Town of Goshen

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**Tuesday, December 15, 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: Cindy Barrett

**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 December 8, 2020:**

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to approve the minutes of December 8, 2020 as presented. Voted unanimous.

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

**Approval of the Payroll and Warrant – December 17, 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 December 17, 2020, in the amount of $55,286.91. Included in this warrant were the payroll in the amount of $12,394.95 and the warrant in the amount of $42,891.96. Voted unanimous. Included in the warrant were: MIRA (waste removal) - $11,923.73; USA Hauling (recycling)-$7,330.50; Yucatech (conference room zoom meeting setup and general IT services)- $10,272.07.

**5. Public Comment:** None

**6. First Selectman’s Report:**

There continues to be an substantial uptick in the COVID-19 cases in Goshen- currently 68 cases from March to present. At a Town Hall staff meeting held yesterday, it was decided to close Town Hall to the public and revert back to by appointment only. Residents who have business with departments will be encourage to contact the department and make arrangements before coming to Town Hall. Fortunately, much of town business can be conducted online, by phone or mail. Bob spoke with Henrietta Horvay, Chairman, Library Board, who will bring the closing information to the members at their meeting tomorrow and ask that the library board revert back to by appointment and use of their book drop for patrons to receive books. The “Shared Work Program” that was implemented for library staff who are unable to work their regular hours due to COVIV-19 restrictions to receive partial unemployment, has been extended 6 months. Both Selectmen Mark Harris, and Dexter Kinsella, asked to be noted in these meeting minutes as giving their full support to these closing plans.

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Bob pointed out that the screen for use in conducting Hybrid meetings in the conference room has now been mounted to the wall for permanent use by all Boards and Commissions.

Bob Valentine reported he will be attending a meeting concerning the COVID-19 vaccine facilitated by Rob Rubbo of TAHD. Plans are being formulated to administer the vaccine. Priority will be given to hospital staff, nursing home and EMS workers. He will have more information next week.

Bob explained the potential of “ransomware” and other malicious computer attacks that some municipalities have experienced. In consultation with Bob Leigh of Yucatech (our IT consultants), Mr. Leigh felt that the best defense would be to “separate some of our operating systems from our server and utilize cloud-based programs offered by *Vision Appraisal* and *Quality Data.* Programs used by the Assessor and Tax collector. Essentially separating some of our eggs and not having the all in one basket. By doing so, if the server were to be hacked, then those programs would not be affected. Costs for this proactive separation plan range from $3,500 to $4,000 for each program. This cost would be added to the current software license fees. In the future, other software programs will be looked at to separate from our server to cloud based programs. Steve Nadeau from CIRMA advised hacking into servers – cyberattack- can be very costly – our current coverage for cyber-attacks has a deductible of $100,000.

Bob will ask the Board of Finance tomorrow night (Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2020) to appropriate the necessary funds to facilitate the change for the Tax and Assessor offices.

Bob has been working on reconciling the accounts for the Goshen Senior Bus to maximize grant opportunities for same.

Recently the NWCOG conducted a zoom meeting with area legislators, to promote the COG’s legislative priorities before the legislature convenes in January. *Connecticut has an over $4 billion dollar shortfall for the next biennium budget.* During the legislative sessionresidents will be able to testify via electronic means to bringing more input into the legislative sessions regarding proposed bills relative to budget spending, income, etc. Of concern is the potential of the legislature cutting municipal grants to balance the state budget and the necessary local tax increases that would be needed to balance municipal budgets.

**7. Correspondence**: None

**8. Old Business:**

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

Bob Valentine has been working with ACIR (**A**dvisory **C**ommission on **I**ntergovernmental **R**elations) to draft considerations/revisions to Governor’s Executive Orders. Of importance is modifying current statutes to allow for “Hybrid” municipal meetings post COVID-19.

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 **8b.** Appointments:

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to reappoint the law firm of Roraback & Roraback for town counsel. Voted unanimous.

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to re-appoint Christopher Zavagnin and Jeff Lindstrom to the WPCA (Water Pollution Control Authority) for a two year term ending 10/31/2023. Voted unanimous.

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to appoint Susan Rinaldi and reappoint Iain Kinsella to the Conservation Commission for four year terms ending 10/31/2024. Voted unanimous.

The Board of Selectmen would like to extend their sincere gratitude to Anders Nygren who has served for many years as Chairman of the Conservation Commission. His long hours, hard work and dedication to our land are visible to everyone. Andy, please accept our sincere thanks and appreciation for all the good work you have done.

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to reappoint Ted Panasci to the Building Board of Appeals for a five year term ending 10/31/2015. Voted unanimous.

Openings are available for Recycling Coordinator for RATS Committee and representative for Northwest Mental Health Commission.

**9. New Business:** None

**10. Any Other Business:**

Denise Leclair, has completed and passed the four required State Courses and Exams and has passed the Cumulative CT Tax Collectors Exam. As was agreed upon at her last review, she will be promoted to Assistant Tax Collector II, with an increased pay rate to be retroactive to December 1, 2020.

**11. Adjournment:**

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to adjourn the meeting at 5:41 p.m. Voted unanimous.

Lucille A. Paige, First Selectman’s Aide