

Town of Goshen  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**February 27, 2024**

**REGULAR MEETING**

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

**PRESENT:** Todd M. Carusillo, Scott Olson, Dexter S. Kinsella (zoom)

**OTHERS:** Dawn Wilkes; Patrick Lucas; Marissa Wright; Henrietta Horvay; Audrey Blondin; Michael Leonard; Marianne Stilson; Michael Kelly; Johanna Kimball; Janet Hooper; Lee Kilmer; Joyce Mowrey; Marissa Wright; Eric Warner, *Goshen News*; Pat Reilly; Kathleen Kennedy; Judi Armstrong; Bernie Harrington; Cindy Barrett; Garret Harlow; Robin Christopher; Mary Orlando; John Carroll

**1. Call to order:** Todd M. Carusillo called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of February 20, 2024:** The motion was to approve the minutes as amended by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Scott Olson. There was some confusion of the over if the book was actually *removed* from the Library, not banned. Renee Kujawski name was misspelled under public comment. Motion was carried.

**3. Matters arising out of the minutes:** None

**4. Approval of the Payroll and Warrant – February 29, 2024:**

In a **motion** made by Scott Olson, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was **voted** to approve the total warrant and payroll of February 29, 2024 in the amount of \$50,198.12. Included in this warrant were the payroll in the amount of \$13,246.91 and the warrant in the amount of \$36,246.21. Voted unanimous. Also included in this warrant: Connecticare Ins.- \$17,836.12; Dime Oil - \$6,885.97; Yucatech – \$1,945.45.

**5. First Selectman’s Report:**

CT State Police: three (3) men attempted to break into cars and a shed located on Bently Circle around 1:00 a.m. It was also reported State Police made 2 calls to Weldon Court because a man was looking windows at 2:00 a.m. First Selectman Todd Carusillo received calls reporting issues relating to the “Blight” – at School Hill Road, Route 4 and Hall Meadow.

Todd reported that he is receiving calls regarding bears on private property i.e., bears are coming out of hibernation. Bears are ripping down bird feeders, garbage containers, walking around chicken coups, etc.

*Eversource* stopped by Todd’s office talking about the tree trimming activity and permission to distribute forms. Residents should fill out the forms and send them back to *Eversource*.

Todd will be meeting with WLPOA and their Safety Committee. Topic: Speed bumps or speed cameras to curb the speeding around the Lake.

**6. Public Comment:**

Mike Leonard feels the town property on 190 Sharon Turnpike should be kept for “open space”.

Marissa Wright read aloud her letter regarding the Sharon Turnpike property. She stated that the public was overwhelmingly against the building. She stated taxpayers are not in favor of it. She stated the Public Works Dept. purchased a piece of equipment that is too large to be housed in their current garage. Ms. Wright had an online petition with over 200 signatures.

Marianne Stilson asked if in that it was not agreed upon by the majority.....Keep grant?  
The population of Goshen is approximately 3,165; 200 people do not represent a majority.

Janet Hooper stated none of us know what is going on; this subject seems to have been put on pause and an assessment should be done wherein the residents know where we are on this project.

Robin Christopher feels a needs assessment should be done; reiterate those needs.

Patrick Lucas stated he is against a “blight ordinance”. It’s a slippery slope. Often farm and agricultural equipment are seen as blight, when in fact this equipment is still in use and vital to the farm property. He has an old 1983 Chevy truck that is very much in use on the property.

**7. Correspondence:** None

**8. Old Business:**

**8a. Recreation Director w/ List:** Todd announced this item was *rescheduled* to the March 5, 2024 meeting of the BOS.

**8b. Appointments:** None

**8c. Budgets:** None

**9. New Business:**

**9a. Discussion regarding Housing Committee:**

Scott Olson began the discussion by stating the town should begin to form a new Housing Committee to produce a new plan to take Goshen through the next five (5) years. The previous housing plan was done in **2022**. The Planning & Zoning did not vote to incorporate it into plan of conservation and development. Launching a “Housing Plan Committee” would garner information from our community – which has to be completed by 2027. The POCD would take it before the P&Z and incorporate it, thereby having a “housing plan”. The housing plan would consider “affordable housing” into the POCD.

**The motion: Scott Olson** - The new Goshen Housing Committee (no alternates) would consist of a pool of people who have an interest of serving; have only five (5) members; 2 Democrats, 2 Republicans, and 1 unaffiliated all reporting to the Board of Selectmen – alternates; to review and update Goshen’s current housing plan.

This housing plan would be something that Planning & Zoning would be encouraged to adopt. Scott Olson stated that Title 67 monies would be protected. Todd Carusillo stated this new committee would be selected and completed by Friday, April 5, 2024. This new committee will be reviewed by the BOS for updates to the current housing needs, **Seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella** -one big concern is critique/review of Goshen’s housing plan. Voted unanimous.

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Scott Olson, it was **voted** to add to the agenda 9b. Preserve Steap Grant. Voted unanimous.

**9b. Preserve (Public Works Dept.) Steap Grant:**

Garret Harlow, Supervisor or Public Works Dept. stated the current PW facility is boxed in by flood plain, no development can take place. Town did not buy it. The Fire Dept. did not go forward with new construction on the Sharon Turnpike property, thus four bays were eliminated from the Public Works Bldg. initial plan. Hence, the original measurement i.e. 12,800 sq. ft. is down to 96,000 sq. ft. Plan now is to move forward with a smaller building than originally plan. In a **motion** by Dexter S. Kinsella (for discussion purposes), seconded by Scott Olson it was added to the agenda. Voted unanimous. This purchase was a “placeholder.”

Mr. Harlow stated that Ms. Wright’s written statements under *Public Comment* were in error. 38 Torrington Road, the current residence of Goshen’s Public Works Dept. is in a *flood zone*. In addition, the overly large piece of construction equipment is *not owned by Goshen*, nor the Public Works Dept. The equipment is **owned by the NWCOG** that has difficulty finding places to store it.

In a **motion** made by Scott Olson, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was **voted** to add to the agenda 9c. Blight Ordinance. Motion carried.

**9c. Blight Ordinance:**

Dexter Kinsella stated that “blight” is a subjective issue; we cannot stop someone’s right to do business. Todd stated we need to protect farmers in town. To those who feel there is a problem with blight in their neighborhood, put it in writing and send to the First Selectman’s office.

**10. Other Business:** None

**11. Adjournment:** In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Scott Olson, it was **voted** to adjourn the meeting at 5:42 p.m. Voted unanimous.

Respectively submitted:

Lucille A. Paige, First Selectman’s Aide