

GOSHEN BOARD OF FINANCE  
MINUTES REGULAR MEETING

Date: January 27, 2016

**PRESENT:** Allan D. Walker, James Korner, Ned Bixler, Edward Davidson, Richard Reis and alternates Russell Hurley and George Zeidenstein.

**OTHERS:** First Selectman Robert Valentine

**EXCUSED:** Scott Tillmann

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Allan D. Walker called the meeting to order at 7: 30 P.M.

**IN A MOTION MADE BY** Ned Bixler seconded by Richard Reis to seat alternate George Zeidenstein as a regular member. There was no discussion, **VOTED UNANIMOUS.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 16, 2015:** The following corrections will be noted under the minutes – Page 3, first paragraph, second sentence: The bathrooms in the main building are in poor condition and must be updated. Corrected to: **The bathroom's in the administrative building are in poor condition and must be updated.** Corrections to be made on page 1 and on page 3 for the spelling of Allan Walker's name. Allen will be corrected to **Allan.** Approval of the amended minutes made by James Korner and seconded by Edward Davidson, there were no other corrections noted. **THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS AMENDED.** One abstention: Richard Reis

**TAX COLLECTORS REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING**

**12/31/2015:** The Tax Collectors report was received and reviewed by the Board at this meeting. There were no questions or comments. Board Chairman Allan Walker noted that the Board of Finance reviewed and received the December 31, 2015 report from the Tax Collector.

**REVIEW OF PROPOSED REPORTS FOR THE PERIOD**

**ENDING 12/31/2015:** The minutes showed Board receipt and review of the Budget report prepared by Financial Consultant, Debbie Franklin. Bob Valentine noted that Water Pollution Control is over budget by 17,334%, he noted that the Water Pollution Control Authority previously budgeted at \$1.00 to hold line item, and is currently updating plans because of work being done by Woodridge Sewer District. Also noted by Bob Valentine that Town Topics (town newsletter) is at 72.95 % currently. The anticipated 2 additional editions before year-end will place this over budget. Board Chairman Allan Walker noted that, the Superintendent

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had presented his proposed budget to the Board Of Ed. and that Goshen's share would increase by \$61,740. There was some discussion with regard to the student population or teachers salary having an impact on the increase and concluded with the implementations of new an improved program's. Allan Walker mentioned statutory requirements that Boards of Finance are to have input before negotiations with teachers salaries and the opportunity to be invited to such meetings. It was then requested that a reminder be set so that a letter goes out to the Board Of Education for Region 6 requesting the Boards of Finance be present at such negotiations.

### **BUDGET/ FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 12/31/2015:**

Allan Walker stated that the Budget Projections were to be reviewed. Where wages are posted, they are not to be considered until the end of the process. Ned Bixler requested that it be considered that an additional line called "Actual" be added so as to compare to previous budgets. Discussion went on to conclude that it would be helpful in determining if the Town had over budgeted or under budgeted as well as to determine if enough was budgeted for certain items.

### **BOARD REVIEW OF 2016-2017 PROPOSED BUDGETS:**

Noted, were changes in employee compensation, contractor's rates and elected officials will be addressed towards the end of the budget process.

### **BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APEALS – DEPARTMENT 32**

Current budget 2015/2016 \$2,850.00, proposed budget 2016/2017 \$2,400.00. A decrease of \$450.00 due to decreases in board wages and postage.

### **LAND USE ENFORCEMENT – DEPARTMENT 43**

Current budget 2015/2016 \$17,520.00, proposed budget 2016/2017 \$17,420.00 a decrease of \$100.00 due to changes in the IRS Mileage Reimbursement from \$0.575 to \$0.52. Bob Valentine noted that changes to Officer Contracted Services, historically are done when salaries are adjusted later in the budget process.

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**FIRE COMMISSIONERS – DEPARTMENT 27**

Current budget 2015/2016 \$615.00, proposed budget 2016/2017 \$1,116.75. An increase of \$501.75 due to an increase in Fire Commissioners Clerk hours are based on 5 hours per meeting, 12 yearly scheduled meetings and 3 special meetings.

**FIRE MARSHALL – DEPARTMENT 25**

Current budget 2015/2016 \$9,890.00, proposed budget 2016/2017 \$9,890.00. No change.

**INLANDS WETLANDS COMMISIONS – 45**

Current budget 2015/2016 \$5,227.00, proposed budget 2016/2017 \$3,950.00. A decrease of \$1,277.00 due to an adjustment in Clerical wages base on past history.

**MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURES – DEPARTMENT 55**

Current budget 2015/2016 \$13,410.00, proposed budget 2016/2017 \$10,155.00. A decrease of \$3,334.00. The changes that have been made are for expenditures many of which are not logically included in any other budget and some years are not necessary. An example is the NW CT Regional Planning Collaborative for last year was \$4,000. No support needed for 2016-17. However, a request for \$70.00 was made to the Tree Wardens Association Renewal. Also noted is Organizational Dues are paid from this account

**TREASURER DEPARTMENT – 13**

Current budget 2015/2016 \$8,223.00, proposed budget 2016/2017 \$8,223.00. No change.

**WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY – 46**

Current budget 2015/2016 \$1.00, proposed budget 2016/2017, \$1,100.00. An increase of \$1,099.00 due to the board having been recently reactivated with the need for clerical assistance for monthly meetings in addition to legal notices due in part to the update in the water pollution control plan.

**WELFARE – DEPARTMENT- 58**

Current budget 2015/2016 \$4,332.00, proposed budget 2016/2017 \$4,332.00. No change. The budget for this department consists of administrative cost for processing programs currently offered through the Fiscal office such as Foundation for Community Heath's prescription program and Berkshire

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Taconic Community Foundation grant programs. , also included are contributions to Susan B. Anthony Program and FISH. There was some discussion and all agreed that most requests made were fairly modest.

**REPORT FROM FIRST SELECTMAN:**

First Selectman Robert Valentine reports that Public Works continues to work with Dave Battista, Lenard Engineering, on a design for a substantial drainage project on Selbourne Drive. This is to address a drainage issue due to erosion from years of water flow. We plan to go out to bid for early summer construction.

The Board of Selectman and Recycling Coordinator Tom Farrell are working on preparing an RFP for Curbside recycling. The current contract expires July 31, 2016. The town has received a letter from MIRA, the successor to CRRA (CT Resource Recovery Authority). The MIRA board of directors is looking to propose a \$3.00 per ton increase. There is some discrepancy with the amount MIRA claims the town is paying for their services (in their letter, they say we pay \$.64 and our invoices say it is \$.62 ). Bob Valentine said he will be looking into this. The change will be reflected in the waste budget.

All of the \$4,000 received for the Aquatic Invasive Species grant funds have been expended and Bob is working on a final report for DEEP. There are some funds that have been donated along with the Board of Finance appropriated funds, the town continues to work with the committee to find solutions for the on going aquatic weed problems that face Dog Pond, West Side Pond and Tyler Lake. The boiler in town hall is leaking, Bob has contacted Dean Pietrorazio, Conn. Combustion Corp. (This is the Contractor that installed the boiler in 2005) to come and look at the problem and find a solution to fixing it. This includes any warrantee's that may be available.

Bob has been in touch and meeting with Departments/Boards to discuss budget needs before budgets are compiled in order to understand their needs and convey that everyone should be constructing budgets using a zero base budget model. He is suggesting they be able to justify all budget requests, and is making available past budget history to help on costing needs. Bob has recently met with Fire Commissioners, Rec. Department, and the Library Board.

STEAP grants: Last Friday, Bob submitted two STEAP (Small Town Economic Assistance) grant applications. One to help with the Woodridge Lake Sewer

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District and their sewer upgrades, for the amount of \$500,000. The second grant is a re-submittal for an application for the Camp Coch bathrooms.

The VIOP (Voice Over Internet Protocol Services): Bob has signed a contract for month to month service with Nextiva, Greg Gauthier, Apex Communication (our current phone contractor) will help to facilitate the porting of our phone numbers. When this is up and running we will transition to the Nutmeg Network for our internet services and begin using the \$19,900 grant for the hook up and service.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Allan Walker stated that Torrington Area Health District and Regional Mental Health have sent letters of request looking for contributions. Per Allan, their requests are automatically are put into the budget.

There was no other business to come before the meeting. A MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY: James Korner, seconded by Edward Davidson; the meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

*Nell Glass*

GOSHEN BOARD OF FINANCE  
Nell Glass, Board Clerk

Received Feb 2, 2016 11:16 AM.  
Attest *Balcan & Blen*  
Goshen Town Clerk