

TOWN OF GOSHEN

BOARD OF FINANCE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – April 27, 2022

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by chairman, Allan Walker. The meeting was a hybrid meeting held both on line and in person.

ATTENDANCE: Allan Walker, Scott Tillmann, Bob Valentine, Ned Bixler, Bill Lane
Excused: Patrick Reilly (arrived late) **Absent:** Jim Korner, Russell Murdock
Also in attendance was First Selectman, Todd Carusillo; Katie Hennessy, Recreation Director; Don Patterson, Garret Harlow, Nanci Howard, Angela Rossbach, Barry Hall, Bill Gelormino

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Scott Tillmann and seconded by Bill Lane, to receive the minutes of the March 29, 2022 special meeting. Bob Valentine noted that 1) on page 2 under the Selectman's Report-Animal Control: Todd Carusillo checked with the Connecticut Dept. of Agriculture, not the USDA. He also noted that the contract with Torrington for Animal Control has expired. 2) In the 4th bullet of the Selectman's Report, it should be noted that Bob Leigh works for Yucatek, the IT contractor for the town. 3) The money for the library is within Capital Non-Recurring; it is just being moved around. The minutes as amended were unanimously approved.

Chairman Allan Walker reminded everyone that any comments made should be made through the Chair and only one person should be talking at a time. There should be more decorum during the meetings.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Debbie Franklin's financial reports were received and reviewed.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT: The Tax Collector's report was received and reviewed with thanks for a job well done.

ANIMAL CONTROL PLAN: Mr. Carusillo stated that the town has opted out of the Regional Animal Control Facility in Torrington. They have hired two animal control agents. One person who owns the kennel will be on call all the time and Jack Malahan will be on call after 3pm and on weekends. They signed a five year contract. The town had budgeted for \$24, 500 monthly and now it will be \$12,500. Mr. Carusillo recommended that the \$134,000 that is in Capital be moved to Unassigned Capital Non Recurring.

Bob Valentine made a motion seconded by Scott Tillmann to move the funds as recommended by Mr. Carusillo. The motion passed unanimously.

RECREATION PLANS: Recreation Director, Katie Hennessy met with First Selectman Todd Carusillo, Selectman Dexter Kinsella, and Garret Harlow at Camp Cochipiannee. Katie is working on bringing the camp up to current standards and said that they are short some money for concrete, drainage, and the ADA sidewalk over to the pavilion. She has requested \$11,900 to get this done. The pavilion materials will be arriving within the next couple of weeks and will have to sit until the prep work can be done. Therefore Mr. Carusillo recommended that this money be allocated for this project to finish it up. The only thing to be put in the 2022-23 budget is the electrical to the pavilion. Scott Tillmann made a motion seconded by Bill Lane to budget up to \$15,000 from Capital Non Recurring to finish all work on the pavilion. The motion passed unanimously.

FIRE COMPANY CAPITAL REQUESTS: Bob Valentine requested that his email from Sunday, April 24th to the Board of Finance members be made a part of the record of this meeting. Bill Lane objected on the basis that anything regarding the budgets should be done during a meeting where it is all on the record. Chairman Allan Walker agreed with Mr. Lane although Mr. Valentine's intentions were honorable. Mr. Walker said that what was needed was to decide on whether or not to include the fire truck or ambulance in the 2022-23 budget.

Todd Carusillo stated that he checked the federal site for the corona virus local fiscal recovery fund allocations. It stated that the town would receive the second payment of \$423,653.26 in June. Mr. Lane stated that the Fire Commissioners felt it was prudent that given the fact that the budgetary process will be completed before these funds come in, the money should be budgeted. If the money does come in it could be cut in next year's budget or used to cover some of the cost increase. Scott Tillmann recommended that the capital request be kept in and it would provide a more stable tax base going forward for three to five years. The consensus was that the money should be left in the budget. Bill Lane and Scott Tillmann abstained. Mr. Valentine recommended that the Fire Co. start looking at fire trucks and locking a price now.

Todd Carusillo brought up the fact that he had met with Fire Chief, Barry Hall and did not think the \$1,000 put in the budget for the boiler. Mr. Carusillo recommended that it should be \$3,000 because the boiler is old and it will cost \$6,000 - \$10,000. The members of the board agreed that it was a necessary expense.

RANDY FRANK RECOMMENDATIONS: Bob Valentine made a motion, seconded by Ned Bixler, to use Randy Frank's recommended amount of 3% for a merit increase. The motion passed unanimously.

Bob Valentine made a motion, seconded by Ned Bixler, to use Randy Frank's recommended amount of 3% in the salaries of elected officials and contracted individuals (not covered by the Randy Frank pay matrix). The motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF BUDGETS:

Todd Carusillo told the board that there have been some overages in the Capital Non Recurring. They are as follows;

Assessors	Laser Jet Duplex Printer	\$264.86
	GIS Mapping	\$110.00
Town Hall	Randy Frank Salary Review	\$862.50
Recreation	Benthick Barrier	\$78.00

He also reminded the board that \$134,000.00 was being taken from Animal Control and put in Unassigned Capital Non Recurring. Bob Valentine made a motion seconded by Ned Bixler, to take these overages in Capital Non Recurring from the Unassigned Capital Non Recurring balance. He also noted that departments should come back to the Board of Finance before going over budget. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Works – Dept. 2

Current Budget 2021-2022 \$1,010,800.00, Proposed Budget 2022-2023 \$1,030,966.00 There is an increase in Truck Replacement. Truck 5 will be replaced with a larger truck which will make operations more efficient. The increase in Major Road Projects is to keep up with inflation. Capital Requests of \$572,432.61 are mainly for Truck Replacement and Major Road Work.

Recreation – Dept. 22

Current Budget 2021-2022 \$190,526.00, Proposed Budget 2022-2023 \$205,446.00 The increase is due mainly to an increase in camp staff wages. Capital Expenditure \$38,000 is mainly for Camp Coch Facilities Project and Field Restoration

Animal Control

Current Budget 2021-2022 \$24,000, Proposed Budget 2022-2023 \$12,500 The decrease is due to the change in contract for these services.

Employee Benefits – Dept 71

Current Budget 2021-2022 \$383,644, Proposed Budget 2022-2023 \$390,751.07 The majority of the increase is due to an increase in insurance costs. Professional Services

CORRESPONDENCE: Mr. Walker received a letter from the Friends of Dog Pond, Inc requesting that the town provide financial assistance to Dog Pond for its water quality management. Tyler Lake and West Side Pond received \$25,000 from the ARPA funds. Since Dog Pond was not yet a 501 (C-3) the Board of Finance had agreed that an equal amount would be budgeted for Dog Pond.

OTHER BUSINESS: Mr. Lane invited everyone to come to the firehouse next Wednesday at 6:45 pm to see a demonstration of the new stretchers that are available.

There will be a special meeting Wednesday, May 4, 2022 for final review of the budgets before the Public Hearing.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:26pm.

Rebecca Burcroff
Respectfully submitted,

Received April 29, 2022 11:02 AM

Attest *Barbara Z. Buer*
Goshen Town Clerk