

Town of Goshen
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday February 2, 2021

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

Zoom Conference Link: <https://zoom.us/j/379444182>

Meeting ID #: 379-444-182

Option 2: Dial-in number: 1-929-205-6099

PRESENT: Robert P. Valentine, Mark S. Harris, Dexter S. Kinsella

OTHERS: Cindy Barrett

1. Call to order: Robert P. Valentine called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of January 26, 2021:

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to approve the minutes of January 26, 2021 as submitted. Voted unanimous.

3. Matters Arising Out of the Minutes: The five time slots reserved for town employees over 75 for the COVID-19 vaccine were filled in with Goshen residents who were over the age of 75.

4. Approval of the Payroll and Warrant – February 4, 2021

In a **motion** made by Mark S. Harris, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was **voted** to approve the total warrant and payroll of February 4, 2021 in the amount of \$72,611.59. Included in this warrant were the payroll in the amount of \$15,198.54 and the warrant in the amount of \$57,413.05. Voted unanimous. Invoices highlighted: Cargill Salt (winter salt) \$11,314.25; Connecticare (health insurance) \$15,002.53; Sinnamon & Assoc. (audit) \$13,500.

5. Public Comment: Cindy Barrett gave kudos on the “survey” conducted by the Economic Development Commission (EDC) in that was so easy to respond to.

6. First Selectman’s Report:

Lucy Hussman, Assessor, reported that there appears to be a 1.36% *increase* on the Grand List. Note this is prior to the Board of Assessment Appeals process.

It was previously indicated that tax collections were slightly lagging compared to the previous year’s collections, however, this week clearly indicated that collections are now right on par; very close to 99.125% - typically what we collect for receivable taxes.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

February 2, 2021

Page 2

The Board of Finance held their meeting on Wednesday, January 27, 2021. The Fire Company and Public Works submitted their capital requests. Before their combined requests, Goshen had a approximately \$2,000,000 in un-assigned fund balance; adding in these capital requests, the fund balance becomes approximately \$1.3 million. Fire Company request is \$195,000 total; Public Works is \$430,000. These requests will become an “amendment” to the 2021 Town Budget, which requires a “Town Meeting” vote. It is suggested that the Town Meeting for this take place sometime in March or early April before the vote on next year’s Town Budget.

In addition, the Board of Finance did review the Randi Frank Consulting, pay matrix and the merit budget proposal and approved it. Bob Valentine suggested BOS members become familiar with the process of the evaluations and use of the merit budget.

Bob informed the Selectmen that the Zoom meeting experience has been in place since March of 2020. Since that time, it has been found that there is a need to have two licenses due to the number of meeting that are held via Zoom and the need to have meetings at the same time. Initially there was a Town account and a Recreation account. Recently those two accounts were merged into one account with two licenses. This change will save money and allow for the sharing of the cloud recording capacity.

Some good news – Region 6, Morris, Litchfield School District, Goshen and the Woodridge Lake Sewer District insurance committee met recently wherein it was found that Goshen will receive a “0” increase in their health insurance premium. Region 6 and Litchfield School District have an HSA (**H**ealth **S**avings **A**ccount) in which the funds belong to the employee. Goshen has an HRA (**H**ealth **R**eimbursement **A**ccount) for their employees in which the Town owns the funds. John Calkins of Bozzuto Insurance Associates, serves as a consultant for us. He suggested Goshen may wish to consider rolling over to an HSA to see if some savings via a lower premium can be had.

A BOS meeting, along with members of the Recreation Commissioners, is scheduled for Thursday, February 4, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. This special meeting will review the hiring process for a new Recreation Director and include discussion on the updating of the duties and responsibilities of a recreation director.

7. Correspondence: None

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

February 2, 2021

Page 3

8. Old Business:

a. Town Continuation of Operations RE: COVID-19 Governor Lamont's Executive Orders:

Two additional cases of the COVID-19 here in Goshen have been reported; in Litchfield County, hospitalizations are down to 18.

b. Appointments: Proposed legislation has been submitted this legislative session that would allow a town's Board of Education to appoint individuals to fill vacancies until the next regular scheduled election.

c. Budgets:

Budgets reviewed and discussed were: Economic Development Commission, Planning and Zoning and Zoning Board of Appeals.

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to receive the aforementioned budgets for further review. Voted unanimous.

9. New Business: None

10. Any Other Business: None

11. Adjournment:

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to adjourn the meeting at 5:38 p.m. Voted unanimous.

Lucille A. Paige, First Selectman's Aide