

Special Town Meeting
Monday, August 5, 2019

First Selectman Robert P. Valentine called the meeting to order at 8:00 P.M.

Robert P. Valentine asked for nominations for moderator. Dexter Kinsella nominated Patrick Reilly seconded by LuAnn Zbinden. Theresa Walla Kelley moved that nominations be closed and the secretary cast one ballot for Patrick Reilly. G. Richard Reis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Patrick Reilly read rules of conduct for the meeting. All communication will be through the moderator.

Barbara Breor read the call to the meeting.

1. Property use agreement with Regional School District #6.

Mark Harris made a motion to approve the item. Stan Foster seconded.

Robert Valentine stated that the Town did receive the §8-24 referral from Planning & Zoning. As part of the agreement Region 6 will maintain the tennis/basketball court.

Discussion ensued. At the end of the lease the array may be bought or they can bond for the removal or they may upgrade. The solar power is for the school. The Board of Selectman looked into including the Town Hall and Library and it would not work economically because of the difference in electric rates. The cost savings for the school would be about \$170,000 over 10 years. The power lines to the school would be placed on Region #6 land. The lease would end when RSD 6 lease with the supplier ends.

The moderator called for a voice vote and all were in favor.

2. Enactment and establishing an Economic Development Commission Ordinance.

Mark Harris made a motion to approve the item as read. Al Torizzo seconded.

Robert Valentine stated that the Board of Selectmen was approached by the Goshen Business Circle to create an Economic Development Commission. Each Town is different with the businesses that it can support and create. At the budget meeting the Town voted and approved an expenditure for Connecticut Economic Resource Center (CERC) which would help create a five year economic development plan for the Town. The plan would help support existing businesses and help fill in vacant locations. One reason that we would like to have new businesses is that they pay taxes without putting an additional strain on schools. Most businesses also help because they become members of the volunteer fire and/or ambulance service. The initial members would be appointed by the Board of Selectmen and then elected beginning with the November 2020 Town Meeting.

Discussion for and against ensued. There was concern if businesses that are already here would receive help. A Town meeting would be needed to be called in order to create tax abatements for businesses. The Goshen Business Circle is a group of businesses in Town and they do not have man power or time to dedicate to entice businesses. All the businesses would still need to go through Planning & Zoning. The Commission is advisory and they do not make decisions. The Town approved the \$1000 at the May Town Meeting and the Goshen Business Circle has agreed to raise \$1000. CGS 7-136 allows the Town to create an ordinance and the responsibilities of the commission. This would be a volunteer position by statute they are prohibited from getting paid but they may be reimbursed for their expenses, ie: mileage for a conference. The budget for the commission would have to be approved by the Board of Finance and then brought to a Town Meeting for approval. The Board of Finance can appropriate less than \$20,000 if more than

that then there has to be a Town Meeting. The Board of Selectmen would be making the initial appointments to the commission and they would like people to step forward if they have an interest. A meeting to develop an outline for economic development will be held by CERC using focus groups to develop ideas. The statute and the ordinance both say that the Town may appropriate 1/20th of 1% of the Grand list and concern over that figure was brought forth. Some suggested that the max allowable by statute be reduced. It was stated that the ordinance being considered could be rejected or approved as presented. It was stated that the minutes and agendas of the commission will be made available on the website and all are encouraged to subscribe.

Steven Romano made a motion to move the question (end debate). Seconded by G. Richard Reis. Motion Carries.

Robert Valentine moved for a paper ballot vote.

Patrick Reilly appointed Shilo Watley and Randy Sittler as tellers.

56 people for passing the ordinance
32 people against passing the ordinance

3. Elect a member to the Board of Education to expire June 30, 2021

Patrick Reilly opened nominations.

Al Torizzo nominated Mike Bergin. Seconded by Craig Robillard.

Jan Vlasio nominated Craig Robillard. Seconded by Chris Saunders.

Mark Harris moved that nominations be closed. Seconded by Carol Aldrich.

Each candidate was able to give a speech. After the speech a paper ballot was taken. Randy Sittler left the meeting before the vote, therefore Patrick Reilly appointed Barbara Breor as a teller.

32 people for Mike Bergin
31 people for Craig Robillard

Mark Harris made a motion to adjourn at 9:40 P.M. seconded by Carol Aldrich.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara L. Breor, Town Clerk