

TOWN OF GOSHEN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 3, 2020

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

OTHERS: Jim Withstandley;

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 25, 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 25, 2020 as submitted. Voted unanimous.

3. Matters Arising out of the minutes: None

4. Approval of Payroll and Warrant – March 5, 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 March 5, 2020 in the amount of \$1,371,967.79. Included in this warrant were the payroll in the amount of \$11,699.29 and the warrant in the amount of \$1,360,268.50. Voted unanimous. Included were payments for: City of Torrington (Animal Control) \$4,555.05; Eversource: \$1,521.48; J.W. Tractor: \$3,566.74; King, King Associates: \$2,597.12; RSD 6, 1/6 assessment: \$1,339,264.00.

5. Public Comment: Jim Withstandley asked about the delivery of the new truck for Public Works. Bob Valentine reported the truck is yet to be delivered.

6. First Selectman's Report:

On Monday, March 16th, a ceremony will be held to recognize Goshen veterans who served during the Korean War and the Vietnam era at Camp Cochepianne. The program being presented by Lt Governor, Susan Bysiewicz, Commissioner Department of Veterans Affairs, Thomas J. Saadi and the Town of Goshen, will begin at 5:00 p.m.

Bob announced a vacancy Goshen Agricultural Council. A candidate will be sought to fill this vacancy.

Bob attended a meeting with Torrington Mayor Elinor Carbone, First Selectwoman Litchfield, Denise Raap regarding the proposed construction of a new Animal Control Facility. This Committee is still waiting for word on a potential Regional Center Performance Grant. Bob has signed an interim contract "Extension" for the continued operation of the program, out to June 30, 2020. The fees for Goshen's share of the planned "new" facility is \$63,600.

Bob noted that a former veterinary clinic located in Litchfield is being looked into as a possible site for the Regional Animal Control Facility, although many questions exist as to where it would be suitable or acceptable to the Department of Agriculture, which enforces rules on municipal animal facilities.

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Budget review previously were presented to the Board of Finance last Wednesday. At the Board of Finance meeting a very thorough presentation was made by Chris Sanders regarding the use of the \$45,000 allotment given by the BOF to Goshen Lakes. Mr. Sanders explained how the funds were used and the success of the treatments as to the vast improvements that have been attained in the weed control and clarity of the lakes' water. His report was appreciated and very well received.

Bob reported that John Calkins, the Town's insurance representative, reviewed the proposal from *Connecticare* for employees' health care coverage. This insurance plan is comparable to our current coverage through MHIP, Blue Cross Blue Shield. His final analysis of numbers will be forthcoming soon.

With reference to BOS meeting minutes of February 25, 2020, Bob further reports of his continued conversations with the Dept. of Labor as it pertains to the compensation of the CIT summer employees at Camp Coch with reference to the new minimum wage law. Bob reported that he received a written opinion from Thomas J. Wydra, Director of Wage and Workplace Standards Division stating *"An employee/employer relationship does not exist for minors between the ages of sixteen and eighteen and employers of camps that are open less than six months of the year, including those owned or managed by the state or any political subdivision thereof. This official position includes "any and all persons" who are permitted to work at camps that are open less than six months of the year, regardless of age."* Thus, our camp program is not required to pay a minimum fair wage to its employees.

Bob reported that he had a conversation with First Selectman of Warren, Tim Angevine, who advised that he is taking the ADM (Average Daily Membership) motion to his Board of Selectmen for a vote. The motion (see BOS minutes February 18, 2020) seeks to adopt a 5% cap on Region 6 assessments relative to student populations.

Bob reminded everyone that a presentation on the Region 6 budget 2020-2021 will be given, tonight at the Goshen Center School and urged everyone to attend.

Public Works Supervisor, Garret Harlow has completed a favorable six-month employee evaluation for Varonne Loggins, Clerk.

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to award Varonne Loggins, a \$.50 increase in salary, retroactive to her six-month date of employment with the Public Works Department. Voted unanimous.

7. Correspondence: None

8. Old Business:

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8a. Appointments:

In a **motion** made by Mark S. Harris, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was **voted** to re-appoint Tom Breakell for TAHD Regional Officer for a 3 yr. term expiring January 6, 2023. Voted unanimous.

In a **motion** made by Mark H. Harris, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was **voted** to appoint Barbara Breor to the Northwest Regional Tourism District Board of Directors for a 3 yr. term expiring 3-3-2022

Voted unanimous.

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to add to the agenda under item 9. New Business, 9a. Executive Session for pending litigation – Tax Appeals. Voted unanimous.

9. New Business:

9a. Executive Session for pending litigation – Tax Appeals

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to move into executive session at 5:31 p.m. and invited into this session, Lucy Hussman, Assessor.

Voted unanimous.

The Board of Selectmen moved into open session at 6:06 p.m. No action was taken.

10. Any Other Business: None

11. Adjournment:

In a **motion** made by Mark Harris, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was **voted** to adjourn the meeting at 6:07 p.m. Voted unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucille A. Paige, First Selectman's Aide