

Town of Goshen
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday August 24, 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: Todd Carusillo; Cindy Barrett, Peter Kujawski, John McKenna (Republican American)

1. Call to order: Robert P. Valentine called the meeting to order at 5:02p.m.

2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of August 17, 2021:

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to approve the minutes of August 17, 2021 as submitted. Voted unanimous.

3. Matters Arising Out of the Minutes: Superintendent of Schools, Chris Leone has scheduled a meeting with counsel from Litchfield, Warren, Morris and Goshen to resolve any issue on interpretation of statutes concerning the proposed regionalization of Litchfield School District and RSD 6.

4. Approval of the Payroll and Warrant – August 26, 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 August 26, 2021 in the amount of \$167,261.33. Included in this warrant were the payroll in the amount of \$25,480.15 and the warrant in the amount of \$141,781.18 Voted unanimous. Items of note, Connecticare (health insurance)- \$16,335.25; Friends of West Side Pond – \$15,000; MIRA- (Disposable Waste Fees)- \$14,856.45; Quality Data Service (tech support) - \$7,449.74; Tyler Lake Protection Association-\$15,000.

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to add to the agenda under 8. Old Business, 8c.Use of ARPA Funds. Voted unanimous.

Public Comment: None

6. First Selectman's Report:

The recent COVID spikes are mostly due to the Delta Variant. Bob Valentine in a conversation with Robert Rubbo of the TAHD found that vaccinations for Goshen residents ages 65 + yrs are 100%; ages 45 – 64 yrs are 67.95%; ages 25yrs – 44 yrs are 62.79%; ages 18-24 yrs. are 58.12%; ages 12 – 17 yrs are 49.51%. There have been 133 COVID-19 tests of Goshen residents from 8-1-21 to 8-19-21 resulting in 7 positive cases. Given Goshen's population of 3,000 the infection rate is .01%. Hospitalizations in Litchfield County as of today are 10. The vast majority of infections and hospitalizations are people who have not been vaccinated.

Given the current information, masks will be required in Town Hall only for those who are not vaccinated. Bob will continue to monitor the situation and make changes to the policy as appropriate.

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Recent 10 yr Census (2010-2020) data shows Goshen to has experienced a 6% increase in population, 10% increase in adults; and a 12% reduction in children.

Bob will be meeting with Chris King and Debbie Franklin (King, King Associates) auditors regarding the funding of Goshen/Cornwall Senior Bus; should the grant funds be shown under a separate fund? For each dollar of the fund, we receive \$.50 cents in the grant. \$26,000 Goshen has expended; Cornwall expended \$7,000. The balance are dollars in-kind or cash. Mr. King and Debbie Franklin want to *adjust* this account for accounting purposes. (Recreation Director, Katie Hennessy, uses the bus for Senior Trips.) Bob will meet with Mr. King and Debbie Franklin to discuss adjustment to the current accounting procedures.

7. Correspondence: None

8. Old Business:

8a. Appointments: None

8b. Discontinuance of Howe Road:

In moving forward with the request to “discontinue Howe Road” received in writing from Atty. Brian McCormick representing the property owner, Bob reviewed the process for discontinuance. State Statute, Section 8-24, requires the town’s Planning and Zoning Commission to comment on the proposal. State Statute Section 13a-49 requires notice to abutters and a sign post at the road indication the Board of Selectmen are recommending the discontinuance. Then Town Meeting, at which the Town’s people would need to vote to approve the discontinuance.

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris it was **voted** to proceed with the process to discontinue Howe Road as requested. Voted unanimous.

8c. Use of ARPA Funds:

Bob Valentine presented a draft letter to the town auditor, George Sinnamon, CPA, Sinnamon & Associates concerning the proposed use of the American Recue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. **(Attached).**

The proposed use of the ARPA funds is; \$469,955.77 for lost revenue, using an allowed .041% national average revenue increase based on the last full year before the pandemic. \$25,000 each for the Tyler Lake Protective Association and Friends of West Side Pond for management of water quality at both lakes, \$128,000 for a replacement ambulance and \$199,350.75 towards the purchase of a fire truck to Goshen Fire Company Inc.

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to approve the proposed use of the ARPA funds and letter by Robert P. Valentine, to be sent to Mr. Sinnamon contingent upon Board of Finance, agreement. Voted unanimous.

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9. New Business:

9.a Special Event Permit – Goshen Fair

All required comments from the various public agencies/authorities have been received, with the exception of the Commander of Troop B, State Police, which is pending. The legal ad was run on 8/18/2021.

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to approve the Special Permit for the Goshen Fair, contingent upon appropriate Trooper staffing during the fair as agreed to by the Agricultural Society and Troop B. 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