

Town of Goshen
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, October 13, 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: Chris Sanders, Cindy Barret, Darlene Demetri, Bernie Harrington, Audrey Blondin, Lynn Steinmayer, Ann Green, Judy Armstrong, C. Daniellczuk, Sara Tobin, John McKenna-Republican American

1 Call to order: Robert P. Valentine called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

2. Approval the minutes of the meeting of October 6, 2020:

In a **motion** made by Mark S. Harris, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was **voted** to approve the minutes of October 6, 2020. Voted unanimous.

3. Matters Arising Out of the Minutes: None

4. Approval of the Payroll and Warrant – October 15, 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 October 15, 2020 in the amount of \$49,988.45. Included in this warrant were the payroll in the amount of \$13,962.30, and the warrant in the amount of \$36,026.15 Voted unanimous. Included in the warrant were: John Hancock (Pension) \$4,683.53; Tax Collector (Canaan) \$3,960.60.

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was voted to accept the request to add to the agenda under **item 8. Old Business, 8c Dried Winter Sand Bid**. Voted unanimous.

In a motion made by Mark S. Harris, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was voted to accept the request to add to the agenda under **item 9, New Business, 9b.Town Aid Road – Dead Tree Removal**. Voted unanimous.

5. Public Comment: Audrey Blondin stated her support for the *Sustainable CT Program*. Further she reported that she is awaiting word from Gov. Lamont regarding the “hybrid/virtual” Town meetings for municipalities.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

October 13, 2020

Page 2

Cindy Barrett reported the problem of speeding traffic on Beach Street. She added that there are many children that reside on that road and it's a dangerous situation. Traffic is increased from Friday night onto late Sunday evening.

6. First Selectman's Report:

The Household Hazardous Waste collection day was very successful. The event was very busy, over 700 cars participated.

The work on the audit continues with no problems. Bob has reviewed the MD&A (Management Discussion & Analysis) along with Chris King and Debbie Franklin (King, King & Assoc.) and had forwarded it back to George Sinnomin for inclusion in the audit report.

Senator Craig Miner is assisting Bob with an issue concerning traffic accidents between Allyn Rd and Bartholomew Hill Rd., by contacting ConnDot to see if there are things that could be done to elevate the issue.

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

8c. Dried Screened Road Sand bids:

The Board of Selectmen received a letter from Public Works Supervisor, Garret Harlow requesting the Board reject the single bid received from Stone Construction for the Dried Screened Road Sand. In that only one bid was received for this item, it did not meet the Purchasing Policy goal of receipt of (3) bids for consideration.

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to accept the request by the Supervisor of Public Works to reject the bid submitted by Stone Construction Company and re-bid the dried screened road sand. Voted unanimous.

9. New Business:

9a. Sustainable CT

From literature submitted from Sustainable CT; Sustainable CT is a voluntary certification program to recognize thriving and resilient Connecticut Municipalities. An independently

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

October 13, 2020

Page 3

funded, grassroots, municipal effort, Sustainable CT provides a wide-ranging menu of best practices. Communities choose Sustainable CT actions, implement them, and earn points toward certification.

In ensuing discussion from those town members attending this meeting (via zoom/virtual) four members of the audience pointed out the benefit of receiving matching grants from this program and their interest in serving on a Sustainable CT team. Neighboring towns of Cornwall, Litchfield and Burlington have signed onto Sustainable CT.

Regarding *matching* grants, Bob Valentine, while recognizing the possible benefits of this program, cautioned the challenges ahead for Goshen. There are several things that will almost certainly affect the towns expenses and its ability to hold the current mill rate of 19.6, making it less likely there will be funds for new initiatives, even though there may be a potential for matching grants. In particular, very few of the current year's requests for capital were granted in order to hold the current mill rate. Those items will almost certainly be back next year along with other requests for things such as fire trucks, ambulance and PW trucks and equipment. In addition, the Region 6 assessment for Goshen will be increased again next year due to additional students from Goshen attending Region 6. Bob also mentioned the importance of not duplicating efforts that are already being done.

The board agreed to review additional information on Sustainable CT and to have further discussion on the subject at a later date.

9b. Town Aid Road (TAR) Fund – Dead Trees along Goshen Roads:

Supervisor of Public Works, Garret Harlow, submitted a request to the Board of Selectmen for an appropriation of \$36,000 from T.A.R. (Town Aid Road) to fund tree removal on town roads. Due to the town of Goshen experiencing the rapid loss and continued decline of Ash Trees, due to the Emerald Ash Borer, and loss of many old Maple Trees along Goshen roadways, Mr. Harlow has requested this funding to hire Distinctive Tree Care (DTC) of South Windsor. This company has specialized heavy equipment for machine cutting and whole chipping of trees. In driving number of roads in Goshen, it was determined an average of 40-50 trees per day can be cut. \$160-\$200 dollars per tree realizes a *significant savings* over the current method of bucket truck tree removal.

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to grant Public Works request of not to exceed \$36,000 from the T.A.R. Fund and proceed to hire DTC to follow the tree removal plan agreed upon. Voted unanimous.

10. Any Other Business: None

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

October 13, 2020

Page 4

11. Adjournment:

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to adjourn the meeting at 5:15 p.m. Voted unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucille A. Paige, First Selectman's Aide