

**Town of Goshen**  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

**Tuesday, July 25, 2023**

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

**OTHERS:** Eric Warner, *Goshen News*; (The recording feature was not available; no one in the audience was able to connect into the meeting; the recording feature also was not able to record any information discussed within the meeting, among the attendees.) Local Boy Scout Troop members: Michael Shea; Jeffrey A. Paulette; Eric Schreiber; Tristan Wallaer; Megan Koslowski; Nick Wirth; Mark Gelsaza; Jack Waterbury.

1. **Call to order:** Todd M. Carusillo called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.
2. **Approval of the minutes of the meeting of July 18, 2023:** In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to approve the minutes of July 18, 2023 as submitted. Voted unanimous.
3. **Matters Arising Out of the July 18, meeting:** None
4. **Approval of the Payroll and Warrant – July 27, 2023:** In a **motion** made by Mark S. Harris, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella,, it was **voted** to approve the total warrant and payroll of July 27, 2023 in the amount of \$311,553.69. Included was the warrant in the amount of \$277,995.57 and the payroll in the amount of \$33,558.12. Voted unanimous. Included in this warrant: Comer Co., (chipseal) - \$250,371.35; King & King Associates – \$2,398.00.

**5. First Selectman's Report:**

Goshen's Public Works Dept. continues to work on those roads that were washed out and other damage from the heavy rains. Hopefully, we will receive FEMA funds and state funding to alleviate the major costs to these *town road* repairs.

Todd has been receiving letters (with photos) from Goshen residents highlighting the damage they sustained on their driveways and other portions of their land. Rain is considered an "act of God". For guidance, town Ordinance Title 18B, the "Apron Law" refers all the liability of homeowners to repair their driveways and other private property *they own* that has received damage from the rain storms.

An **update** regarding the "Neighborhood Watch" endeavor. the State Police have called a meeting for this purpose on **Monday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, at Camp Cochipianne, at 5:00 p.m.** In the interim, all residents are urged to lock their garage doors, secure sheds and other areas that may have equipment, tools, etc. Perhaps installing a "ring" camera for the yard. (Public Works Supervisor, Garret Harlow, will provide signage for those residents who request them.)

6. **Public Comment:** None \*the "zoom" feature on the recording apparatus was not working.

7. **Correspondence:** \*See First Selectman's Report above.

8. **Old Business:** None

- 8a. **Appointments:** None

9. **New Business:** Goshen Fair – September 2, 3, 4, 2023 – Special Event Application

Black Bear Americana Music Festival – October 6, 7, 8 Special Event Application

In a **motion** made by Mark S. Harris, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was **voted** to accept the aforementioned Special Event Applications as submitted. "Final Approval" will be made upon subsequent official approvals as required. Voted unanimous.

- 10. Other Business:** The local Boy Scouts from Camp Strang, Troop 7 attended this meeting to earn their **Local Government badge**. They submitted their questions to the Board of Selectmen.

**What is being done regarding the ever-growing black bear population and protection for the local residents.**

Todd stated State Representatives have passed a new law (10-1-2023). The Scouts should keep their food sources secure, keep their tents zipped up, have a blow horn handy. Mark Harris suggested writing to their local State Representatives. Action is needed from the legislators. It will help. Dexter Kinsella added that all respect the population off bears; interactions with people are rare, however, be alert, use the buddy system. Enjoy nature.

**How do people get involved with their *town* events?**

Dexter Kinsella stated that the annual Goshen Fair is the biggest attraction, that brings not just the majority of Goshen residents, but thousands of residents from around the state; people get to know one another. Camp Cochipianne has been used by our local Boy Scouts for many years. Many clubs and organizations are filled with Goshen residents. Todd added that there are many festivals and activities that bring people from all over the region/state.

**While the Board of Selectmen are in charge, how do they get involved with other town/government groups?**

Todd stated the Board of Selectmen are hands-on with the Board of Finance i.e., budgets, departments, how the money is spent. People from all around use the Goshen Public Library; Public Works Dept. engages with machine operators, heavy equipment, state roads, etc. Policies are in place to have smooth running town operations within the municipality.

Mark Harris stated Goshen is under the purview of “Town Meetings” where the votes are measured by “majority”. Important issues involving the residents; important issues; permission to spend the town’s money are done under Town Meetings.

Dexter Kinsella added that the Town evaluates all of the roads, Goshen has a volunteer fire department, medical emergency people, roads and bridges, and great education system.

**How does the town promote history, heritage?**

Goshen has many elderly people who volunteer with the Goshen Historical Society. The Goshen Historical Society put together Goshen’s 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with public fun activities that showcased many historical trades, attractions, etc.

**How does Goshen government determine the terms of service for municipal agencies?**

Due to the recently changed “Early Voting” legislation, the Board of Selectmen term may be extended from 2yrs of service to 4 years of service per term. The town may need to raise taxes to pay for the election costs. We will find a solution acceptable to all.

**What do you enjoy most about your job on a day-to-day basis?**

Mark Harris stated valuable thing for him was give-back to the town. Selectmen enjoy giving so much back to the town.

Dexter Kinsella stated he echoes what was said about enjoying his job. He enjoys reaching out to residents who need help. He loves the opportunity to give back.

**What do you like least about your job?**

Todd responded that he absolutely enjoys his job. Dexter Kinsella stated that now and then we struggle with controversy, but we respect everyone’s opinion and treat everyone with respect. Now and then, there may be controversy; everyone has their own opinion, but all are treated with respect.

**How do you feel about Affordable Housing?**

Mark Harris responded that State Statutes require that all towns/municipalities must have “Affordable Housing”. Too many people don’t understand what affordable housing actually is.

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Affordable Housing is “workforce housing”. Todd stated that back in 1971 units were known as mixed use. Goshen has grown. However, much of the youth have left town, due to rising cost of homes. We must do something to retain our youth. Dexter Kinsella added that not only the youth, but our elderly need affordable housing. We must keep them here.

- 11. Adjournment:** In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to adjourn the meeting at 5:35 p.m. Voted unanimous.

Respectively submitted:

Lucille A. Paige, First Selectman’s Aide