# TOWN OF GOSHEN

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

**REGULAR MEETING**

Tuesday, March 31, 2020

This meeting held and recorded via Zoom.us and is available as a recording

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

OTHERS: Sean O’Neal

**1 Call to order:** Robert P. Valentine called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

**2.** **Approval the minutes of the Special meeting of March, 25, 2020:**

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to approve the minutes of the Special meeting minutes of March 25. 2020 as submitted. Voted unanimous.

**3. Matter Arising Out of the Minutes:** None.

**4. Approval of the Payroll and Warrant -April 2, 2020:**

In a motion made by Mark S. Harris, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was voted to approve the total warrant and payroll of April 2, 2020 in the amount of $31,342.55. Included in this warrant were the payroll in the amount of $12,986.72 and the warrant in the amount of $18,355.83. Voted unanimous. Included in the warrant were: Apex Comm. (Conf. call phone) - $1030.00; Geer Senior Bus scheduling - $3850.00; McNeil & Co. (Fire Company Insurance) $6,099.50.

**5. Public Comment:** None

**6. First Selectman’s Report:**

Bob Valentine reported that he attended the Board of Finance meeting (March 25th) and asked that they keep the mill rate at 19.6. for the coming fiscal year. He gave sound financial reasoning for this request pointing out capital expenditures that can be put on hold until such time as the effect of

COVID-9 on the economy is known.

Here at Town Hall, he reported that Virginia Perry (First Selectman’s Administrative Assistant) is working from home on Mondays and Wednesdays. Although the Goshen Library is closed, Lynn Steinmayer and Colleen Kinkade, of the Goshen Recreation Dept. have come up with creative ways to engage the Library patrons and the children of Goshen. The Library is offering games to be available online; inasmuch as the Annual Easter Egg Hunt cannot be held, Ms. Kinkade will be putting together bags of Easter Eggs to be distributed to families with children to enable them to hold their own “Easter Egg Hunt” on their properties. Salute to both departments in their efforts to help the community and children “come together” during these difficult times.

Bob reported that he has received information from the State of CT and the Federal Government with regards to special loans available to businesses during this crisis. He has forwarded this information onto the Goshen Business Circle and the Economic Development Commission.

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In his continuing endeavors to keep everyone in Goshen “up to date” during these difficult times, Bob recently sent out a letter and posted it on the town web site, letting residents know what is being done at town hall and also encouraging those who may have recently come from the NY metro area to quarantine for 24 days per health officials guidance. All efforts are being brought to the forefront to reduce the exposure from one person to another. Woodridge Lake Properties Association has been very cooperative in these measures. The letter also encouraged resident to ring a bell or other device every Friday at 8:00pm to show community spirit.

Hats off to all the Goshen residents who took part in the “community coming together” last Friday with ringing bells, fire crackers, and other items to signal to all of our neighbors that we, here in Goshen, are all “in this together”.

On another matter, in that Spring brings about our home owners to burn brush and limbs from the winter, there is no need to personally visit the Town Hall to obtain a “Burning Permit”. Just **make a call** into the Fiscal Office, Virginia Perry; she will then take the information over the phone and relay that information to Barry Hall, Fire Chief to keep track of where burning may be taking place. A personal visit is not necessary at this time.

Bob also personally spoke to Governor Lamont, during a conference call to chief elected officials, about the state having an enforceable quarantine order rather than the advisory quarantine currently being used. Governor Lamont continues to issue executive order dealing with many issues associated with COVID-19.

**7. Correspondence:** None

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark Harris, it was **voted** to add to the agenda item 9. New Business, 9b. Chip Seal Bids. Voted unanimous.

**8. Old Business**

**8a. Town Continuation of Operations RE: COVID-19 and Governor Lamont’s Executive Orders. See page 1.**

**8b. Appointments: None**

**At this time, item 9b. was addressed.**

**9b. Chip Seal Bids:**

Only one bid was submitted: New England Asphalt, LLC.

 126,477 sq. yards

 $1.528 price per sq. yard

 **$193,256.86 Total**

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to forward said bid to Public Works for review and recommendation. Voted unanimous.

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**8c. Budgets:**

The following budgets were reviewed and discussed accordingly:

Waste Removal; Newsletter (Town Topics)

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** that the aforementioned budgets were reviewed accordingly. Voted unanimous.

Bob addressed the budget process this year’s due to the COVID-19 issues and the effects it has on every municipal budget in the state, particularly without the ability to have in person public meetings. The Governor’s Executive Order allowing 30-day extension to the budget process ***only applies to budgets that need to be completed before May 15, 2020, therefore we need to keep on tract with the normal budget schedule for formulating a Town Budget by May 27, 2020.***

Bob has put together a proposed timeline for the board of finance to consider as they formulate a budget and adopt it.

1. Have budget complete for publishing on the town website by April 30th
2. Have hearing on budget via Zoom May 13th, allowing ample time for public comment.
3. Allow written public comments to be summitted until May 20th (when email comments are received all Board of Finance members will be forwarded the comments at the end of each day.)
4. Special meeting May 22 to consider comments concerning budget.
5. May 27th the Board of Finance meets via Zoom, votes on budget and sets mill rate.

Bob spoke with Superintendent Chris Leone on Monday, March 30th to ask that the Region 6 budget not increase the budget next fiscal year. They discussing the difficulty the town will have to achieve the holding of the 19.6 mill rate. Superintendent Leone will have discussions with the Board of Education in order to try to try and hold the budget during this difficult time by possibly not put forward any capital projects for next year.

The Board of Selectmen reviewed a draft spread showing **Year End Projections** for the current fiscal year.7/1/2019 through 6/30/2020. Also reviewed was a draft spread sheet sowing anticipated expense and revenue for FY 2020/2021 using a 96% tax collection rate. For the past several years a 99.125% collection rate has been used. Given the current economic situation Bob does not believe that the past collection rate will be achievable. He has also had a conversation with Alan Walker, Chr. Of the Board of Finance concerning the budget process.

**9. New Business:**

**9a. Employee 6-month Review - Matthew Grosclaude (PW):**

Matt received a favorable review from his Supervisor, Garret Harlow. Accordingly, Garret has recommended a $.50/hr. raise per employee policy.

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to award a pay raise of $.50/hr. for a good merit review. Voted unanimous.

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Dexter Kinsella announced a meeting of the Shane Kinsella Fund, regarding the upcoming race will be held by teleconferencing Thursday April 9, 2020

**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 5:50 p.m. Voted unanimous.

Respectively submitted,

Lucille A. Paige