

TOWN OF GOSHEN

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, April 21, 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: Lucille Paige, Pat Reilly, Jim Withstandley

1 Call to order: Robert P. Valentine called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

2. Approval the minutes of the meeting of April 14, 2020:

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to approve the minutes of the minutes of April 14, 2020 as submitted. Voted unanimous.

3. Matter Arising Out of the Minutes: None

4. Approval of the Payroll and Warrant -April 23, 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 23, 2020 in the amount of \$43,403.29. Included in this warrant were the payroll in the amount of \$24,281.74, and the warrant in the amount of \$19,121.55. Voted unanimous. Included in the warrant were: Anthem Dental: \$1,295.36; Dime Oil (fuel oil) \$5,276.27; John Hancock (pensions) \$4,290.00; Mountaintop Trucking (stone) \$1,395.64.

5. Public Comments: Pat Reilly commented on the house fire that took place last week on Route 63. It was a large home, 200 yrs. old and felt the Goshen Volunteer Fire Company and surrounding area fire companies did a great job in knocking down the fire quickly. No one was hurt. Compliments to all who participated in this call.

6. First Selectman's Report:

Bob Valentine reported that the State Bonding Commission did meet to free up the monies going to Connecticut municipalities. TAR (Town Aid Road) monies will be coming to Goshen to enable our roads projects to continue.

Bob reported that he sent out letters Goshen residents who have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus, inquiring as to their well-being, any needs they may have, etc. Rob Rubbo of the TAHD reported that some cases were undercounted; one individual who tested positive was never counted.

Good news from DEEP, Matt Starr. A verbal agreement has been reached regarding the State's purchase of the 620 acres on 65 Beech Hill Rd. This is good news for Goshen. DEEP was able to secure additional Highland Grants dollars for this purchase.

A Goshen Town department head staff meeting was held today (via zoom teleconferencing). The discussions centered around the spending freeze, budget and town operations during the emergency.

7. Correspondence: None

8. Old Business:

8a. Town Continuation of Operations re: COVID-19 and Governor Lamont's Executive Orders;

Executive order 7BB now requires the wearing facial masks in all work places including town hall and public works.

8b. Appointments: There is vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals to be filled. Jeff Johnson's term ends 4/23/2020. Appointment is for 2 years.

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to re-appoint Jeff Johnson for a two (2) year term. Voted unanimously.
Bob will look into an "Alternate" move up.

8c. Budgets:

The Board of Finance will hold their meeting tomorrow, Wednesday, April 22nd 7:30 p.m. via Zoom (On-line or teleconference).

8d. Spending Freeze Status:

Discuss was the potential of holding off on Chip Sealing roads (\$200,000) and Crack Sealing roads (\$40,000) both in the "operating budget", for this fiscal year. Or possibly just Crack Sealing and not Chip Sealing, until more is known on the effect of the current pandemic on the economy. Bob reported he personally inspected the roads scheduled for this year to see their condition. In that "chip seal" is primarily a "maintenance" product done on a five (5) rotation schedule, perhaps this can be done on a 6th year schedule, with no harm to those roads affected. The board agreed that Bob should have further conversation with Garret Harlow on the potential of saving dollars this fiscal year.

In evaluating a spending freeze *overall*, it was decided to continue with the freeze. A request has been made for the purchase of a new laptop – Recreation. While the money for this is in "capital", it was agreed to postpone the purchase under the freeze. (Keeping in mind that State of CT revenue projections are in the "red" and that may have an effect on the towns grant revenue.)

In a **motion** made by Mark S. Harris, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was **voted** to add to the agenda, item 9. New Business: 9a. Long Term Recovery Committee. Voted unanimous.

9. New Business:

9a. Long Term Recovery Committee:

In an email received from Betsy Garr, Executive Director of COST, the subject of towns creating a long-term recovery committee that would work with surrounding municipalities and the state to facilitate recovery from the issues surrounding the pandemic and its economic impact. Bob has asked Mark Harris to head up such a committee. This would entail garnering information from local churches, businesses, Parks & Rec, EMS and fire services, tax collector, agricultural society, etc., to formulate a plan for recovery. It was suggested that this "committee" be comprised of seven (7) people as to not become too unwieldy. There may be Federal Grant dollars available in the future to help with recovery. It was also agreed that as many sectors of Goshen should be consulted as possible, even if some were not represented on the committee.

In a **motion** made by Robert P. Valentine, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was **voted** to create a long term *Recovery Committee* specific to Goshen to work with neighboring communities and the State of CT. Voted unanimous. (Mark Harris will put together a list of potential members to be evaluated.)

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10. Any other Business:

Mark Harris reported that as he is Goshen's representative on the Northwest CT Transit District. As such he reported that Director, Carol Deane has broken her leg. A speedy recovery is extended to Ms. Deane.

Respectfully submitted:

Lucille A. Paige, First Selectman's Aide