth	9,237.00	.03
Conservation Commission	500.00	< .01
Debt Service	<u>2,000.00</u>	< .01
Total:	\$3,826,789.00	

ARTICLE 5: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$463,553.00** for the operation of the Sewer Department. (This amount will be offset by user fees and Sewer funds. It will not affect general taxation.)

ARTICLE 6: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$503,731.00** for the operation of the Water Department. (This amount will be offset by user fees and Water funds. It will not affect general taxation.)

ARTICLE 7: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$159,962.00** for the operation of the Gorham Public Library. Tax Rate Impact: \$0.58 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 2-1.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$10,000.00** to be added to the Library Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund as

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previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2015: \$0.06* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.04 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE 9: To see if the town will vote to discontinue the Recreation Van Capital Reserve Fund created in 1990. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipality's general fund. (Majority vote required)

ARTICLE 10: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of **\$70,000.00** for the purpose of highway and sidewalk asphalt repaving and curbing projects. Tax Rate Impact: \$0.25 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE 11: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$110,000.00** as a Special Article for the Tinker Brook Project to replace the existing culvert with a bridge, with \$110,000 to come from fund balance as of December 31, 2015. \$0.00 to come from taxation. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,000.00** for the purpose of funding the D.A.R.E. Program. Tax Rate Impact: <\$0.01 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE 13: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$10,000.00** for the support of the 4th of July Committee for the annual 4th of July Celebration. Tax Rate Impact: \$0.04 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a five (5) year lease/purchase agreement for \$61,000.00 for the purpose of leasing a 2015 Caterpillar 415F2 Wheel Loader Backhoe for the Highway Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$12,812.00** for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. Tax Rate Impact: \$0.05 (Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$39,000.00** to be added to the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2015: \$190,112.28.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.15 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE 16: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$50,000.00** to be added to the Town Building Purchase & Repairs Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2015: \$88,762.17.* Tax

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Rate Impact: \$0.19 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.)
(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE 17: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$75,000.00** to be added to the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2015: \$129,999.09.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.28 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE 18: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$65,000.00** to be added to the Highway Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2015: \$167,839.38.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.24 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE 19: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$55,000.00** to be added to the Sanitation/Recycling Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2015: \$156,806.52.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.20 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE 20: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$12,000.00** to be added to the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2015: \$11,551.10.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.05 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE 21: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$10,000.00** to be added to the Emergency Disaster Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2015: \$30,774.37.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.04 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,195.00** to be added to the Medallion Opera House Capital Reserve Fund as previously established, with said funds to come from December 31, 2015 unassigned fund balance. *Balance as of December 31, 2015: 1,627.25.* (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE 23: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$10,000.00** to be added to the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2015: \$27,886.43.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.04 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE 24: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$45,000.00** to be added to the Assessment Capital Reserve Fund. *Balance as of*

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December 31, 2015: \$5.97. Tax Rate Impact: \$0.16 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE 25: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$5,000.00** to be added to the Police Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2015: \$9,992.34. Tax Rate Impact: \$.02 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)*

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$200,000.00** to be added to the Road Resurfacing and Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2015: \$10,310.19. Tax Rate Impact: \$0.73 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)*

ARTICLE 27: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$12,000.00** to be added to the Ambulance Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2015: \$15,001.49. Tax Rate Impact: \$0.05 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)*

ARTICLE 28: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$12,000.00** to be added to the Dispatch Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2015: \$6,767.29. Tax Rate Impact: \$0.05 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)*

ARTICLE 29: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$65,000.00** to be added to the Information Technology Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2015: \$10,000.04. Tax Rate Impact: \$0.24 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)*

ARTICLE 30: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$5,000.00** to be added to the River Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2015: \$67,015.05. Tax Rate impact: \$0.02 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6-2.)*

ARTICLE 31: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$3,000.00** to be added to the Longevity/Severance Trust Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2015: \$22,786.63. Tax Rate Impact: \$0.01 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)*

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ARTICLE 32: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$17,500.00** for the purpose of funding Androscoggin Valley Home Care Services of 795 Main Street, Berlin, NH. (By petition Richard Tanguay and others). Tax Rate Impact: \$0.06 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE 33: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$2,895.00** for the purpose of supporting The Mental Health Center in providing outpatient and emergency mental health services for the citizens of Gorham. (By Petition Michael Chabot and others.) Tax Rate Impact: \$0.01 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE 34: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$2,848.00** for the support of the Child Advocacy Center of Coos County. (By Petition Tiffany Kenison and others) Tax Rate Impact: \$0.01 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE 35: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$9,700.00** for the purpose of supporting the Tri-County Community Action Program, Inc. This request will support North Country Transit/ Senior Wheels \$4,000.00; North Country Senior Meals \$2,700.00; and the Community Contact Office \$3,000.00 - all sponsored by TCCAP. (By Petition Patricia Riley and others.) Tax Rate Impact: \$0.04 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE 36: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$4,000.00** for the support of the Gorham Community Learning Center. (By Petition Raylene Beaulieu and others.) Tax Rate Impact: \$0.02 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE 37: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$4,000.00** for the purpose of supporting the Gorham Historical Society's museum and the organization's public service efforts to preserve and display the Town's history. (By petition Reuben Rajala and others.) Tax Rate Impact: \$0.02 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE 38: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$15,000.00** for the purpose of supporting the Family Resource Center at Gorham. (By petition Paul Bousquet and others.) Tax Rate Impact: \$0.05 (Recommended by the

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Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE 39: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$2,000.00** for the purpose of supporting the Androscoggin River Athletes, a local arm of NH Special Olympics. (By petition James Couhie and others.) Tax Rate Impact: <\$.01 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0.)

ARTICLE 40: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$3,000.00** for the purpose of supporting the professional, successful marketing efforts of the Androscoggin Valley Chamber of Commerce. These funds will be used along with other marketing funds to write a matching JPP Grant (Joint Promotional Program) to potentially double our marketing capacity. (By petition Kimberly Harris and others.) Tax Rate Impact: \$0.01 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of ~~6~~2.)

ARTICLE 41: To hear any reports of any Town Officers, Agents and Committees heretofore chosen and to pass any votes related thereto.

ARTICLE 42: To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Given under our hands, this 12th day of February, 2016.

We certify and attest that on or before February 17, 2016, we posted a true and attested copy of the within Warrant at the place of meeting, and like copies at Gorham Town Hall and delivered the original to the Town Clerk.


Jeff Schall, Chairperson


Grace LaPierre


Terry Oliver