

Special Town Meeting
Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 8:00 pm

First Selectmen Todd M. Carusillo called the meeting to order at 8:01 p.m.

Todd M. Carusillo opened the nominations for moderator. Dexter Kinsella nominated Patrick Reilly for moderator, seconded Mark Harris. Theresa Walla Kelly moved that nominations be closed seconded by Henrietta Horvay.

Moderator Patrick Reilly read the rules of the conduct of the meeting. The rules were passed unanimously. The clerk, Barbara Breor to read the call of the meeting.

#1 Appropriation of funds for the purchase of 13.84 acres of land not to exceed \$200,000.

Mark Harris made a motion to accept the item on the call. Henrietta Horvay seconded the motion.

First Selectman Todd M. Carusillo spoke on the motion stating that it is 13.84 acres of centrally located land across from the Firehouse and it would benefit the Fire Company and Public Works.

Patrick Reilly opened the floor for discussion.

Michael Esposito: asked questions about how many vehicles need to be stored, why they need to be stored, value of vehicles, how much more will it cost for the design, legal fees, site improvement, excavating, materials and construction and then the annual fees. Can we rework current facilities etc.

Philip Koenig: stated that he is a member of the Fire Company. Public works does an amazing job and they are storing a lot of valuable equipment outside.

Marissa Wright: Adjoining property owner, The Common Nighthawk, which is endangered species has a nesting ground on the property. She discussed the values of landscape. Also the property has fluctuating wetlands and we should look for another property.

Scott Olson: Property is centrally located access from Route 4. We may not get another opportunity to purchase a centrally located piece of land again. It is not possible to upgrade public works anymore. Town is growing and we need to think of the future.

Anthony Cocchiola: give the money to employees and fire fighters and make them happier.

Mark Harris: this is just a proposal to buy a piece of property. Not the cost of building on property or putting up solar panels. There will have to be another Town Meeting to build a building on the property. Per State Statute there has to be a Town Meeting to expend anything over \$20,000 that is not in the budget.

Lynette Miller: The First Selectman/Selectmen should be answering questions as we go along.

Henry Moore: as a Junior member of the Fire Company there is a mad dash to move equipment around to be able to get to what is needed for an emergency.

Mike Leonard: Have all other avenues been exhausted? Can additions be placed on current structures?

Michael Edison: understands that no further developments can happen with the land without the approval of a Town Meeting. With the solar arrays being offered for free and nothing will be expanded can the selectmen assure us that we will come back to a Town Meeting to discuss solar panels before anything is done with them.

Chris Craig: The Land Trust has been interested for some time in this property. This is on the State's Natural Diversity map. DEEP has created to show species of special concern, endangered and concerned area.

The Moderator asked the First Selectmen to respond to the questions / concerns. Todd Carusillo stated there are millions of dollars worth of equipment outside in the weather including: loader, excavator, the new tractors, plow blades in the summer, a bulldozer and a grader.

The future proposed building would look like a red metal barn and about 12,000 square feet. It would house both the Firehouse overflow and Public Works. When the time comes he will apply for a \$500,000 grant.

He in turn asked what is a life worth?

The soil scientist and TAHD have done perk holes. They came back and no wetlands will be disturbed when placing a future building.

The solar array was thought of to offset the cost of the electric for the building and possibly become a source of revenue for the Town.

Public Works is not able to add on to the building. The water line is in the middle of the parking lot. The current building is grandfathered in. As for the Fire Company a contractor was brought in and to do a three sided addition the price was \$1.5 million. This seemed the best avenue.

Dexter Kinsella made a motion to move the question. Seconded by Henrietta Horvay.

Henrietta Horvay called for a paper ballot vote.

Patrick Reilly appointed Henrietta Horvay, James Fortin and Scott Olson as tellers.

Meeting temporarily recessed for voting. Meeting resumed when voting was done.

Vote Totals
Yes - 78
No - 35
Abstain <u>-1</u>
Total 114

Devin Stilson made a motion to adjourn at 9:33 p.m. seconded by John Malahan.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara L. Breor
Goshen Town Clerk