

Town of Goshen
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, June 23, 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: Jim McKenna, *Republican American*; Pat Reilly

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

2. Approval the minutes of the meeting of June 16, 2020:

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to approve the minutes of June 16, 2020 as corrected (The spelling of Shared Work was corrected). Voted unanimous.

3. Matter Arising Out of the Minutes: None

4. Approval of the Payroll and Warrant – 6-25-2020:

In a **motion** made by Mark S. Harris, seconded by Dexter Kinsella, it was **voted** to approve the total warrant and payroll of 6-25-2020 in the amount of \$51,778.47. Included in this warrant were the payroll in the amount of \$23,576.61 and the warrant in the amount of \$28,201.86. Voted unanimous. Included in the warrant were: Dime Oil (gasoline) \$1,646.40; Attorney Mike Connelly (Board of Assessment Appeals) \$7,572.70; Northeast Crack Fill \$11,024.50.

5. Public Comment: None

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to change under item **9: New Business: Item 9a.** Special Town Meeting (eliminate “Zoom”); add to **item 10. Any Other Business: 10a.** Tax Collector’s Report: May 31, 2020; **10b.** Executive Session for the discussion of Personnel matter. Voted unanimous.

6. First Selectman’s Report:

Bob Valentine began with the subject of Summer Camp (Camp Coch) tuition fees. He reiterated the Board of Selectmen’s position that the fees should be set to cover the cost of camp. This was relayed to Colleen Kinkade at the May 26, 2020 Selectmen’s meeting. Yesterday he learned the camp fees were not adjusted to cover the cost of running the camp and were in fact, kept the same as last year even though fewer campers could attend and the cost would be more, due to COVID-19 precautions required by the office of Early Childhood. Bob felt that having the Recreation Commission ignore the Board of Selectmen when they had issued a spending freeze that all other departments were adhering to, this was not acceptable. Many departments had reduced their cost such as Public Works who will not hire seasonal staff, staff that is in their budget, in order to save funds during these unusual times. A spending freeze does not work if a department believes they are above others, not following guidance from the Board of Selectmen. The Board felt that the Recreation budget needed to be balanced by year end even if other

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expenses will need to be cut. It was agreed that the Recreation Commission and Recreation Director should be invited to the next Board of Selectmen meeting to discuss this issue.

Bob reported that the Town Hall offices are operating smoothly within the updated COVID-19 protocol measures. The Library reports that incoming patrons are heeding the measures in place. As the public has become accustomed to social distancing, face masks, installation of sneeze guards, moving forward it is hoped that town hall can open up more for tax collections in July.

In that a new fiscal year is upon us, the Shared Work Program application has been completed (see minutes of June 16). Those employees that still have their work hours reduced based on available hours and in line with their respective hours and skills, every effort will be made to distribute available hours as equally as possible. Those employees affected by the reduced hours and under the Shared Work Program will continue to accrue all benefits to the same extent as they would have otherwise. Once the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, those employees will have their hours restored to the same extent as pre-COVID-10 restrictions.

7. Correspondence: None

8. Old Business:

a. Town Continuation of Operations: RE: COVID-19, Governor Lamont's Executive Orders:

The latest update from the Governor's office is relative to loosening restrictions on indoor private gatherings - begins July 3, 2020. In mid-July, it addresses indoor and outdoor private/public gatherings. As such the BOS can begin to start thinking about early fall events that may come up for consideration. The Podunk Music Festival comes to mind, but this event normally doesn't reach the threshold attendance in the Special Event Ordinance requiring permit. Another event that may be able to happen would be the Black Bear Americana Music Festival in September, although things could change again depending on the number of COVID cases. Town Clerk, Barbara Breor shared a copy of the plan which addresses the COVID-19 pandemic that is being used by the managers of the "Big E" in Massachusetts. Their "plan" includes a 14 day quarantine for **all out-of-state** vendors, employees, musicians, etc., in addition to social distancing and other regulations that mirror those here in Connecticut. Bob suggested that the Board of Selectmen consider if liquor permits should be issue for larger events? Social distancing could be an issue depending on the availability of alcohol and the crowd in attendance.

8b. Appointments: None

9. New Business:

a. "Zoom" Special Town Meeting call to elect member of the Board of Education.

In that First Selectman Bob Valentine has received permission from Superintendent Chris Leone to use the Goshen Center School Gymnasium on Tuesday, June 30, 2020, at 8:00 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a Town Meeting, said meeting *will not be available via "Zoom"*. (See motion for amending the agenda item on page 1.) Chairs in the Gymnasium will be set 6' ft apart, Bob Valentine has had a

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conversation with Rob Rubbo, Director of the *Torrington Area Health District*, ensuring that all protocols under the Governor's Lamont's Executive Orders are in place.

Selectman Dexter S. Kinsella read aloud the formal "call" of the Special Town Meeting. Required signatures of the Board of Selectmen have been affixed. **See attached.**

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to adopt the "call" of the Special Town Meeting, to be held on Tuesday, June 30, 2020, at 8:00 p.m. at the Goshen Center School Gymnasium. Voted unanimous.

This Highlands Grant application for town owned land at 1097 East Street North and a adjoining parcel along with grant funds will appear on the agenda for the Board of Finance meeting of Wednesday, June 24, 2020.

10. Any Other Business:

a. Tax Collector's Report – May 31, 2020:

The Selectmen reviewed the Tax Collector's Report for May 31, 2020. Budgeted: Collection rate - collected less refunds vs. total budgeted is \$100.73%. The anticipated collections rate for 2019/2020 is 99.125%

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to receive the Tax Collector's Report for May 31, 2020 as presented. Voted unanimous.

b. Executive Session for the discussion of a Personnel Matter:

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to move into Executive Session at 5:39 p.m. Voted unanimous.

The Board of Selectmen returned to open session at 5:42 p.m. No action was taken.

11. Adjournment:

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to adjourn the meeting at 5:43 p.m. Voted unanimous.

Respectfully,

Lucille A. Paige, First Selectman's Aide