

TOWN OF GOSHEN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 18, 2020

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

OTHERS: Cynthia Barrett; Bob Lowe; Chris Sanders; Patty Sanders; Marty Harris; Simon Ellis; Amy Tobin; Dawn Wilkes

1 Call to order: Robert P. Valentine, First Selectman called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

2. Approve the minutes of the February 11, 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 11, 2020 as submitted. Voted unanimous.

3. Matters Arising out of the minutes: Selectman Mark Harris reported that upon contacting the chairman of each of the three lakes located in Goshen regarding the amount of funding they may need for the 2020-2021 budget. The total amount needed is for \$45,000, as in the past, for chemical and mechanical processes.

4. Approval of Payroll and Warrant – February 20, 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 20, 2020 in the amount of \$75,190.28. Included in this warrant were the payroll in the amount of \$16,201.36, and the warrant in the amount of \$58,988.92. Voted unanimous. Included were payments for: Dime Oil (diesel, heating oil) \$4,862.50; Lenard Engineering (Tamarak La., East Hyderdale) \$15,189.93; Stirling Benefits (employee medical insurance) \$17,469.20.

5. Public Comment: Bob Lowe stated that the Kobylenski Lodge at Camp Cochipianne, is originally a Boy Scout Camp lodge. Boy Scout Troop 35, for many years, was allowed to place a plaque listing all those who attained the rank of Eagle Scout on the wall. This plaque was taken down and placed into storage when the Lodge walls were being painted. Hence, the Boy Scouts would like to have the plaque hung again for public display. In that the Recreation Commission is under town ordinance, Bob Valentine will compose a letter of support to present to the Recreation Commission at their next meeting of March 16th.

Chris Sanders from the **Goshen Housing Trust** presented an overview of the plans for the *Goshen Village Market Place*. The Housing Trust plans to purchase, renovate and operate this property to become a valuable asset to the town. The GHT has been awarded - in the form of a grant and low interest load- \$1.1 million dollars; \$630,000 in subsidized mortgage for the purchase and a \$500,000 grant for the rehab of the residential apartments. It is hoped that the Board of Selectmen will support a *Community Development Block Grant* application as a pass-through grant to the Goshen Housing Trust for the renovation of the commercial portion of the Village Market Place. CDBG grants can only be applied for by municipalities and can be used for economic development purposes. The overall plan is to develop this area as a “community center”; update lighting, renovate the exteriors of the buildings and possibly the commercial spaces. The GHT will pay for all costs of applying for the grant. The Town must have a “certified grant coordinator” in

order to apply for the grant. Mr. Sanders has agreed to take a course to become a certified grant coordinator for the town.

The time limits are somewhat strict in that a Public Hearing and Town Meeting will have to be held by April 17, 2020, the application deadline. In addition, the First Selectman will be asked to provide "intent" in writing outlining the project, etc.

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** for the First Selectman, Robert Valentine sign a "letter of intent" to begin the grant process for the *Goshen Village Project*. Voted unanimous.

6. First Selectman's Report:

Bob Valentine described the impact of the new State law that increased the minimum wage and its effect on the Camp Coch 6-week summer camp program. Heretofore, the CIT's (Counselor in Training) were paid a "stipend" in that most of them were under the age of 16. On average the pay was \$110 per week. Under the new law, the pay will increase \$352. In addition, the number of CIT's has been cut from 17 down to 8. Recreation Director Colleen Kinkade has contacted the State Dept. of Labor for a written opinion concerning the applicability of the new wage law and its effect on those who were previously considered "exempt". Bob Valentine has contacted Senator Craig Miner for his assistance and potential submission of a bill to amend the law to exempt municipal summer camp staff.

Bob Valentine updated the Board on his discussions with Tom Weik, First Selectman Morris and Tim Angevine, First Selectman Warren concerning adopting a maximum 5% cap on Region 6 assessments as a result of increases to student population. There is some difference of opinion between Goshen Town counsel, Chip Roraback and counsel for the town of Morris concerning the process for adopting such a policy. After discussion it was decided to adopt the policy per Chip Roraback's legal opinion.

In a **motion** made by Mark S. Harris, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was **voted** to " *approve the use of an expense allocation for future Regional School District 6 budgets, beginning with the fiscal year 2020/2021 that would cap any towns increase due to changes in student population to no more than 5% annually.*" Voted unanimous.

Bob Valentine attended a meeting with the NWHCOG on February 13, 2020 wherein Tom Kirk, MIRA president, discussed future changes to MIRA. Some of the information presented differed from the **original** presentation previously, in particular, the tipping fee for the new fiscal year beginning July 1st. According to Mr. Kirk the Board of Directors have not yet met to set the tipping fee and the amount may be greater than the \$91.00 previously given and possibly as much as \$95.00 or \$96.00 per ton.

Given the uncertainty of future costs for disposal on trash Bob Valentine suggested that the Board should look into other alternatives for disposal in particular Bristol Resource Recovery Facility,

operated by Covanta. Bob will also contact local trash haulers to look into what effect any change would have on trash pick-up costs.

Bob Received from Lucy Hussman, Assessor, a spread sheet showing changes to the *Net Grand List, Totals for 2018/2019*. This summary is before any adjustments by the Board of Assessment Appeals and showed an increase of 1.0%.

7. Correspondence: None

8. Old Business:

8a. Appointments:

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Robert P. Valentine, it was **voted** to appoint Mark S. Harris to fill the vacancy on the Northwest CT Transit District, expiring 10/31/2021. Voted unanimous.

8b. Budgets: 2020-2021

The following budgets were reviewed, some being re-reviewed due to changes in salary:

Welfare	Planning & Zoning
Inlands/Wetlands	Zoning Board of Appeals
Elections	Town Clerk
Economic Development Comm	Selectmen's Capital

Reviewed previously were:

Board of Assessors	Selectmen
Building Official	Tax Collector
Zoning Board of Appeals	Street Lights
Conservation Comm	Civil Preparedness
Conservation of Health	

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to forward aforementioned budgets to the Board of Finance for their review and consideration. Voted unanimous.

c. MIRA: See page 2

9. New Business:

10. Any Other Business:

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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