

Town of Goshen
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, September 8, 2020

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

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

OTHERS: None

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 September 1, 2020:

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to approve the minutes of September 1, 2020. Voted unanimous.

3. Matter Arising Out of the Minutes: None

4. Approval of the Payroll and Warrant – September 10, 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 September 10, 2020 in the amount of \$42,291.21. Included in this warrant were the payroll in the amount of \$23,423.71 and the warrant in the amount of \$18,867.50. Voted unanimous. Included in the warrant were: Mountain Top Trucking (processed gravel, Tamarack Lane) \$7,060.59.

5. Public Comment: None

6. First Selectman's Report:

From a conference call with First Selectman, Litchfield, Denise Raap and Superintendent of Schools – Region 6, Chris Leone, Bob Valentine, First Selectman, Morris, Tom Weik and others a discussion was the potential need to have better “broadband” capabilities for the area, by municipalities paying for the infrastructure and contracting a company to manage the service. The approximate cost would be \$50K per road mile. Given that Altice/Optimum appears to have little interest in improving its service, many people have expressed dissatisfaction with the current internet services provided by Altice/Optimum. The question discussed was how important is it to create better internet service in Goshen and the region given the investment that would need to be made. For Goshen alone the cost is estimated to be \$3.2 million just to install the infrastructure. Would property values be enhanced? Selectman Kinsella stated that “virtual”, remote learning, and working from home are practices that are going to continue and grow, hence there will be a demand for this type of capability. He has observed that around this area, trees/branches are hanging on the “cable” wires indicating that ALTICE/Optimum has not been committed to maintain its infrastructure. Bob concurred in that he has received many

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calls from residents having problems with their ALTICE/Optimum services. The service appears to have been degraded by more and more people trying to use the internet to conduct business.

If a municipally owned, fiber backed services were to be created, residents would still need to subscribe and pay a monthly fee for the service. This would be in addition to what they would pay in taxes to pay back long-term bonds to needed to create the service.

Bob was told Norfolk will have ballot question on the upcoming November elections ballot asking residents to fund such a project in Norfolk. Selectman Mark Harris stated new technology is constantly being developed and he questioned if this is the right technology or should town wait to see what new and innovative options become available.

7. Correspondence: None

8. Old Business:

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

There are no new cases of COVID-19 to report.

8b. Appointments: None

9. New Business: None

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 5:19 p.m. Voted unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucille A. Paige, First Selectman's Aide