

Town of Goshen
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

April 23, 2024

REGULAR MEETING

This meeting held in-person and recorded via Zoom.us and is available as a recording

PRESENT: Todd M. Carusillo, Scott Olson, Dexter S. Kinsella (Zoom)

OTHERS: Henrietta Horvay; Audrey Blondin; Michael Leonard; Cindy Barrett; Janet Hooper; Paul Gallo; Marianne Stilson; Dawn Wilkes; Patrick Lucas; Marissa Walker; Robin Christopher; Madelyn Flynn; Johanna Kimball; Felix Samboco; Ashley Daddona; Jonathan Miller; Russell Hurley; Jeff Damiano; Tony Dimarco; Shilo Garceau; Janet Garceau; Michelle Pratt; Gerald Glass; Judi Armstrong; Scott Fellows; Dawna Beausoliel; Bryan Beausoliel; Kathy Budsyn; Susan Wheeler

1. **Call to order:** Todd M. Carusillo called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
2. **Approval of the minutes of the meeting of April 16, 2024:** In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Scott Olson, the **motion** was made to approve the minutes of April 16th: Scott Olson corrected the motion from last week's meeting (4/16/2024) regarding alternates to the Housing Committee - Andy Savage was nominated; there was no second for Josephine Jones; a seconded vote was made for Adam Andrusia by Dexter S. Kinsella. Vote carried.

3. **Matters Arising out of the minutes:** None

4. Approval of the Payroll and Warrant – April 25, 2024:

In a **motion** made by Scott Olson, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was **voted** to approve the total warrant in the amount of \$57,717.32. Included in this warrant were the payroll in the amount of \$25,508.61 and the warrant in the amount of \$32,208.71. Voted unanimous. Included were Connecticare: \$17,836.12; King & King Assoc. – \$1,649.00.

5. First Selectman's Report:

First Selectman, Todd Carusillo stated some misinformation is circulating among the public on social media. "The book *Gender Queer* was NOT BANNED. The Library Board member is an elected official."

Todd further stated that one must call USA Waste or Rocco's for "bear-proof" containers. Please call the DEEP.

Scott Olson stated that there is a whirlwind on social media. One Goshen resident is spreading misinformation. The claim is that "Goshen Library is the first Library in Connecticut to "ban" a book." Not so, false.

6. Correspondence:

A letter of resignation was received from Donna Molon, Human Services.

A letter of resignation from Lee M. Kennedy from the Library Board was received.

Chip's response to sharing of e-mail addresses from Town Hall employees as to FOIA. I sent Chip's letter to each Chairperson and members of said Committees. (Check your emails. All were asked to share with their members.)

Employee Complaint – Selectman Dexter Kinsella saw no connection. Should a copy of said correspondence be filed for record keeping and let go? This issue should be discussed in closed session.

Recreation Department mowing bids. **Knox Property Services LLC**, has been awarded the bid for one (1) year for mowing/trimming of Camp Coch and mowing and trimming of the skating rink.

Mowing/trimming for Camp Coch Grounds: \$250. (one year)

Mowing/trimming for Skating Rink Area: \$100. (monthly)

7. Old Business: Scott Olson stated that previous meeting minutes where he made known his exception to providing a salary of \$10,000 to a "Social Worker" for Goshen was misunderstood. He feels there are other ways to provide needed services without adding a salary to Goshen's budget. Scott feels there is no need for Social Services. He doesn't know how Todd Carusillo or Dexter Kinsella feels.

7a. Appointments: Looking for an Alternate for the Economic Development Committee.

8. New Business:

8a. Approval of Goshen Stampede:

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Scott Olson, it was **voted** to approve the Special Event Permit for the Goshen Stampede. The command meeting will take place at the Goshen Fairgrounds, on June 7, 2024, June 8, 2024 and June 9, 2024. Voted unanimously.

9. Other Business: None

10. Public Comment: (Two (2) minutes per person)

Lee M. Kennedy, Clerk for the Library Board of Directors:

Shared a letter with the Board of Selectmen regarding her meetings with the Library Board of Directors; she experienced intimidation and a hostile environment. She no longer feels safe interacting with the Library Board.

Todd Carusillo reminded everyone that members of the Library Board are *elected* – therefore not "employees" of the town of Goshen.

Marianne Stilson agreed that the Library Board holds "elected" positions.

Janet Hooper explained the status of the town elected, i.e., serving needs of people. Look into collaborating with other towns; keeping an open mind with providing services.

Scott Fellows, the BOS is not involved with the Library issue. However, it has been made it an issue- Now Todd Carusillo needs to be involved. Perhaps the Library Board can adopt a code of ethics.

Audrey Blondin agreed with town of Goshen leaders serving the needs/services of their people. She agrees with Janet Hooper. She is willing to serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Tony DiMarco (Chairman of the Republican Town Committee) - The book in question was not banned. It is online and available at our Library. In his opinion, he feels the book is pornographic. However, this is a free speech issue.

Kathy Budsyn stated that the book was not banned. Similar protections are in place for children, i.e., not driving until age 16, alcoholic beverages not sold to those under 21, rated movies, etc. They should not be able to access to pornographic books.

Susan Wheeler sent a letter to the BOS. She stated that Lynette Miller stands up for what she believes in to protect children, speaks for the town. Ms. Miller does what the voters elected her to do.

Mikey Pratt stated she shares importance of Head Librarian; She stands up and speaks for the town; the

Ashley Dadona has 3 kids; they don't deserve to see pornographic material; this is not for children.

Donna Beausoliel stated her support for Lynette Miller; no child should have to deal with adult subjects; no children should have to deal with it. She filed a complaint but has not had a reply.

Janet Hooper stated there are many ways to skin a cat; she doesn't respect her way she handled it this issue.

Felix Sambuco stated Lynette Miller was one of the first people he met when he moved here. He supports Ms. Miller. This book should be in the *Adult Only* section of library. He feels a compromise can be met.

Dexter Kinsella stated people of Goshen are passionate about this. People want this book to be placed where it is unattainable by children. Why not live up to standards?

Cindy Barrett is aware of Dexter Kinsella's comments and Janet Hoopers "many ways to skin a cat". There are cautions given that children cannot drive until a certain age, cannot purchase liquor until age 21, movies are rated for content, etc. This book should be placed in an appropriate place.

Todd Carusillo and the Board of Selectmen members have Board and commission members backs. Social media bashing is overboard.

11. Adjournment:

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Scott Olson, it was **voted** to adjourn the meeting at 5:48 p.m. Voted unanimous.

Respectively submitted:

Lucille A. Paige, First Selectman's Aide