

Town of Goshen
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, September 22, 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: John McKenna, Republican American; Audrey Blondin

1 Call to order: Robert P. Valentine called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

2. Approval the minutes of the meeting of September 15, 2020:

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to approve the minutes of September 15, 2020. Voted unanimous.

3. Matter Arising Out of the Minutes: None

4. Approval of the Payroll and Warrant – September 24, 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 24, 2020 in the amount of \$86,625.49. Included in this warrant were the payroll in the amount of \$24,723.33, and the warrant in the amount of \$61,902.16. Voted unanimous. Included in the warrant were: Connecticare (health insurance) \$13,342.35; Oddo Print Shop- *Town Topics* \$4,895.00; S&S Asphalt (Tamarack Lane) \$18,803.40.

5. Public Comment:

Ms. Audrey Blondin had questions regarding the upcoming Town Meeting (Tuesday, 9-22) and the Conn. General Statutes that currently do not allow them to be held “virtually”. Goshen is one of 60 municipalities that are governed by state statutes for annual and special town meetings (Sec. 7-1 & 7-7) Bob Valentine and Ms. Blondin discussed a collaboration wherein they would advocate to have the Governor issue an executive order to allow statutory municipalities to have special and annual town meeting both in person and or virtually via electronic means. In that this is a non-partisan issue and the current pandemic has brought this subject to the forefront.

6. First Selectman’s Report:

Bob put together a response to Emily Olson’s (*Register Citizen* newspaper) query regarding in-person vs virtual town meetings. He provided specific draft language for amending Section 7-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

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Bob Valentine will meet with Esme Lombard of Optimum/ALTICE, Thursday, September 24rd regarding the lowered bandwidth availability and other service issues to Goshen residents due to the increases of “working from home” individuals and students enrolled in “virtual” education classes. The complaints from customers were overwhelming bringing this issue to the forefront to their local governments as to what can be done under state statutes regarding utility providers. Bob is hoping to garner some insight as to plans from Optimum/ALTICE in addressing this important issue going forward. Perhaps a future meeting among Bob’s colleagues in neighboring towns can come together to discuss other venues to provide bandwidth for residential users.

A meeting will be held Thursday, September 24th with Joselyn Aire of NWCOG, Marty Connor, Town Planner, and Bob to discuss the process of creating an affordable housing plan as required by Conn law. Goshen recently received a \$15,000 grant to facilitate creating a plan.

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: Bob reported that there exists a vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals. He urged the Selectmen to solicit among their friends and residents of Goshen those who may be interested in serving on the ZBA.

9. New Business: None

10. Any Other Business:

Bob reminded everyone of the Town Meeting taking place tonight at the Goshen Fair Grounds, beginning at 8:00 p.m.

11. Adjournment:

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to adjourn the meeting at 5:29 p.m. Voted unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucille A. Paige, First Selectman’s Aide