

Town of Goshen
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

PRESENT: Todd M. Carusillo, Mark S. Harris, Dexter S. Kinsella (zoom)

OTHERS: Cindy Barrett; Dawn Wilkes; Don Wilkes; Henrietta Horvay; Audrey Blondin; Bernie Harrington; Marianne Stilson; Joe Pedone; Shirley Pedone; Annette Lott; Scott Olson; Janet Hooper; John McKenna, Republican American.

1. Call to order: Todd M. Carusillo called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of February 7, 2023: In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to approve the minutes of February 7, 2023 as submitted. Voted unanimous.

3. Matters Arising Out of the February 7, 2023 meeting: None

4. Approval of the Payroll and Warrant – February 16, 2023: In a **motion** made by Mark S. Harris, seconded by Todd M. Carusillo, it was **voted** to approve the total warrant and payroll of February 16, 2023 in the amount of \$201,745.26. Included in this warrant were the payroll in the amount of \$14,449.63 and the warrant in the amount of \$187,295.63. Motion passed with Dexter S. Kinsella abstaining. Included in this warrant: Cargill (dicer salt), \$12,963.63; Eversource: \$2,456.34; Haley Wood Prof. Services: \$9,435.05; Tiger Corp.- (tractor/mower)- \$151,815.00.

5. Public Hearing for Proposed FLAG POLICY:

Audrey Blondin proposed a modification to the Flag Policy. She sent in her authored “amendments” to the proposed *Flag Policy*. She felt the Policy as put forth was too narrow, non-inclusive. She referred to the Presidential Proclamation. Some of those options can be put forth at a Town Meeting.

Henrietta Horvay reviewed Ms. Blondin’s proposal... She read the part wherein Ms. Blondin’s new language was added to the draft of the Flag Policy. Ms. Horvay, however, was in favor of the Flag Policy as submitted from the Board of Selectmen.

Joe Pedone stated he agreed with Ms. Horvay. Too many private “causes” will bring problems.

Devin Stilson felt that legal problems will arise if the policy were to deviate from the one that has been proposed. Too many flags for causes will bring forth legal problems and the monetary expense with it.

Bernie Harrington asked who pays for the flags that are flown? The town should not have to pay for flags outside of the ones given in the policy put forth. Todd Carusillo stated that the town will not pay for flags outside of the ones legally set forth in the Flag Policy draft.

Shirley Pedone stated that the American flag represents support for our country; respect for our country and our town.

Scott Olson current policy serves the best interest of our town and reasonable people understand that. Adoption of the Flag Policy, as submitted, represents the best interests of our town.

Maryanne Stilson gave her support in favor of the Flag Policy currently put forth in the draft.

Janet Hooper asked how to exhibit *all* members of the community; she gave an example of a similar situation that took place in Darien, CT. How to show our town is open and affirming. People may be concerned how to represent all, how to have conversation.

Cindy Barrett stated that all points were good that were put forward, but the draft Policy does not embrace the sentiment of all of the other participants; further discussion needs to be had.

Joe Pedone stated that everyone is welcome to Goshen; everyone is respected.

Devin Stilson stated that we're not talking about *personal* property; we're being forced to use town property for personal beliefs which will lead to legal problems.

Annette Lott agreed no one wants to be disrespectful to our country, it's disrespectful not to honor *other* community organizations.

Henrietta Horvay has copy of Audrey Blondin's changes she suggested be put in the Flag Policy. "...and that there may be any US entity recognized by the President's Proclamation."

Audrey Blondin stated a way to recognize causes that are important to the town of Goshen. BOS has authority to say "yes" or "no". The inclusiveness can be added to the Policy through a Town Meeting.

Scott Olson stated that when you leave the choices open, it predisposes that all those causes area supported by the entire town. Individuals can fly any flag on their own property. However, to so on Town Property gives the assumption that the entire town is behind that group or cause.

6. Close of Public Hearing:

In a **motion** made by Mark S. Harris, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was **voted** to close the Public Hearing on the Flag Policy at 5:25 p.m. The three Board of Selectmen voted this motion unanimous.

In a **motion** made by Mark S. Harris, seconded by Todd M. Carusillo, the newly submitted Flag Policy, dated February 14, 2023, was voted unanimously by all three Selectmen. First Selectman Todd Carusillo stated this new Flag Policy is in the best interest of the Town of Goshen.

7. Correspondence: None

8. Old Business:

8a. Appointments:

In a **motion** made by Mark S. Harris, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was **voted** to nominate Devin Stilson onto the Conservation Commission and Matthew Perry for Deputy Animal Control for Goshen. Voted unanimous.

8b. Budgets: The following budgets were presented and discussed by the BOS:

Board of Assessors	Selectmen
Conservation of Health	Tax Collector
Economic Development	Town Clerk

In a **motion** made by Mark S. Harris, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was **voted** to receive the aforementioned budgets 2023-2024 and forward them to the Board of Finance for their review and consideration. Voted unanimous.

9. New Business:

9a. Flag Policy

10. Other Business: There is a new AED (**A**utomated **E**xternal **D**efibrillator) course (in the operation there of), offered here in Goshen through the NWCOG.

11. Adjournment:

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to adjourn the meeting at 5:36 p.m. Voted unanimous.

Respectively submitted:

Lucille A. Paige, First Selectman's Aide