

TOWN OF GOSHEN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, November 19, 2019

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

OTHERS: James Bernard, Treasurer; Jim Withstandley; Marty Harris; Lynn Steinmayer; Patrick Reilly; Garret Harlow, Supervisor of Public Works; Allen Dunahoo, Financial Advisor from *Edward Jones*.

1 Call to order: Robert P. Valentine, First Selectman called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

2. Discussion of Cemetery Accounts: Allen Dunahoo, Financial Advisor from Edward Jones gave a report on the Investment Portfolio for the Goshen Cemetery Accounts. The Trustees of the Cemetery Accounts are Robert P. Valentine, First Selectman, James Bernard, Treasurer, and Allan D. Walker, Chairman of the Board of Finance. The report shows the stocks and bonds owned, their growth and income (dividends) as of November 15, 2019. The portfolio is balanced and is performing well with an annualized return since 2009 of 11.76%. The accounts are: Hall Meadow Cemetery, Westside Cemetery, Gertrude Wooster, SS Miles Fund Westside and East Street Cemetery. Current value of all of the investment accounts is \$338,215.52. The largest portion, \$267,642 is held in the East Street Cemetery account, much of which has been donated by the Hall family.

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to add to the agenda under **item 10, New Business: 10a. Public Works Truck**. Voted unanimous.

10. New Business:

10a. Public Works Truck

Garret Harlow, Supervisor of Public Works, described the condition of a truck 8, a 6-wheel International Plow Truck that was scheduled to be replaced in July 2020. Coolant is leaking into the engine cylinders, the front end has issues and it has extensive rust, all of which makes repairing the engine impractical. The best buy for replacing this vehicle, is a 2019 6-wheel International from Nutmeg International in Torrington. Currently there is only \$141, 287 in capital for truck replacement which is just under \$20,000 less than what a replacement would cost. After discussion, the Selectmen agreed to ask the Board of Finance for the additional funds. Bob Valentine will bring this request to the Board of Finance at their meeting Wednesday, November 20th.

In addition, a brief discussion with Mr. Harlow centered around the repairs needed on two of Goshen's bridges: the one on West Hyderdale Drive and the other on East Street South. Mr. Harlow will look into using a state bridge grant for some of the cost.

3. Approve the minutes of the November 12, 2019 Regular Meeting:

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 12, 2019, as presented. Motion carried with Dexter S. Kinsella abstaining

4. Matters Arising out of the minutes: None

5. Approval of Payroll and Warrant – November 21, 2019:

In a **motion** made by Mark S. Harris, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was **voted** to approve the total warrant and payroll for November 2019 in the amount of \$44,660.20.

Included in this warrant were the payroll in the amount of \$15,640.52 and the warrant in the amount of \$29,019.68. Voted unanimous. Included in this warrant were payments to Dime Oil (diesel fuel); \$3,090.45 and Pension Consultants \$3,250.00.

6. Public Comment:

James Withstandley asked how town funds are kept, bank accounts, investments. Bob Valentine explained what town funds could be invested in, particularly CD's Bank accounts and STIF account.(State of Connecticut Short Term Investment Fund).

Patrick Reilly ask to have the Board of Selectmen consider his recommendation of Henrietta Horvay to fill a vacancy on the Library Board. Dexter Kinsella also gave his support to Mr. Reilly's recommendation of Mrs. Horvay. The board agreed to wait until the Republican Town Committee is notified of the vacancy created by the resignation of Terry Truczinskas (R) to see if they too had a recommendation.

7. First Selectman's Report:

Bob Valentine announced that he has "locked in" prices for oil with *Dime Oil Company* for July 1, 2020. By doing so at this time, he was able to save approximately \$0.20 per gallon over current pricing.

- Heating Oil \$2.0874/gallon
- Diesel Fuel \$2.0583/gallon
- Gasoline \$1.9377/gallon

At Town Meeting the previous night, it was brought to Bob Valentine's attention, a possible conflict between classification of the fund, "special revenue fund" created by the Shane Morehouse Kinsella Memorial Children's Fund Ordinance that classified the dollars differently between that of the audit report. After research into the issue, Bob reassured everyone that there was no conflict between the Ordinance and the audit report.

Bob Valentine reported on the meeting he had on Friday, November 15th with Rick Jacobson, Bureau Chief of Natural Resources, DEEP, at the site of the 621 acres for sale on Beach Hill Road. Also in attendance, were Brendan Boepple of the Housatonic Valley Association and Dustin Mosley of E.J. Murphy Real Estate. Mr. Jacobson was impressed with variety of habitats on this land, and encourage those in attendance to schedule a meeting with DEEP staff that make recommendations on future state purchases.

Bob Valentine attended a meeting where a discussion was held regarding the potential of creating a group health insurance purchase with Region 6, Litchfield School District, Town of Litchfield, Town of Goshen and Woodridge Lake Sewer District. The intent of which would be to create savings for all concerned while still keeping the plan options currently in place. All agreed to proceed with getting pricing which should be available by January 2020.

Bob had further discussion with Tom Weik, first selectman Morris and Tim Angevine, newly elected First Selectman of Warren concerning the potential of using a 3 to 5 year rolling average ADM (Average Daily Membership) instead of the current October 1st ADM to set each town's assessment for Region 6. Using an average would soften the spikes in assessment for the towns that could have an adverse effect on passing school budgets.

At a COST Board of Directors meeting, in which Bob is a member, preparation has begun creating a list of priorities for the upcoming legislative session, including the financing of the Teachers Retirement Fund along with other items of importance for small towns.

Bob reported a new spread sheet regarding budgets that will be given to the Board of Finance. The sheet will show current and proposed operating expenses as well as current and proposed Capital Non-Recurring request, clearly showing increases and decreases from one year to the next.

8. Correspondence: None

9. Old Business: None

9a. Appointments: None

10. New Business:

10a. Public Works Truck (see page 1)

11. Any other Business: None

12. Adjournment:

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to adjourn the meeting at 6:17 p.m. Voted unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucille A. Paige, First Selectman's Aide