

Town of Goshen
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, April 11, 2023

PRESENT: Todd M. Carusillo, Mark S. Harris

EXCUSED: Dexter S. Kinsella

OTHERS: Audrey Blondin; Cindy Barrett; Henrietta Horvay; Dawn Wilkes; John McKenna, Republican American; Bernard Harrington

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 April 4, 2023:** In a **motion** made by Mark S. Harris, seconded by Todd M. Carusillo, it was **voted** to approve the minutes of April 4, 2023 as presented. Voted unanimous.
*Note: Selectman Dexter S. Kinsella is in receipt of all agendas/minutes and pertinent financial documents prior to every BOS meeting.
3. **Matters Arising Out of the April 4, 2023 meeting:** None
4. **Approval of the Payroll and Warrant – April 13, 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 April 13, 2023 in the amount of \$82,668.28. Included was the warrant in the amount of \$54,114.65 and the payroll in the amount of \$28,553.63. Voted unanimous. Included in this warrant: Cargill Salt - \$16,743.48; Eversource - \$1,656.95; USA Waste- \$9,064.00.

5. First Selectman's Report:

Todd clarified some questions that came from residents in Goshen regarding the upcoming land purchase by the town, located on Sharon Turnpike. This investment represents an investment 10 yrs. out. This storage will protect large investments Goshen has made now – Public Works heavy equipment – a tractor \$151,000, and other equipment in *excess* of \$500,000 replacement cost are sitting outside subject to dry rot, rust, etc. NWCOG also stores equipment on Public Works property. Currently, the Goshen Fire Company has to take the time to move equipment around in the garage to get to the air boat and other lifesaving equipment should there be a drowning or other water accident at any of our waterways – Woodridge Lake, Tyler Lake, West Side Pond, Dog Pond. This planned storage facility will free up space to enable our fire crews to have immediate access to this **life-saving** equipment. A solar panel field is also planned to be erected at this site, certainly producing income for the town of Goshen. The benefits to be reaped for this purchase are immeasurable not only on the Goshen residents town budget, but life-saving. Selectman Mark Harris added that this property is centrally located and certainly suits the town's needs – located directly across the street from Goshen Fire Company and just down the street from Public Works. Money will be put aside every year to pay for the building, but hopefully a grant will pay for the building. Accordingly, there will be a Town Meeting for this purchase which hopefully will be a "yes".

Update: 1. Soil Testing – passed
2. Dip Hole Test – passed
3. TAHD – passed

Todd reminded residents that Saturday, April 22nd is "EARTH DAY". This is a town-wide cleanup. (Sign-up for a street at Goshenrec.com. Cleaning supplies can be picked up at the Recreation Office the week of April 17th – 21st.)

6. Public Comment:

Audrey Blondin lauded the town purchase of the land on Sharon Turnpike. Todd advised that Rep. Johanna Hayes has offered to help regarding a "grant" that is available for this land purchase. Ms. Blondin also mentioned the "School Safety" issue (guns in school). Todd advised that he will be meeting with **Torrington Police Chief William Baldwin and Superintendent Chris Leone. (The School Safety plan is 203 pages!)

*Torrington Police are the closest and most readily available to assist Goshen in school safety issues.

Cindy Barrett reminded listeners about Earth Day, April 22nd.

7. Correspondence: Aquarion Water Company is offering the 13th Annual Aquarion Environmental Champion Awards program to acknowledge environmental work. This is to acknowledge constituents for their work and earn statewide honors. Winners in the Adult, Non-Profit, and Business category will have the opportunity to choose an environmental non-profit and to receive a \$5,000. grant. The winner of our Student (grades 9-12) category will receive a 1,000 award. Our Virginia Perry will be posting complete information on Goshen's website.

8. Od Business:

8a. Appointments: Vacancies exist in Board of Assessment Appeals (R); Library Board (R); Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate (U).

8b. Budgets:

Budgets submitted for review and discussion were:

Capital Expenditures 2023-2024

Recreation Dept.

Employee Benefits

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

9. New Business: Bid on Land Records System

After careful consideration, our Town Clerk feels moving forward is to purchase without hardware @\$1,450 and purchasing the hardware for \$5,000 to offset pricing moving forward.

10. Other Business: American Flag for Goshen Conference Room

Inasmuch as most other Town Hall meeting rooms have the American Flag as standard equipment, so to speak, Todd feels that inasmuch as many public organizations and town committees use Goshen's Conference Room, it would be greatly enhanced with an American Flag in the room. The purchase will be made by the Board of Selectmen including Selectman Dexter S. Kinsella.

11. Adjournment: In a **motion** made by Mark S. Harris, seconded by Todd M. Carusillo, it was **voted** to adjourn the meeting at 5:31 p.m. Voted unanimous.

Respectively submitted:

Lucille A. Paige, First Selectman's Aide