

Town of Goshen  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

**REGULAR MEETING**  
Tuesday, July 7, 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: Pat Reilly

**1 Call to order:** Robert P. Valentine called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

**2. Approval the minutes of the meeting of June 30, 2020:**

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to approve the minutes of June 30, 2020 . Voted unanimous.

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

**4. Approval of the Payroll and Warrant – July 9, 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 July 9, 2020 in the amount of \$75,731.07. Included in this warrant were the payroll in the amount of \$34,779.96 and the warrant in the amount of \$40,951.11. Voted unanimous. Included in the warrant were: Firematic – (Opti-filter, Opti-scene-light) \$3,787.60; McNeil Insurance – (Accident/Health) \$3,896.96; Torrington Area Health 2020-21- \$15,776.92.

**5. Public Comment:** None

**6. First Selectman’s Report:**

Bob Valentine announced that there have been limited cases of COVID-19 in Litchfield County. Only once case has been reported for Goshen in the past two weeks, one on 7/5.

Bob reported on the pre-audit meeting with *Sinnamon & Associates, LLC*. (new auditors for the town of Goshen) today. George R. Sinnamon reviewed the overall services and terms of engagement they are to provide to the town of Goshen. In this meeting was Debbie Franklin, (*King, King & Associates*) our accounting consultant. Our audit will be done by October 15<sup>th</sup> and then sent onto the Board of Finance for October 28<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Sinnamon noted and was very impressed with Goshen’s Policies & Procedures Manual.

Bob reported that Governor Lamont has decided to suspend further openings of public events, thus Phase 3 is “on hold” (suspended). Inasmuch as many other states have experienced spiked increase of cases of COVID-19, he doesn’t want Connecticut to experience the same.

**7. Correspondence:** None

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. Six-Month Employee Evaluation. Voted unanimous.

#### **8. Old Business:**

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

Inasmuch as Governor Lamont has suspended Phase 3 for the opening of additional businesses, it appears unlikely that the Goshen Stampede or other events hoping to use the Goshen Fair Grounds this time of year, will be able to move forward, although we will continue to monitor the situation. Bob has received additional applications for the Goshen Stampede requesting new dates for the event. Bob has asked the event organizer to spell out what Governor Executive orders would be applicable to the event as well as sector rules that have been put together by DECD.

Inasmuch as some further concern has been raised as to whether or not Municipalities can hold "public meetings", i.e. Goshen had recently held a public-attended Town Meeting, (Tom Stansfield of TAHD attended Goshen's Town Meeting). Through the efforts of Robert Rubbo, Director of Health of the TAHD, a response was received from the **Joint Information Center Team** on the protocol for meetings.

***The limitations on gatherings govern social and recreational gatherings and do not apply to meetings of public agencies, including municipal bodies. With that being said, masks and social distance guidance should be used and observed but it is up to the body to determine what they believe is the safest way to meet/how many individuals could be in the room safely.***

Goshen's Town Meeting had all protocols in place: a total of 63 people attended; a contact tracing log was in place; chairs were placed 6ft apart; masks were worn; sanitizers were available; temps were checked etc. Some have asked if future meetings could allow for a digital form of attendance and voting. Unfortunately lacking an executive order or change in current Statutes, it is not legally possible to do either.

##### **b. Appointments:** None

#### **9. New Business:**

##### **a. Six Month Employee Evaluation:**

Ryan Strazza, Children's Coordination at the Goshen Public Library, has received a positive evaluation from supervisor Lynn Steinmayer as of March 9, 2020.

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to approve a \$.50/hr. raise in pay, for Ryan Strazza, retroactive to the date of her six month review. Voted unanimous.

#### **10. Any Other Business:**

Chairman, Dexter Kinsella, gave an update on the Shane Morehouse Kinsella Memorial Fund Committee. Successful applications have been received and responded to. The Annual Shane M. Kinsella Race, held in September, has been cancelled (due to the COVID-19 pandemic). Other fund raising efforts are being

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

July 7, 2020

Page 3

considered. "Thank you" letters have been sent out donors. A letter will be sent out to those donors in January which can be used for tax purposes also thanking them.

Pat Reilly commented that the recent publicity regarding the student fees at Camp Cochipianne have resulted in a positive consequence – more campers have signed up for participation.

**11. Adjournment:**

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to adjourn the meeting at 5:33 p.m. Voted unanimous.

Respectfully,

Lucille A. Paige, First Selectman's Aide