

Town of Goshen
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday June 15, 2021

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

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

OTHERS: Cindy Barrett, Todd Carusillo, Marty Harris

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 June 8, 2021:

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Robert P. Valentine, it was **voted** to approve the minutes of June 8, 2021 as submitted. Bob Valentine, Dexter Kinsella voted in favor, Mark Harris abstained.

3. Matters Arising Out of the Minutes: None

4. Approval of the Payroll and Warrant – June 17, 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 June 17, 2021 in the amount of \$85,887.80. Included in this warrant were the payroll in the amount of \$12,399.88 and the warrant in the amount of \$73,487.92. Voted unanimous. Invoices highlighted: Dime Oil (heating oil): \$1,613.74; John Hancock (pensions): \$4,449.02; S&S Asphalt (asphalt shimming, town roads) \$49,279.82.

5. Public Comment: None

6. First Selectman's Report:

Bob Valentine was pleased to report that there were 0 hospitalizations in Litchfield County for COVID-19 this past week.

Conn. Senator Chris Murphy and Tim Abbott, HVA, and others will be on hand at 12:30 p.m. on Monday June 28th on the Beech Hill Property where the state awarded Highland Grant for purchase from the property. We are fortunate to have received Highland Grant dollars for this property. Senator Murphy will be highlighting the Highlands Act and its importance in preserving land for public recreation.

Last week a "legislative wrap-up" took place with CCM. The State budget was adopted on June 9, 2021. It looks *promising* to continue to conduct hybrid meetings for municipalities although because legislation did not pass before the end of the session it will need to be taken up in special session. A discussion concerning continued "hybrid" meetings was had at a meeting of the ACIR last Friday, noting the importance of continuing meetings in this way.

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ARP (American Rescue Plan) monies are due to arrive soon – the first payment in the amount of \$423,683.86 – will be dedicated, per guidance from the Fed Treasury, to “lost revenue during the COVID-19 pandemic”. The Federal Treasury sent out examples of additional ways in which these monies can be used, all related to addressing the effects of COVID-19, i.e., households, the arts & cultures, losses incurred by small businesses, and non-profits. Bob working with Debbie Franklin (accountant consultant), both agreed that the Treasury guidance examples are non-exclusive and “non-profits” can be assisted with these funds. There is a push to use some of these funds, through NHCOG to hiring a “coordinator” to oversee mental health service, by asking COG members to dedicate some of their ARPA funds to this effort. The NWCT Arts Council would also like to have municipalities dedicate funding to the councils (1%), for arts programs and initiatives.

The Board of Selectmen agreed to consider how the funds should be dedicated beyond the initial dedication for loss of revenue to the town, in cooperation with the Board of Finance, with a priority towards helping the Goshen Fire Company and the non-profit lake organizations with their mission. Both Dexter and Mark will take home copies of all this funding information to better understand the process.

Dexter Kinsella asked about the possibility of using some of the ARPA funds for broadband. Bob reported that the issue of broadband is complicated. For instance, if Goshen were to consider creating a broadband backbone throughout town, the initial cost is estimated to be \$2 to \$3 million dollars, much more than the ARPA dollars available. Bonding would need to be created for a broadband backbone and it would *not* include cable tv. A study is currently being conducted on the cost for such a project in Torrington, that will help to better understand Goshen’s potential cost. There are many other things that complicate this issue, such as use of the telephone poles.

Bob briefly discussed the PILOT (Payment In Lieu Of Taxes) program and the slight uptick in funding for next year along with an increase of \$42,340 in Education Cost Sharing grant (ECS) .

7. Correspondence: None

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Robert P. Valentine, it was **voted** to add to the agenda under item 9, New Business, 9b. Tax Collector’s Report – May 31, 2021. Voted unanimous.

8. Old Business: None

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

There have been no changes to the current Governor’s Executive Orders.

b. Appointments:

At last week’s meeting, Bob reported the letter he received from Jim Bernard stating he will retire as Goshen Treasurer as of June 30, 2021. As such, Bob is putting forth the appointment of Matthew R. Sweet CTFA, CSSCS to replace Jim as Goshen’s Treasurer. Bob read aloud the outstanding education, experience and professional levels Mr. Sweet has achieved in his many years in the banking and financial arena.

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In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to appoint Matthew R. Sweet to serve as Goshen's Town Treasurer beginning June 30, 2021 until the November 2, 2021 election.

9. New Business:

a. Resolution – Adoption of Official Depositories Town of Goshen:

Bob Valentine read aloud the formal Resolution. (see attached).

In a **motion** made by Mark S. Harris, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was **voted** to adopt the Town of Goshen Resolution designating the banks as official depositories for the Town Treasurer, Tax Collector, Town Clerk, Recreation Commission and Library of the Town of Goshen. Voted unanimous.

b. Tax Collector's Report - May 31, 2021:

The Board of Selectmen reviewed the Tax Collector's Report submitted. The Collection rate – collected less refunds vs. total budgeted is 101.77%.

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to receive the Tax Collector's Report, May 31, 2021 as submitted. Voted unanimous.

10. Any Other Business: None

11. Adjournment:

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Robert P. Valentine, it was **voted** to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m. Voted unanimous.

Lucille A. Paige, First Selectman's Aide

TOWN OF GOSHEN

RESOLUTION

At a meeting of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Goshen held on the 15th day of June 2021, a Resolution was adopted designating the following banks as official depositories for the Town Treasurer, Tax Collector, Town Clerk, Recreation Commission and Library of the Town of Goshen.

NAMES OF BANKS & DEPOSITORIES

Bank of America
Litchfield Bancorp
Union Savings Bank
The Torrington Savings Bank
Edward Jones
State of Connecticut – STIF account (short term investment funds)
National Iron Bank

This Resolution was passed in order that the Town Treasurer, Tax Collector, Town Clerk, Recreation Commission and Library of said Town might avail themselves of the protection afforded by Sec. 7-401 and Sec. 7-402 of the C.G.S. relating to depository banks. A certified copy of the Resolution designating the depositories has been filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

Barbara Breor, Town Clerk

COLLECTION INFORMATION AS OF MAY 31, 2021

MEMO FROM TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

2019 Grand List Collection Information

Beginning Tax Levy	11,023,214.76
Adjusted Tax Levy (as of month end)	11,096,117.65
Current Grand List Year Collections	** 11,057,333.37
Current year collection rate - collected vs. tax levy =	99.65%

Budgeted collections – taxes	10,868,804.00
Budgeted collections – interest & lien fees	30,000.00
Total budgeted collections	10,898,804.00

Total collections(includes interest & taxes & fees)	**** 11,128,382.28
Refunds paid & unpaid	37,036.52
Total collections less refunds(paid & unpaid)	* 11,091,345.76
Collection rate - collected less refunds vs total budgeted	101.77%

2018 Grand List Collection Information

Beginning Tax Levy	10,915,834.00
Adjusted Tax Levy (as of month end)	10,975,256.00
Current Year Collections (as of month end)	10,923,154.65
Current year collection rate - collected vs. tax levy =	99.53%

Budgeted collections – taxes	10,868,804.00
Budgeted collections – interest & lien fees	30,000.00
Total budgeted collections	10,898,804.00

Total collections(includes interest & taxes & fees)	11,001,262.62
Refunds paid & unpaid	27,634.81
Total collections less refunds(paid & unpaid)	10,973,627.81
Collection rate - collected less refunds vs total budgeted	100.69%

Prior Three Years Collection Rates

2017 GL Collection rate - collected less refunds vs total budgeted	105.05%
2016 GL Collection rate - collected less refunds vs total budgeted	100.40%
2015 GL Collection rate - collected less refunds vs total budgeted	101.15%