

TOWN OF GOSHEN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

REGULAR MEETING

March 17, 2020

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

OTHERS: Jim Withstandley, Chris Sanders, Virginia Perry, Dawn Wilkes, Sean O'Neal, Tom Stansfield-TAHD.

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

In a **motion** made by Mark S. Harris, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was **voted** to add to the agenda item 2a. Approve the minutes of the emergency meeting of March 14, 2020; Item 8c Mowing Bids recommendation; item 9b. Tax Collector's Report – February 29, 2020. Voted unanimous.

2. Approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 10, 2020:

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to approve the regular minutes of March 10, 2020 as submitted. Voted unanimous.

Approve the minutes of the emergency meeting of March 14, 2020:

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to approve the minutes of the emergency meeting of March 14, 2020 as submitted. Voted unanimous.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes: None

4. Approval of the Payroll and Warrant -March 19, 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 March 19, 2020 in the amount of \$64,882.94. Included in this warrant were the payroll in the amount of \$11,121.49 and the warrant in the amount of \$53,761.45. Voted unanimous. Included were payments for: John Hancock (Employees Insurance) \$4,332.29; MIRA (Tipping Fees trash) \$15,789.09; Stirling Health Insurance (Employees health insurance) \$17,469.20.

5. Public Comment: Regarding public gathering limits due to the coronavirus, Sean O'Neal inquired about the Goshen Stampede Special Events application. Bob Valentine stated that the application information was not complete until earlier in the day and that a legal notice will need to be run before the application can be taken up by the Board of Selectmen. The legal notice will be run this week and the application will be on the agenda for next Tuesday's Selectmen's meeting.

6. First Selectman's Report:

Bob Valentine emphasized that information concerning the coronavirus emergency planning is "fluid" – at this time. As of today, 40 residents in Connecticut have been reported as having been tested positive for the disease. Bob reported that this past weekend was spent communicating with: Betsy Gara, Executive Director of COST (Connecticut Council of Small Towns), and Joe Delong Executive Director CCM (Connecticut Council of Municipalities) concerning the *Governor's Executive Orders* addressing issues concerning COVID-19. Bob is purchasing online services and conference call services for boards and commissions to use for their meetings. Board of Selectmen meetings as well as all other board and commission meetings will be conducted electronically for the foreseeable future.

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Bob also purchased 3 laptops which are being setup so employees can work from home through the towns private network. The Goshen Library is closed until the end of the month. Two Library Aides will be available during regular hours if residents have questions on how to download books from home.

TOWN HALL IS OPEN FOR NOW. Residents are urged to use the various online capabilities the town has or call, rather than a personal visit to Town Hall. Taxes can be mailed and the post mark will be used for when they are received. Public Works Department will not be open to the public. Bob emphasized that he has been in contact with the Governor's Office; Torrington Area Health Department; Fire Chief, Barry Hall; Jim O'Leary, Emergency Management Director. Bob complimented Richard Reis, President of the Woodridge Lake Property Owners Association, for his prompt action in closing the WL Club House. Doing so will help with slowing the spread of COVID-19.

Selectman Kinsella asked about employees who may need to stay home or be quarantined, if they will be paid. Bob said that they would and it is anticipated that Federal disaster funds would be available to offset those expenses. Kinsella stated that Goshen has always had a strong sense of community, neighbors checking for the needs of their neighbors and that this attitude will get all of us through this.

7. Correspondence: None

8. Old Business:

8a. COVID-19 Update: See page 1

8b. Appointments: None

8c. Bid Recommendations:

Cemetery Mowing and Maintenance:

After careful review by Public Works Supervisor, Garret Harlow, Mr. Harlow recommends entering into a contract with Valley's #1 Lawn Care, LLC of West Hartford, CT., based on this bidder's last two years performance, and this vendor was the second lowest bidder for this contract.

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to contract the Cemetery Mowing and Maintenance to Valley's #1 Lawn Care, LLC. Voted unanimous.

Municipal Lawn Mowing & Brush Hogging:

After careful review by Public Works Supervisor, Garret Harlow, Mr. Harlow recommends entering into a contract with Haeley, LLC of Litchfield, CT. Haeley, LLC was the low bidder on this contract.

In a **motion** made by Mark S. Harris, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was **voted** to enter into a contract for the Municipal Lawn Mowing & Brush Hogging with Hawley, LLC of Litchfield, CT. Voted unanimous.

9. New Business:

9a. Emergency Declaration:

A copy of the **DECLARATION OF LOCAL, STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR THE TOWN OF GOSHEN, CONNECTICUT**, was reviewed by the Board members. It contains the local, national and state declarations, relative to the COVID-19 global pandemic. The full Declaration is posted on the Town of Goshen Website.

9.b Tax Collector's Report – February 29, 2020:

The Board members reviewed the Tax Collector's Report. The Collected Rate – collected vs. total budgeted is 102.02% of the budgeted tax collections. The town budgets 99.25% collections.

In a **motion** made by Mark S. Harris, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was **voted** to receive the Tax Collector's Report – February 29, 2020. Voted unanimous.

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 5:39 p.m. Voted unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucille A. Paige, First Selectman's Aide.