

**GOSHEN BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

March 25, 2020

This meeting was recorded via Zoom.us and is available as a recording.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Allan Walker called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Allan Walker, Ned Bixler, Jim Korner, William Lane, Russell Hurley, Patrick Reilly, Alan Booth, Scott Tillmann,

Others: First Selectman, Bob Valentine; Jim Bernard, Town Treasurer

SEATING OF ALTERNATES: Ned Bixler made a motion seconded by William Lane to seat Patrick Reilly as a regular member for this meeting. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Jim Korner made a motion seconded by Ned Bixler to approve the minutes of the February meeting with the following corrections: Patrick Reilly should have been listed as attended, Capital Expenditure Requests for Selectmen was \$20,5000.00 but should have been \$20,500.00. The motion passed with an abstention by William Lane.

Scott Tillmann joined the meeting at 7:48 pm

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT: Jim Korner made a motion seconded by Ned Bixler to receive the Tax Collector's Report. The motion was passed with an abstention by Scott Tillmann. The report was received and reviewed.

Scott Tillmann left the meeting at 7:57 pm.

William Lane made a motion to reseal Patrick Reilly seconded by Jim Korner.

THE FINANCIAL REPORT: The financial report for February 2020 from Debbie Franklin was received and reviewed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CONSIDERATION OF BUDGETS: The following budgets were presented for review and receipt by the Board of Finance.

BOARD OF FINANCE – DEPT.10 Current Budget 2019-2020 \$17,504.00 , Proposed Budget 2020-2021 \$17,407.00

CEMETERIES – Dept. 56 Current Budget 2019-2020 \$3,571.00, Proposed Budget 2020-2021 \$4,562.00 It is up somewhat because they went out for new bids for the mowing.

FIRE PROTECTION – DEPT 26 Current Budget 2019-2020 \$104,625.00 , Proposed Budget 2020-2021 \$97,650.00

FISCAL OFFICE – DEPT 04 Current Budget 2019-2020 \$46,178.00 , Proposed Budget 2020-2021 \$47,660.00 The cost is up because of an anticipated increase in the rate of compensation for King & King for Debbie Franklin's work, Computer supplies was adjusted to make the number more realistic, and the wages now include the merit budget increases.

INSURANCE– Current Budget 2019-2020 \$106,133.00, Proposed Budget 2020-2021 \$103,767.00 There is a fair reduction because of favorable rates for Worker's Compensation.

LIBRARY – Dept. 21 Current Budget 2019-2020 \$157,760.00, Proposed Budget 2020-2021 \$161,300.00 The increase is due to an adjustment in wages.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES – Dept. 07 Current Budget 2019-2020 \$25,407.00, Proposed Budget 2020-2021 \$25,407.00

RESCUE – Dept. 28 Current Budget 2019-2020 \$32,486.00, Proposed Budget 2020-2021 \$30,836.00 They worked hard to trim the budget.

SELECTMAN'S REPORT: was given by Robert Valentine, First Selectman.

- We are under a Declaration of Emergency on local, state and federal levels. The Town Hall has been closed to the public but people may make appointments. There are a few employees now working from home.
- We are trying to keep the budget process moving along as normal. Governor LaMont has allowed a 30 day extension on budgets, but it may create problems with mill rates.
- Budget Process – The Governor's Executive Order has directed the Board of Selectmen to authorize the Board of Finance to adopt the budget without a Town Meeting. You do have to have an opportunity for public to comment through a hearing both written and verbally through electronic means.
- Civilian Emergency Response Team has been activated. The purpose is to help as necessary through the pandemic. They are working on a system to try to help seniors who have been asked to stay inside to get groceries and medications. This would include assisting with online ordering.
- The Town of Goshen is initiating a ringing of bells every Friday at 8:00 pm. Join to let everyone know we are here and all in the same boat.
- The Selectmen has an Emergency Meeting on Sunday to address the Governor's Executive Order that closed many businesses throughout the state. The closures and Covid -19 will have a huge effect on the economy. This is likely to cause a problem with Tax Collections so the Board of Selectmen has instituted a spending freeze which will be revisited from time to time. All Public Works projects and all non-essential spending will be suspended. The Board of Selectmen want to preserve the capital that we have so we will have room to move.

- The Board of Selectmen met tonight and unanimously agreed to ask the Board of Finance to hold the mill rate at 19.6

CORRESPONDENCE: NONE

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ned Bixler and seconded by William Lane. The meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Burcroff *blb*
Rebecca Burcroff, clerk

Received March 30, 2020 2:15 PM .

Attest *Barbara X Brien*
Goshen Town Clerk