

Town of Goshen
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

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

OTHERS: Audrey Blondin; Dawn Wilkes; Henrietta Horvay; Bernard Harrington; Eric Warner, *Goshen News*; Bob Valentine.

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 October 31, 2023:** In a **motion** made by Mark S. Harris, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was **voted** to approve the minutes of October 31, 2023 as corrected (page 3, with reference to benefits of the SMK fund vs the Carlise fund.) Voted unanimous.
3. **Matters Arising Out of the meeting October 24, 2023:** None
4. **Approval of the Payroll and Warrant – November 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 November 9, 2023 in the amount of \$38,723.20. Included was the warrant in the amount of \$11,627.51 and the payroll in the amount of \$27,095.69. Voted unanimous. Also included in this warrant: Inland Wetlands – \$3,328.65; Independent Materials Testing - \$2,325.63; Water Testing (Camp Coch) \$1,350.00.
5. **First Selectman's Report:**
The State Police Radar are running radar to catch speeders on Lyman Lane and Beach St. Public Works Dept. is working to set grading for our roads for winter.

Today, being Election Day (Municipal), the office was quiet.

Selectman Dexter Kinsella, suggested that if the State Police are looking for a piece of property where they can be camouflaged, they are welcome to use his property to park in the bar-way on Lyman Lane.

6. Public Comment:

Bob Valentine (resident) wanted share some thoughts on the proposed town building on Route 4. He feels that a "pause" on building plans should be made. Initially, the building would be additional storage space to be utilized by both the Fire Company and Goshen Public Works. Fast forward, it now is being considered \$14,000 sq. ft. building, with a septic system, running water, heat, a shower system, paved parking lot, etc., a larger vision than originally planned. Bob feels the proposal should be withdrawn from Planning & Zoning; a "needs assessment" of the building should be done; the Building Committee should then create a "cost assessment", which has now become a \$1.5 million project.

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Todd Carusillo agreed that other opinions should be sought. Audrey Blondin completely disagrees with Bob Valentine. Rather than 10 yr building, this may be an opportunity for a 100 yr. old building. This building is for the betterment of the town of Goshen.

Henrietta Horvay has no problem with the building. People should be more involved in this project. A \$500,000 purchase that turns into a \$1.5 million project may raise taxes that the Goshen residents cannot afford. She is not against the building, but that more thought/information needs to be applied; more transparency.

Bob Valentine stated the Building Committee's plans are not without merit, but this Building project has time. This project should be done with due diligence and care. We have the time; we should slow down.

Audrey Blondin stated "time means money". The longer this project takes to do, the more money it's going to cost. Have a Public Works meeting, the longer it takes the more cost. Move forward and get it done.

Todd Carusillo stated, from this position as a resident, the size of the building doesn't scare me. This project can be done over time.

Selectman Dexter Kinsella doesn't disagree with Bob Valentine. Maybe we should pause at this time. We want to be sure we get it right; that it meets the needs of the people. We have the time to step in and identify the needs.

Todd Carusillo wants this project to be done right; to be done once, we don't want to come back because it was built too small. The building is going to need heat at some point in time, etc.

Selectman Mark S. Harris made a **motion** that the Public Works withdraw their application from Planning & Zoning and allow the Building Committee to prioritize the needs, on the table, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella. **Motion carried.**

Selectman Mark S. Harris made a **motion** to have Robert Valentine added to the Building Committee as member. Selectman Dexter S. Kinsella questioned the need for this inasmuch as Bob's membership may present a conflict of interest. Todd questioned if Bob is going to be an "advisor" or a "liaison" to the Board of Finance. Selectman Dexter Kinsella, seconded the motion on the floor to add Robert Valentine to the Building Committee. **Motion carried.**

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Bob Valentine stated that "Conflict of Interest" does not exist here, in that he is a town resident, has 16 years serving as First Selectman, being on the Board of Finance is NOT a conflict of interest in that he does NOT have *personal nor financial* interest in this project. Dexter Kinsella wanted to dispel any negative perception out there.

Mark S. Harris stated that CGS 1-85, 86 describes in detail the meaning of "Conflict of Interest." As such, Bob's membership to the Building Committee is NOT a conflict of interest. Therefore, Robert Valentine was legally voted onto the Building Committee. **Voted unanimous.**

There are now 5 regular members of the *Building Committee* including new member Robert Valentine; Plus three *Advisors* – Todd Carusillo, Garrett Harlow and Dexter S. Kinsella

7. Correspondence: None

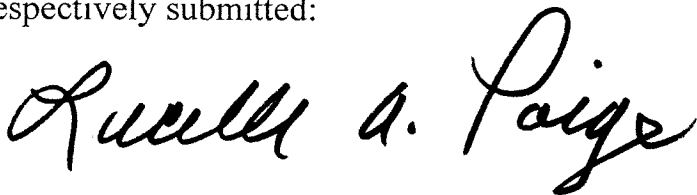
8. Old Business: None

9. New Business: None



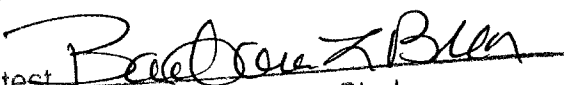
10. Other Business: None

11. Adjournment: In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to adjourn the meeting at 5:38 p.m. Voted unanimous.

Respectively submitted:



Lucille A. Paige, First Selectman's Aide

2023 
Received Nov. 9, 2023  11:25 AM
Attest 
Goshen Town Clerk