

TOWN OF GOSHEN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING
Wednesday, March 25, 2020

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

OTHERS: Sean O'Neal, Jim Bernard, John McKenna

1 Call to order: Robert P. Valentine called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

2. Approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March, 17 2020:

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

Approve the minutes of the emergency meeting of March 22, 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 22, 2020 as submitted. Voted unanimous.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes: None

4. Approval of the Payroll and Warrant -March 26, 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 26, 2020 in the amount of \$48,750.21. Included in this warrant were the payroll in the amount of \$23,882.03 and the warrant in the amount of \$24,868.18. Voted unanimous.

5. Public Comment: None

6. First Selectman's Report:

Bob Valentine announced that this meeting and proceedings are being made available by online Zoom meeting and by phone and are being recorded for public record. During this COVID -19 pandemic and following the directions from the **Governor's Executive Order** regarding public gatherings, all town of Goshen meetings will be held electronically. Bob thanked everyone for their patients during this difficult time.

Goshen Town Hall offices are closed to the public as is Public Works. Residents are encouraged to use the many online options we have available for permits, land records and tax payments. Those who do need assistance are encourage to call or email departments. If necessary, residents can make an appointment to meet with staff. Some town hall employees are working from home.

We will be doing everything we can to keep on task for the 2020/2021 budget preparation rather than extend the deadline as is allowed by the Governor's Executive orders.

The Town and Goshen Community Care and Hospice are partnering to help out seniors, either by assisting them in getting groceries or prescriptions. Bob has been in contact with Bob Lowe from CVS in Torrington to help with prescriptions.

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As part of our normal emergency management plans, we keep a list of seniors who may need assistance during an emergencies. Although, the list is updated regularly there may be individuals who are not active in the community that we are unaware of. In order to identify other individuals we reached out to Richard Reis, President of the Woodridge Lake Property Owners Association in order to send an eblast to WL residents, making them aware of what is available for seniors. The same message was also put out on social media by Colleen Kinkade.

Bob Valentine, has signed a "Declaration of Emergency" for the Town of Goshen. This declaration is in addition to those signed by the President and Governor Lamont. This will enable Goshen to apply for state grants, federal grants from FEMA and allows for the activation of Goshen's CERT (civilian emergency response teams), which can be used to help seniors.

Fire Chief, Barry Hall has been contacted by the American Red Cross, they very much would like to get a blood drive set up, in that blood supplies are very low. They are currently working to set up blood drives at Camp Coch, run by Red Cross.

Recently, Bob became aware of the Town of Winsor's, effort to create community spirit by ringing a bell each evening. Working with Pastor Sara Krhla, Lucy Hussman and Colleen Kinkade we have decided to do the same. Starting this Friday at 8:00 pm town's people are asked to ring a bell for two minutes. Sara will ring the bell in the Center Congregational Church, those who don't have bells can bang pots and pans together or honk a horn or whatever they have to show their community spirit.

In view of the unprecedented, emergency facing not only the town of Goshen, but the entire State of Connecticut along with the work stoppages, closed businesses, etc., the board of selectmen met this past Sunday and instituted a spending freeze for all non-essential spending.

8. Correspondence: None

9. Old Business:

9a. Town Continuance of Operations RE: COVID-19 and the Governor's executive orders – See page 1 First Selectman's Report.

9b. Appointments: None

9c. Budgets:

The following proposed budgets were reviewed by the Board of Selectmen:

Board of Finance	Insurance
Cemeteries	Library
Fire Protection	Professional Services
Fiscal Office	Rescue

In a **motion** made by Mark S. Harris, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was **voted** to forward the budgets to Board of Finance for their review and consideration. Voted unanimous.

10. New Business:

10 a. Special Event Permit Application: Goshen Stampede

Board members received the application for review prior to the meeting. Bob stated that all the necessary items required to be submitted are order. He went on to mention Governors Lamont's executive order which prohibits assemblies greater than 50 people with an expiration date of April 30, 2020. Bob was able to speak to the Governor this past Friday and ask for guidance concerning events at the fairgrounds. The Governor's response to questions was recorded and played for those present. In his response the Governor said he would be hesitant scheduling any event over the next two or three months due to the fact we do not know what will happen with the spread of COVID-19.

Sean O'Neil, event organizer for the Goshen Stampede felt the Stampede could institute precaution for the event as appropriate for public health but would like to proceed with the planning for the event.

Bob Valentine felt that given the current situation and uncertainty he would be much more comfortable to table the Special Events application for the Goshen Stampede until April 30th when the Governor's executive order expires.

Mr. O'Neal stated he would prefer a conditional approval which could be reviewed closer to the event date. He went on to say he could cancel the event if circumstances warranted.

Mark Harris felt tabling the application would still allow Mr. O'Neil the ability to plan the event if he so choose.

Dexter Kinsella felt a conditional approval would allow Mr. O'Neil to plan the event better.

In a **motion** made by Mark S. Harris, seconded by Bob Valentine, it was **voted** to "table" the Special Event permit application for the Goshen Stampede until April 30, 2020. Voted unanimous.

11. Adjournment:

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 p.m. Voted unanimous

Respectively submitted,

Lucille A. Paige

