

TOWN OF GOSHEN
BOARD OF FINANCE

Special Meeting Minutes
March 29, 2022

This meeting was held in person and via Zoom.

Call to order: Chairman, Allan Walker called the meeting to order at 8:05 pm.

Attendance: Allan Walker, Bill Lane, Jim Korner, Scott Tillmann, Bob Valentine, and alternates Russell Murdock and Patrick Reilly Also present were Barry Hall, Fire Chief and Bill Gelormino, Goshen Fire Co. President, and Henrietta Horvay, Library Board President
Excused: Ned Bixler

Seating of Alternates:

Bill Lane made a motion seconded by Jim Korner to seat Patrick Reilly as a regular member for this meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of minutes: A motion was made by Jim Korner and seconded by Scott Tillmann to accept the minutes as presented. The motion passed with one abstention (Bill Lane).

Financial Reports from Debbie Frankin: The reports were received and reviewed.

Tax Collector's Report: The Tax Collector's report was received and reviewed. The Tax Collector sent a Suspense List for review. Bob Valentine made a motion seconded by Patrick Reilly to approve the Suspense List. The motion passed unanimously.

Grand List Summary: There was an increase of 2.24% heavily weighted to automobiles. There is also revaluation this year so real estate will go up next year.

Review of Regional School District 6 by Superintendent, Chris Leone:

Superintendent, Chris Leone gave an extensive report on the health of the school district and the changes that are being made.

- Numbers in Pre-K are down with the pandemic
- This was the first year grade 6 joined Wamogo
- The Agricultural Science program consists of about 66% of the total High School population with 188 of the 250 Agricultural Science students being from out of town.
- The student population from Goshen has dropped slightly.
- They will have a summer enrichment program.
- The district is turning to locally sourced food.

- **May 2** is the **vote** on the Regional School District Budget.

Consideration of Budgets:

ELECTIONS- DEPT 14

Current Budget 2021-2022 \$28,403.00, Proposed Budget 2022-2023 \$24,399.00

ANIMAL CONTROL – DEPT 18

Current Budget 2021-2022 \$24,500.00, Proposed Budget 2022-2023 \$24,500.00
First Selectman, Todd Carusillo has checked with USDA and some surrounding kennels. He says the town can obtain services for less money by using one of these. He has contacted legal counsel and is attempting to break the previously signed contract with Torrington.

BOARD OF FINANCE – DEPT 10

Current Budget 2021-2022 \$15,789.00, Proposed Budget 2022-2023 \$15,789.00

CEMETERIES – DEPT 56

Current Budget 2021-2022 \$4,283.00, Proposed Budget 2022-2023 \$4,149.00

FIRE PROTECTION – DEPT 26

Current Budget 2021-2022 \$105,793.00, Proposed Budget 2022-2023 \$110,968.00
Mr. Lane spoke as the president of the Board of Fire Commissioners. He stated that the request for a new line item for Food which is used as a way to thank the volunteers who come to help with long calls for fire or rescue. They are also requesting a new line item for OSHA Compliance. These funds would be used to hire someone to make sure that the Fire Co. complies with all regulations and gets all the paperwork filled out properly.

Mr. Lane also requested that the annual contribution for ambulance and fire trucks be maintained. While the town voted to have funds from ARPA be used for this capital request, **Mr. Lane** feels that since those funds will not have come into our hands by the time of the budget meeting, it would be best to keep the town funds for this in the budget. If the ARPA funds come through they could talk about a reduction in this line item next year.

Mr. Valentine strongly disagreed as these funds from ARPA will have come before they will have to buy a new truck or ambulance. He also feels that this money could be used to give the taxpayers a break since the mil rate was increased last year. Fire Chief, **Barry Hall** said that there is a lot of equipment that is wearing out and the cost of replacement for everything is rising at an alarming rate.

FISCAL OFFICE – DEPT – 04

Current Budget 2021-2022 \$52,068.00, Proposed Budget 2022-2023 \$53,641.00

LIBRARY – DEPT 21

Current Budget 2021-2022 \$165,025.00, Proposed Budget 2022-2023 \$165,875.00
Lynn Steinmayer, Library Director, asked that the money from the line items for the color printer, shelving units, and computer all be transferred to the black- out shades

which would also provide more insulation from drafts. Patrick Reilly made a motion seconded by Jim Korner that the money from the color printer, mobile shelving, and computer replacement be transferred to the line item for the replacement of the black-out shades. The motion passed unanimously.

Henrietta Horvay noted that the main portion of the increase in the library budget is due to an increase in the cost of periodicals.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES – DEPT 07

Current Budget 2021-2022 \$21,115.00, Proposed Budget 2022-2023 \$26,281.00

RESCUE – DEPT 28

Current Budget 2021-2022 \$30,843.00, Proposed Budget 2022-2023 \$35,243.00

The increase is due to an increase in the line item for Training to recruit more EMTs.

Report from First Selectman: by Todd Carusillo

- an update on tax collections was emailed to the Board of Finance members
- looking into changing arrangements for animal control
- Mr. Carusillo stated that a lot of money was spent on the liquid salt and asked why more sand wasn't being used. Mr. Valentine replied that it was more cost effective to use the liquid salt because using sand required more time for plowing and road clean up
- After talking with Bob Leigh it was decided that the town needs more cyber protection. The cost would be \$2 per user per month for a total of \$744.00. Scott Tillmann made a motion seconded by Bill Lane to appropriate \$800.00 for cyber security. The motion passed with one negative vote by Bob Valentine. Mr. Valentine stated it would be better to deal with it at the end of the year in contingency funds because if they needed more money it would have to go to a town meeting. In view of Mr. Valentine's statement, Scott Tillmann rescinded his motion.
- They had to redo two grants for the bus

Adjournment: A motion was made by Jim Korner and seconded by Patrick Reilly to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Burcroff

Rebecca Burcroff
Board of Finance Clerk

Received March 31, 2022 @ 2:36 P.M.

Attest Burcroff Z Burr
Goshen Town Clerk