

## GOSHEN BOARD OF FINANCE

### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

December 16, 2020

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

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Allan Walker called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE:** Allan Walker, Jim Korner, Russell Hurley, William Lane and alternates Alan Booth and Patrick Reilly. Also present was First Selectman, Bob Valentine

**SEATING OF ALTERNATES:** Bill Lane made a motion seconded by Jim Korner to seat both Alan Booth and Patrick Reilly for this meeting. The motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Jim Korner made a motion seconded by Patrick Reilly to accept the minutes of the November 18, 2020 meeting as written. The motion carried. There were two abstentions: Bill Lane and Jim Korner

**THE FINANCIAL REPORT:** The financial report for November 2020 from Debbie Franklin was received and reviewed. Mr. Valentine noted that the town has received \$131,500.00 from the Highlands Grant for the East Street North Property. This money has been directly deposited in the Land Preservation Fund. There has also been a substantial increase in land transfer fees and building permits

**TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT:** The Tax Collector's report for November 2020 was received and reviewed.

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

- Today the governor issued an Executive Order which requires the town to give the same break on taxes for the January payment as was done in July. The selectmen will meet to decide which option to use; either a 3 month deferral or a low interest rate
- Corona Relief - There is an additional \$43,000,000.00 which the state will put out before the end of the month. Our proportionate share is \$31,039.48 which would go toward offsetting the cost of some of the electronic devices and some operational expenses.
- Randy Frank has been contracted to update the pay matrix.
- Distinctive Tree Care worked on Town Hill Rd., Beach St., and Ives Rd. cutting trees. In 4 days they were able to take down and chip 312 trees. This was a good way to catch up.
- Covid – There has been a substantial spike in the number of Covid-19 cases in the state and in Goshen. We had more cases since Oct. 1, 2020 than we did from March to October. Goshen has had a total of 68 cases.

- Beginning Monday the Town Hall will be closed to the public and open by appointment only. The Library will be open by appointment only and the patrons are encouraged to use the book drop.
- We applied to the Connecticut Department of Labor for an extension of the shared work program which allows us to pay the library employees for hours that they are not able to work because of Covid.
- Vaccines are out and plans are being developed for distribution. The first vaccines will go to health care workers.
- The Zoom equipment has been permanently fixed. This will allow hybrid meetings and be utilized for library programs.
- Tech Security- Mr. Valentine has met with Bob Lee, the contracted IT person to discuss the vulnerability of our files. Data is backed up on a server and has several firewalls. The selectmen have discussed some options to lower the risk. The assessor's software (Vision) and the Tax Collector's software (Quality) are able to be backed up to the Cloud for a price.. Our insurance policy has a \$100,000.00 deductible for hacking type claims. Mr. Valentine proposes allowing the Assessor and Tax Collector to use the Vision and Quality Cloud service to back up their files in order to decrease vulnerability. The Vision software Cloud service would be an additional \$3,500 and the additional cost for the Quality Cloud service would be \$4,009.

Jim Korner made a motion to take from Fund Balance an amount not to exceed \$7,500 to allow the Assessor and Tax Collector to use the Cloud services. The motion was seconded by Russell Hurley. Mr. Valentine suggested that we authorize the Assessor and Tax Collector to use these services. This would go through their operating budget and the funds would come through Fund Balance or Contingency at the end of the year. Jim Korner withdrew his motion and Russell Hurley withdrew his second. We will proceed with the understanding that those two accounts may be overdrawn and will be dealt with at the end of year.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

OTHER BUSINESS: Mr. Lane asked how we would like the Fire Commission should proceed to work on their budget as far as Capital Expenses are concerned. Mr. Valentine said that he and Debbie Franklin should work on year end balance estimates a little earlier so we know what Capital expenses we may be able to appropriate out of the current year budget.

Patrick Reilly thanked Mr. Valentine for sending the link for the meeting today and also wanted to commend the Economic Development Commission for a good job on their **Buy Local** campaign.

Mr. Valentine said that Region 6 and Litchfield Schools have committees working on how the communities can work together. There will be a link posted tomorrow on the Goshen Town website for a survey.

ADJOURN: A motion was made by Bill Lane and seconded by Russell Hurley to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Rebecca Burcroff, clerk

Received <sup>17<sup>th</sup></sup> <sup>(blb)</sup> Dec. 16, 2020 @ 9:30 A.M.

Attest   
Goshen Town Clerk