

**Town of Goshen**  
***BOARD OF SELECTMEN***  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**Tuesday, January 12, 2021**

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

Zoom Conference Link: <https://zoom.us/j/379444182>

Meeting ID #: 379-444-182

Option 2: Dial-in number: 1-929-205-6099

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

**OTHERS:** Cindy Barrett, John McKenna, Republican American

**1. Call to order:** Robert P. Valentine called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

**2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of January 5, 2021:**

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to approve the minutes of January 5, 2021 as presented. Voted unanimous.

**3. Matters Arising Out of the Minutes:**

**4. Approval of the Payroll and Warrant – January 14, 2021**

In a **motion** made by Mark S. Harris, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was **voted** to approve the total warrant and payroll of January 14, 2021 in the amount of \$57,774.00. Included in this warrant were the payroll in the amount of \$27,253.11, and the warrant in the amount of \$30,520.89. Voted unanimous.

Included in the warrant were: City of Torrington (Animal Control) \$4,961.44; John Hancock (Pensions) \$5,596.88; Mountain Top Trucking (Stone) \$1,040.44.

**5. Public Comment:** None

**6. First Selectman's Report:**

COVID-19 hospitalizations last week were 11 in Litchfield County - *currently* that number is up to 22. COVID-19 cases in Goshen record only 1 additional case.

Bob has received an e-mail update from Rob Rubbo (TAHD). **Phase 1b** of the vaccinations will begin this week, it will include individuals 75 yrs. of age and older. A process for registering and scheduling clinic appointments to receive the vaccine will be unveiled later this week. For those individuals who do not have a computer to log on for an appointment, we will be working with Goshen Community Care and Hospice to help facilitate registrations.

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If there are openings left in the Phase 1a registrations, they can be filled with Phase 1b eligible patients. Bob will be participating in a conference call with the Governor tomorrow. More information may be available then.

Bob Valentine has received a second "DRAFT" of Goshen Compensation Review for 2021 from Randi Frank Consulting, LLC. The salaries for the town of Goshen employees were compared to the salary schedules from NWCOG and CCM (CT Conference of Municipalities) with the goal of Goshen employees remaining competitive. It was found the Town Clerk Assistant 1 and Administrative Assistant/Office Manager may need to be reclassified. Bob will have a meeting tomorrow with Ms. Frank. Final recommendations will be made to the Selectmen and a merit budget will be presented to the Board of Finance for their consideration.

Bob is working with Debbie Franklin (Accounting Consultant) and Gordon Ridgway, First Selectman of Cornwall, regarding the Goshen-Cornwall Senior Bus grant. They will be reviewing expenses and grant accounting.

Governor Lamont will be notifying municipal leaders on what changes, if any, there may be regarding COVID-19 regulations after Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. In addition, legislative changes concerning COVID-19 executive orders will be proposed by ACIR (Advisory Commission in Intergovernmental Relations) to codify the executive orders in statute allowing for the continued use of digital meetings including hybrid town meetings.

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to add to the agenda under 9. New Business; 9b. Zoom Hacking and 9c. Water/Septic Issues. Voted unanimous.

In a **motion** made by Robert P. Valentine, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was **voted** to add to the agenda under item 10. Any other Business, 10a. Executive Session for the Discussion of a personnel matter. Voted unanimous.

**7. Correspondence:** None

**8. Old Business:**

**a. Town Continuation of Operations RE: COVID-19 Governor Lamont's Executive Orders:** Most Executive Orders have been continued until February. See page 1.

**b. Appointments:** None

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### **9. New Business:**

#### **9a. Budgets: 2021-2022**

The following budgets were discussed.

Board of Assessment Appeals	Land Use Enforcement
Fire Marshall	Treasurer
Miscellaneous	Water Pollution Control Authority
Inland Wetlands Commission	Welfare

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to accept the Budgets 2021-2022 for presentation to the Board of Finance for their review and consideration. Voted unanimous.

#### **9b. Zoom Meeting Hacking:**

Mark Harris brought to the boards attention that a “Zoom” Planning and Zoning meeting held in the town of Morris was hacked recently. The hacking included inappropriate messages, comments. Bob explained the process of managing a zoom meeting in order to minimize potential issues with zoom meetings, and demonstrated on the equipment used in this meeting pointing out a button labeled “remove”. Once the “remove” button is pressed, that person/hacker cannot come back into the meeting. Bob recommends that everyone operating “zoom” equipment to become familiar all aspects of zoom meetings in order to manage meeting to avoid the issued seen in Morris.

#### **9c. Water Septic Issues:**

Aquarian Water supplies water to residents on Tyler Heights. That system was recently upgraded and as a result chlorine is now being added to the water. Residents are concerned with the amount of chlorine being added. In addition, there are questions as to whether the amount of chlorine being added would affect the septic systems for those houses receiving water. The board felt questions concerning the amount of chlorine should be brought to Aquarian for resolution. If residents continue to have concerns that are not addressed, the board would look into the situation.

### **10. Any Other Business:**

#### **10a. Executive Session for Discussion of Personnel:**

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to moved into executive session for the discussion of a personnel matter at 5:40 p.m. Voted unanimous. The Board of Selectmen returned to open session at 6:05 p.m. No action was taken.

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**11. Adjournment:**

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to adjourn the meeting at 6:06 p.m. Voted unanimous.

Lucille A. Paige, First Selectman's Aide