

Town of Goshen
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

January 30, 2024

REGULAR MEETING

This meeting held in-person and recorded via Zoom.us and is available as a recording

PRESENT: Todd M. Carusillo, Scott Olson, Dexter S. Kinsella (zoom)

OTHERS: Dawn Wilkes; Don Wilkes, Patrick Lucas; Marissa Wright; Henrietta Horvay, Audrey Blondin; Michael Leonard; Bernie Harrington; Betty Cosgrove; Thy Ho (Goshen Library); Lorraine Lucas; Eric Warner, *The Goshen News*; Marianne Stilson

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 January 23, 2024. In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Scott Olson, it was **voted** to approve the minutes of January 23, 2024 as corrected. Voted unanimous.

3. Matters Arising out of the Minutes: A motion was missing from the minutes of 1-23-24 : “In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Scott Olson, it was **voted** to create the position of Temporary Animal Control Officer, upon completion of training in August, 2024 for said position.” (Voted unanimous).

4. Approval of the Payroll and Warrant – February 1, 2024:

In a **motion** made by Scott Olson, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was **voted** to approve the total warrant and payroll of February 1, 2024 in the amount of \$89,092.63. Included in this warrant were the payroll in the amount of \$15,417.65 and the warrant in the amount of \$73,674.98. Voted unanimous. Also included in this warrant: Emergency Services: -\$3,275.00; Salt: - \$35,970.38; Public Works Equip. Repair: - \$4,530.52; Sepples Tree Service: - \$12,000.

5. First Selectman’s Report:

Todd reported that he has a recycling presentation to share with residents. Please send your e-mail to Todd for a copy of this recycling report. First Selectman: 1stselectman@gmail. com.

There is a special meeting of the Board of Selectmen. This subject of this meeting will be held in conjunction with Woodridge Lake Property Owners Association. See the posted agenda on the Board of Selectmen website.

Todd has conferred with Town Attorney Chip Roraback regarding the formation of an Ethics Commission for the town of Goshen. Attorney Roraback advised that it is premature in the process for a legal opinion.

Todd reported that he has been asked by several residents to create a “Dog Park”. The Selectmen would like opinions from Goshen residents.

6. Public Comment:

Thy Ho, Library Aide, working in Goshen’ Public Library, asked why the Goshen Library staff are being brought under scrutiny by the Fiscal Office (Todd Carusillo), Why Goshen Library staff may have their work hours reduced.

Marianne Stilson was surprised to see some of e-mails town commission members and some employees published in The Goshen News. She stated that many employees cannot render information to the public and the public does not have the right to contact those individuals - applications that must be sent Commissioners, etc. With reference to the Dog Park - talk to those in Torrington, they have lots of information, liability to town, etc.

Audrey Blondin stated that with reference to the creation of a “Dog Park” in Goshen, the great liability to the town must be considered. She suggested that those interested in this endeavor consider applying as a committee, 501-3-C nonprofit.

Lorraine Lucas stated that commissioners of a given board cannot disclose what applications and other legal documents, are being worked on, etc.

Patrick Lucas stated Commission members are not required under **FOIA**. The town shouldn’t submit anything to the “The Goshen News”.

Marissa Wright stated that she would not recommend the Dog Park be placed near water or on wetlands,

Scott Olson suggested the town-owned Dog Park be scratched. Rather, he suggested that several dog owners get together at someone’s house to let their dog run loose, exercise. Also, Goshen is close to Mohawk State Park.

Thy Ho asked First Selectman Todd Carusillo his comments regarding the scrutiny of the Goshen Library Personnel, in that the Library is a great asset for Goshen. Todd questioned the need for 4 people to be behind the main desk when there are no activities going on at the Library. He stated the Library Director is a full-time employee, the same as the Town Clerk and Tax Collector and they have 1 assistant.

Michael Leonard “don’t cut education” in that we use the Goshen Library

Marianne Stilson stated that a volunteer can place books back in the shelf, help with the children.

Thy Ho stated that the “Director of the Library” has other important duties and should not be checking books. Todd Carusillo asked why has so many people on certain days. Thy Ho stated that the Library Director needs some quiet time for herself.

Henrietta Horvay stated that she is President of the Library Board. Their budget for 2024 – 2025 has not yet been completed but is due in March. It will show a minimum increase.

7. Correspondence: A e-mail from Marc McCarthy stated that a study has been done on Goshen lands (East St. North, East St. South, etc.) and any **new buildings** should *not* be built on those lands.

8. Old Business:

8a. Budgets:

Building Official	Economic Development	Selectmen
Civil Preparedness	Street Lights	
Conservation Commission	Town Clerk	
Conservation of Health	Zoning Board of Appeals	

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Scott Olson, it was **voted** to receive the aforementioned Budgets for 2024-2025 and forward to the Board of Finance for their review and consideration. Voted unanimous.

9. New Business:

9a. Emergency Management Performance Grant:

Scott Olson read aloud the Resolution authorizing First Selectman, Todd Carusillo to apply for grants that are available (estimated at approximately \$11,000. through Goshebn's Emergency Management Committe.

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Scott Olson, it was **voted** to accept Emergency Management Resolution and forward to the Goshen Town Clerk for recording. Voted unanimous.

9b. Request – Allocation of TAR Funds

From Garret Harlow, Supervisor of Public Works, a request for payment for services from the TAR account 2400-32 in the amount of \$337,682.04 to O&G Industries. These funds were used for paving Sutton CT, Lyman Lane, West Hyerdale Dr., Weldon CT., to Sutton CT, and Town Hill Road.

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Scott Olson, it was **voted** to provide funding in the amount of \$337,682.04 to O&G Industries from the TAR account for paving of roads in Goshen shown above. Voted unanimous.

10. Other Business: None

11. Adjournment: In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Scott Olson, it was **voted** to adjourn the meeting at 5:53 p.m. Voted unanimous.

Respectively submitted:

Lucille A. Paige, First Selectman's Aide