

TOWN OF GOSHEN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 28, 2020

PRESENT: Mark S. Harris, Robert P. Valentine

EXCUSED: Dexter S. Kinsella

OTHERS: Jim Withstandley; Pat Reilly; Cynthia Barret; Amy Tobin

1 Call to order: Robert P. Valentine, First Selectman called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

2. Approve the minutes of the January 21, 2020 Regular Meeting:

In a **motion** made by Mark S. Harris, seconded by Robert P. Valentine, it was **voted** to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 21, 2020 as presented. Voted unanimous.

3. Matters Arising out of the minutes: None

4. Approval of Payroll and Warrant – January 30, 2020:

In a **motion** made by Mark S. Harris, seconded by Robert P. Valentine, it was **voted** to approve the total warrant and payroll for January 30, 2020 in the amount of \$43,926.09. Included in this warrant were the payroll in the amount of \$12,239.67 and the warrant in the amount of \$31,686.42. Voted unanimous. Included were payments for: Dime Oil, (Gas, Diesel Fuel) \$5,301.47; MIRA (tipping fees) \$10,671.31; Mountain Top Trucking (crushed stone) \$3,258.08.

5. Public Comment: Cynthia Barret: *Town Topics* can be used to educate residents on use of Goshen's website; advise residents of openings on various committees, give the time/day of committee meeting to encourage to step up to join. Amy Tobin: Discussed problems the EDC had in setting up with the "guest" Wi-Fi here in Town Hall. Pat Reilly: Gave a presentation to a third-grade class at GCS regarding the "trash to energy" programs in Connecticut and our states lead in responsible trash and recycling nationally.

6. First Selectman's Report:

Bob Valentine presented the information contained in *draft* of the "Non-Binding Informational Statement of Interest" received from MIRA with regards to the MSW (**M**unicipal **S**olid **W**aste) tipping fees. (Reference minutes of January 21, 2020). "Beginning in FY 2025, a maximum tip fee would be set a \$145./ton. This fee provides for a \$0/ton recycling fee and a single uniform MSW *tipping* fee regardless of the town's preferred disposal location. A tipping fee, which includes the cost of recycling and the socialized costs of transfer station and/or direct haul are consistent with MIRA's present operations." Bob pointed out what is being proposed would be a 30yr contract with MIRA with no opt out provision. Currently Goshen is a "tier 1" municipality which gives Goshen the MIRA's lowest cost for tipping fees for MSW. The new contract would have no such provision. Although MIRA's goal is to, in the short term, keep the tipping fee for MSW at \$95.00 ton, it is unclear how that tipping fee could be achieved, lacking state assistance in some way. The intent of the non-binding statement is to gauge municipal interest in a 30 year contract with the above terms. Bob will send the non-binding statement to the Citizens Advisory Committee on Recycling and Trash (RATs) for their input. The selectmen will take up the question at a later meeting.

Bob Valentine reported that he had met with First Selectmen - Tom Weik, Morris, Tim Angevine, Warren, and Chris Leone, Superintendent Region 6 & Litchfield, to further discuss the student ADM (Annual Daily Membership). It was agreed among the group to set a *maximum* assessment increase for any town due to student population changes in the ADM, (Average Daily Membership as of October 1) at a maximum of 5% in any one year. This serves to avoid spikes/burden in any one town's assessment. Town Attorney Chip Roraback has advised that the Selectmen of each town has the legal right to under Section 10-51(b) 2 "the Board of Selectmen has the authority to approve the expense allocation agreement on the town's behalf without the need for either town meeting or board of finance approval." Going forward, each Board of Selectmen would have to vote favorably to make the change.

The Board of Finance has received the budgets submitted by the Board of Selectman (thus far). In addition, a 2.5% merit budget was approved for employee increases for the coming year.

The recent meeting of the **RATs** Committee, was a good and productive meeting. All agreed to move forward to formulate a comprehensive marketing policy for recycling, especially in light of the new MIRA proposals. A new meeting schedule was also adopted;

REVISED 2020 Meeting Schedule
2nd Wednesday of the month
6:30 p.m. Town Hall Conference Room
February 12, 2020
March 11, 2020
April 8, 2020
May 14, 2020 * Thursday
June 10, 2020
July 8, 2020

7. Correspondence: None

8. Old Business: None

8a. Appointments: None

8b. Budgets: BUDGET 2020-2021

Progress Report spreadsheet was reviewed by the BOS. It lists the "department"; the current budget 19-20; requested budget 20-21; operating increase/decrease %; followed by current capital – 19-20; capital request 20-21; capital increase/decrease %; total operating & capital increase/decrease. This provides increases/decreases for the Board of Finance as the budget progresses, rather than awaiting the final budgets submitted in April.

9. New Business: None

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

January 28, 2020

Page 3

10. Any Other Business: None

11. Adjournment:

In a **motion** made by Mark Harris, seconded by Robert P. Valentine, it was **voted** to adjourn the meeting at 5:51 p.m. Voted unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucille A. Paige, First Selectman's Aide