

Town of Goshen
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, July 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: Sean O'Neil; Audrey Blondin, Esq.; Garret Harlow; John McKenna-Republican American, Luanne Zbinden

1 Call to order: Robert P. Valentine called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

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

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

3. Matter Arising Out of the Minutes: Selectman Kinsella asked how opening Town Hall is proceeding. Bob reported that everyone entering Town Hall has been very respectful of the protocols, signing in, taking temperatures, wearing masks, social distancing. In particular, today 22 taxpayers have made personal visits, most to pay their taxes, but the majority have responded by mailing in their payments.

4. Approval of the Payroll and Warrant – July 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 July 23, 2020 in the amount of \$49,431.12. Included in this warrant were the payroll in the amount of \$28,508.14 and the warrant in the amount of \$20,922.98. Voted unanimous. Included in the warrant were: Eversource - \$1,604.52; Pension Consultants (Investments)-\$5,950.00; Resource Management (Investment Advisors) - \$1,232.00; John Hancock (Employee pension contributions) \$4,631.77.

5. Public Comment: With reference to the Town Meeting in Goshen that took place on June 30, 2020, Goshen resident Audrey Blondin, Esq. took exception in that the Town Meeting was held in doors. She felt "disenfranchised" because she didn't feel comfortable attending an in person meeting. She felt that a "virtual" Town Meeting would have enabled more residents to attend. Bob explained that per Connecticut General Statutes, town's do not have the ability to have virtual Town Meetings. In addition, Governor Lamont's Executive Orders do not prohibit in person municipal meetings or set limits for those attending. The only requirement is that a municipality take all precautions available while conducting a Town Meeting and consult with the local health department, which First Selectman Valentine did. Bob Valentine detailed all the precautions taken and stated that to not have meetings and allowing town's people to vote on

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important matters would disenfranchise everyone. Unfortunately the board is not dealing with an ideal situation but it has and will continue to do its best in difficult circumstances.

6. First Selectman's Report:

Bob Valentine reported that progress is being made to finalize the application for FEMA reimbursement for the COVID-19 expenses. Expenses that are not reimbursed by FEMA will most likely be eligible for reimbursement from the State of Connecticut CRF (Corona Relief Fund). The CRF reimbursement application deadline is the end of August. Approximately \$20,000 has been spent on COVID-19 related expenses. Some of the expenses include overtime hours for staff, sneeze guards town hall and library, private VPN and computers for staff to work from home and IT support.

Bob reported that there are no new cases of COVID-19 in Goshen and no hospitalizations for the virus in Litchfield County at present.

The balance of the reimbursement from the State ConnDOT for the Milton Road project is expected this week.

Bob reported that a "special legislative session" for Connecticut will be held this week. Police Accountability will be one of the bills being put forward, along with Absentee Ballots. In that this affects public safety, implied immunity for police officers will be of great interest. All must be aware of any effects of loss of public safety, and other unintended consequences of the accountability bill.

In that it was noted that Public Works road maintenance expenditures came in somewhat over budget for chip seal and crack seal, Public Works Supervisor, Garret Harlow submitted a report of the work done in 2019/2020. Noted is that Mr. Harlow did as much work as possible with what funds were available. Because of the inability to shim Bartholomew Road as was hoped, the cost went over the estimate. Also, crack sealing done in the fall of 2019 was not adequately taken into account. In the future Public Works will try not to estimate the projects so close.

A Resolution of the Board of Selectmen concerning an Affordable Housing Technical Assistance grant from the State Department of Housing, was read aloud. (See Attached). Bob Valentine noted that he will be working with Goshen's Planning and Zoning Commission, Town planner Martin Connor and the NWCOG (Northwest Council of Governments) in this endeavor. In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to approve the resolution. Voted unanimous.

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7. Correspondence: None

8. Old Business:

a. Town Continuation of Operations: RE: COVID-19, Governor Lamont's Executive Orders: Phase 3 of Governor Lamont's Executive orders are still under suspension. At this time there are no new executive orders of town concern.

b. Appointments:

In a motion made by Robert P. Valentine, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was voted to appoint Chris Sanders to the EDC (Economic Development Commission) replacing Elizabeth Zanders. (term expires at Nov. 2022 Annual Meeting) Voted unanimous.

In a motion made by Robert P. Valentine, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was voted to appoint Heidi Koenig to the EDC replacing Bernard Harrington. (term expires at Nov. 2020 Annual Meeting). Voted unanimous.

9. New Business:

a. Goshen Stampede:

Sean O'Neil reported that he was waiting DECD (Department of Economic and Community Development) draft regulations for events such as the Stampede. Bob asked that he provide a baseline number for the attendance at the Stampede over the last two years in that any regulation would be predicated on a percentage of past attendees.

10. Any Other Business:

Lake Weed Committee update:

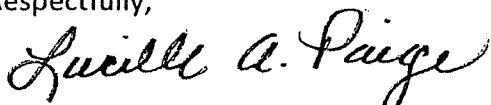
A "draw down" of Tyler Lake will take place September 14th. This will enable the lake to be "raked" of the weeds, thus enabling the shoreline homeowners to eliminate the weeds from their properties and also allow for repair of walls at the waters edge.

The raking of the weeds will help prevent new weed growth. This raking will also stabilize the shorelines. Waterways down the line have been notified accordingly. The refill of the lake will take place in February 2021.

11. Adjournment:

In a motion made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Voted unanimous.

Respectfully,



Lucille A. Paige, First Selectman's Aide

Received July 23, 2020 @ 9:38 AM

Attest Barbara L. Breen
Goshen Town Clerk

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
(AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER)
CERTIFIED RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

CERTIFICATION¹

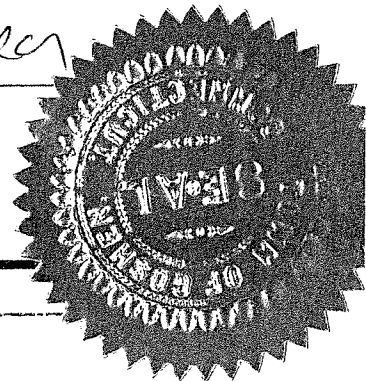
I, Barbara Breor, Town Clerk, Town of Goshen, certify that below is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Town of Goshen at a meeting of its Board of Selectmen duly convened on July 21, 2020 and which has not been rescinded or modified in any way whatsoever and is at present in full force and effect.

July 23, 2020

(Date)

Barbara X Breor

(Signature and Title of Official)



RESOLUTION²

WHEREAS, pursuant to Connecticut General Statute Section 8-30J, the State of Connecticut Department of Housing is authorized to extend financial assistance to a municipality for Affordable Housing Plan Technical Assistance Program and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Goshen (hereinafter, the "Municipality") make an application to the State for funding in the amount of \$15,000 (fifteen thousand dollars) pursuant to Connecticut General Statute Section 8-30J Program and to execute an Assistance Agreement for such purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE

Board of Selectmen of the Town of Goshen

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for the state financial assistance imposed by the Connecticut General Statutes, particularly CGS §§8-30J and;
2. That the filing of applications for Connecticut Affordable Housing Plan by Robert P. Valentine is hereby approved and that

First Selectman Robert P. Valentine

(Title and Name of Authorized Signatory for the Master Assistance Agreement)

is directed to execute and file such applications with the State of Connecticut Department of Housing, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required, to execute an Assistance Agreement for State financial assistance if such an agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, decisions, and revisions thereto, and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of Goshen.

¹ The Official who is named in and signs the Certification (typically the Town Clerk or Secretary) cannot be the same individual who is named in the Resolution as the Authorized Signatory for the Master Assistance Agreement (typically the Mayor or First Selectman).

² Attach a copy of the applicable page(s) of the municipal charter or other municipal governance document(s) which show that the Authorized Signatory named in the Resolution is authorized to enter into contracts/sign documents on behalf of the City/Town