

**TOWN OF GOSHEN**  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
Regular Meeting  
**Tuesday, February 11, 2020**

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

OTHERS: Cynthia Barrett; Tom Farrell; Lucy Hussman; Pat Reilly; Bob Lowe

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

**2. Approve the minutes of the February 4, 2020 Regular Meeting:**

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark Harris, it was **voted** to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 4, 2020 as submitted. Voted unanimous.

**3. Matters Arising out of the minutes:**

Bob did check with Goshen Center School and they do compost discarded food from the cafeteria.

**4. Approval of Payroll and Warrant – February 13, 2020:**

In a **motion** made by Mark S. Harris, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was **voted** to approve the total warrant and payroll for February 13, 2020 in the amount of \$66,570.09. Included in this warrant were the payroll in the amount of \$28,162.67 and the warrant in the amount of \$38,407.42. Voted unanimous. Included were payments for: Brigham Industries, turn-out gear Fire Dept. \$3,586.36; Firematic, turn-out gear Fire Dept. \$3,816.04; Morton Salt, winter salt \$13,152.75.

**5. Public Comment: None**

Having members of the RAT Committee (**Recycling and Trash**), in attendance, the Board chose to address item 8. Old Business, 8c. MIRA/Citizens Advisory Committee for Recycling & Trash (**RATS**) at this time.

**8. Old Business, 8c. MIRA/Citizens Advisory Committee for Recycling & Trash (RATS)**

Moving forward a "Statement of Interest" from MIRA (**M**aterials **I**nnovation and **R**ecycling **A**uthority) (see minutes from meeting of February 4<sup>th</sup>), Bob Valentine reported on his looking at surrounding small towns and how they dispose of their MSW (**M**unicipal **S**olid **W**aste) and their costs as compared with what Goshen pays. Warren uses Bristol Resource Recovery Facility operating as Covanta Bristol, Inc. He found that Warren costs for waste removal is somewhat comparable to that of Goshen's. MIRA's Statement of Interest (Non-Binding) is to get a number of how many towns currently utilizing MIRA for disposal of MSW and recycling would be interested in continuing with MIRA at a potential \$145.00 per ton disposal for MSW, current tip fee is \$83.00 per ton. In addition whether Goshen would be interested in entering into a 30 year agreement under the above terms, without a op-out provision. Those in attendance felt that Goshen should let MIRA know we are interested in continuing our relationship with MIRA but a tip fee of \$145.00 is not acceptable.

Bob will bring a draft letter to the BOS meeting of February 18 for review.

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

Bob Valentine reported having received a formal letter from Sandra E. Welwood, LLC, that they will be unable to serve as Goshen's auditor for 2020-2021. Bob Valentine will research what other firms are available for conducting the audit and give that information to the Board of Finance in that they contract for the audit.

Employee evaluations have been completed and department budgets have been adjusted to reflect merit budget increases accordingly.

Bob Valentine brought the fact that our agreement with Torrington and Litchfield for regional animal control services has expired. After discussion, the board agreed to extend the current contract until the end of the fiscal year while a successor agreement is drafted and approved.

Rick Lynn of NWCOG is assisting with an application for a *Regional Incentive Performance Grant*, to help with the cost of building a new Regional Animal Control facility which will service Goshen, Litchfield, Torrington. Currently the member towns are discussing possibly of seeking new bids on the construction of the facility. Bob will advise as information becomes available.

Bob Valentine gave update on the progress of a potential agreement with Morris and Warren on using a model of not increasing any one towns assessment more than 5% due to changes in student enrollment. A recent legal opinion from counsel for Morris suggested that town meeting approval would be required in order to adopt such an agreement. This opinion differs from one received by Goshen's counsel, Chip Roraback. Bob will have further conversation with First Selectman Tom Weik, Morris and First Selectman Tim Angevine, Warren on the subject.

**7. Correspondence:** None

**8. Old Business:**

**8a. Appointments:**

The vacancy on the Board of Education needs to be filled by action of a Town Meeting. Inasmuch a Craig Robillard has shown interest in this position, Bob will contact him and let him know of the vacancy. Anyone interested in the position should let the board know and they will be notified when a town meeting will be called to fill the vacancy. The next regularly scheduled Town Meeting is May 27, 2020, at 8:00 p.m.

**8b. Budgets: Budget 2020-2021:**

The following budget submittals were reviewed and discussed individually:

- Board of Assessors      Selectmen
- Building Official      Tax Collector

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to receive the aforementioned budgets. Voted unanimous.

**c. MIRA:** See page 1

**9. New Business:** None

**10. Any Other Business:**

Selectman Mark Harris attended the workshop sponsored by the Northwest Hills Council of Governments concerning the legal requirements of land use board in Connecticut given by Attorney Mike Zizka. Mark was very pleased with the number of Goshen land use officials who attended. He also was very impressed with the presentation as being very good, informative.

For budgetary reasons, Bob Valentine asked Mark Harris, Chairman of the Lake Weed Committee to garner information on the financial needs of the three lakes in Goshen regarding weed control funding for the coming year.

**11. Adjournment:**

In a **motion** made by Mark Harris, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was **voted** to adjourn the meeting at 5:54 p.m. Voted unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucille A. Paige, First Selectman's Aide