

**TOWN OF GOSHEN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, October 22, 2019**

PRESENT: Dexter S. Kinsella, Mark S. Harris, Robert P. Valentine

OTHERS: Marty Harris, Jim Withstandley, Chris Sanders, Allan Walker, Chr. Board of Finance;
Garret Harlow, Supervisor of Public Works

Call to order: Robert P. Valentine, First Selectman called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Approve the minutes of the October 15, 2019 Regular Meeting:

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to approve the minutes of the meeting of October 15, 2019, as presented. Voted unanimous.

3. Matters Arising out of the minutes: None

4. Approval of Payroll and Warrant of October 24, 2019:

In a **motion** made by Mark S. Harris, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was **voted** to approve the total warrant and payroll for October 24, 2019 in the amount of \$140,293.73. Included in this warrant were the payroll in the amount of \$30,150.44 and warrant in the amount of \$110,443.29. Voted unanimous. Included in this warrant were payments for Anthem Dental - \$1,358.44; S&S Asphalt - \$96,738.50 (paving various roads in Goshen).

5. Public Comment: None

6. First Selectman's Report:

Bob Valentine reported on various trees down after last Wednesday's storms, along with electrical issues with downed wires. He stated the poor response from Eversource regarding prioritizing downed wires, making some roads unpassable (for unforeseen emergencies).

Pursuing the possibility of preserving 621 acres of land on Beach Hill Road, Bob Valentine updated members of the Board of Selectmen on discussions at last Wednesday's meeting with various interested parties. Those present agreed to look into grant possibilities with representatives from the State. Two potential grant opportunities are The Pittman-Robertson Act (federal funds) and the Highlands Conservation Act, (also federal funds). The Pittman-Robertson Act, was approved by Congress in 1937. The act provides funding for the selection, restoration, and improvement of wildlife habitat, and for wildlife management research. It is funded by an excise tax on firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment. The Highlands Conservation Act Grant Program, grants to states monies for land conservation within the Highlands region which includes parts of Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. Goshen Wildlife Management Area was purchased by the state in part by use of Pittman/Robertson Act grant funds.

The guard rails on Milton Road have new posts that were needed to raise their height, after the paving was completed.

The Annual Audit for the Town of Goshen has been completed. The auditor, Sandra E. Welwood, will attend the meeting of the Board of Finance, Wednesday, October 23, 2019, for presentation and answer any questions. On behalf of the Board of Selectmen, Bob would like to thank everyone

for a job well done. With this audit we have now had 16 years of finding no deficiencies in the town accounts.

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to add to the agenda item **8.Old Business** – 8b. Bid Recommendation – Wheel Loader; **9. New Business**, 9a. Tax Collectors' Report, September 30, 2019; 9b. Corporate Resolution (Tax Sale Proceeds Account). Voted unanimous.

7. Correspondence: None

8. Old Business:

8a. Appointments: - None

8b. Bid Recommendations - Wheel Loader

Garret Harlow, Public Works Supervisor, reported on the bids received for the Wheel Loader. The prices he compared were "total price minus trade-in". He ensured that his recommendation included reliable parts, warranties therein, and delivery to Public Works facilities. Mr. Harlow recommended the low bidder, Westchester Tractor, Inc., Brewster, New York. Included in the price is an extended 60 month warranty for a total of five year 3000 hours warranty bid price: \$123,191.25.

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to grant the purchase order request to Westchester Tractor, for Hitachi 2W-140-6 wheel loader purchase in the amount of \$123,191.25. Voted unanimous.

9. New Business:

9a. Tax Collector's Report – September 30, 2019

The collection rate – collected less refunds vs. total budgeted is 56.41% .

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to receive the Tax Collector's Report, September 30, 2019. Voted unanimous.

9b. Corporate Resolution – Tax Sale Proceeds

A new bank account needed to be opened to segregate those dollars from the recent tax sale from other municipal accounts. These funds must be deposited into an independent account for six months.

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris it was **voted** to open a designated, interest-bearing escrow account separate from all other accounts of the municipality, at the Union Savings Bank, 225 Main Street, Danbury, CT 06810. (See attached) Voted unanimous.

Authorized signatures: Anders A. Nygren, Deputy Treasurer
 Dexter S. Kinsella, Selectman
 James A. Bernard, Treasurer
 Robert P. Valentine, First Selectman
 Mark S. Harris, Selectman

10. Any 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 5:30 p.m. Voted unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucille A. Paige, First Selectman's Aide