

TOWN OF GOSHEN
RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
December 16, 2019

PRESENT: Don Patterson (Chairman), Patrick Lucas, Colleen Kinkade, Recreation Director; Sarah Leonard, Nanci Howard. Also present, Robert P. Valentine- First Selectman

ABSENT: Garret Harlow, Erin Reilly

1 CALL TO ORDER: Don Patterson called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM.

At this time, the Commissioners made a motion to address item 5. Old Business: *Creative Recreation* presentation. Motion made by Patrick Lucas, seconded by Sarah Leonard. Voted unanimous.

Mr. John Hollerbach, President of *Creative Recreation* began his presentation by giving his educational background – graduate of Penn State, degree in Park & Rec Landscape Design; his firm, located in Hartford, designs, sells and installs recreation equipment. He gave a history of other successful projects his firm has installed, along with a design models in on art screens that demonstrated the design, materials and ground surfaces. One design showed “natural rocks” and rope themed parks; another showed conventional post/support mechanisms – modular type equipment. His firm, among others, will be given consideration by the Recreation Commission.

First Selectman, Bob Valentine explained the priorities for the 2020-2021 coming year. He apprised the Commissioners that in a meeting with Superintendent of Schools, Chris Leone, Warren’s student count lost 7 students; Morris lost 17 and Goshen added 19. The addition of 19 students to Goshen will adversely affect its “assessment” – an increase of approximately \$550,000. This figure alone equals 1 mill increase for Goshen taxpayers. Bob reported that he has begun cost savings efforts by locked-in reduced rates for heating oil, gasoline, and diesel; health insurance rates are in a bidding process and other cost savings measures are being sought. He reminded the group that staying on the newly instituted “employee pay matrix” is a priority. In discussing the parameters of the tightening budget requests, it is imperative that all town departments work cooperatively in this upcoming budget process. Director Kinkade is actively working with surrounding towns to increase the enrollment at Summer Day Camp and other recreation programs.

Bob Valentine suggested that thought be given to charging a fee to the Goshen Boy Scouts for clean up after their events held at Camp Coch. Scouting in Goshen is a strong element in the Goshen community. In discussing past problems with “clean up”, Bob suggested that a sit-down meeting with the Scouts and particularly their leaders, stress the need for the Scouts to be responsible and clean up after their meetings as other organizations do.

2. Secretary’s Report:

In a **motion** made by Nanci Howard, seconded by Sarah Leonard, it was **voted** to approve the minutes of November 18, 2019 as submitted. Voted unanimous.

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3. Treasury Report:

The Commissioners reviewed budget expenditures to date and highlighted some areas of the Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual 7/2019 thru Nov./2019. The expenses showed to be inline with the income. It was noted that Recreation Director Kinkade is in need of a PC replacement. To accommodate flexibility and adaptations for the new recreation programs, the Tech people have recommended that she purchase a "heavy-duty" laptop through the Capital account. In a **motion** made by Nanci Howard, seconded by Patrick Lucas, it was **voted** to approve the Treasury Report as submitted inclusive of the purchase the "heavy duty" type laptop recommended by the Tech people. Voted unanimous.

4. Programming Report:

Mohawk Ski Program: sign-ups are very good with 38 participants; begins 1st Tuesday in January (7th).

Review of Events:

Goshen Tree Lighting: Large crowd; Santa and Mrs. Claus donated their time

Gingerbread Decorating: 36 participants; great time had by all; good turnout

Ho-Ho Hotline: Santa and Mrs. Claus are ready: questionnaires were sent out with sign-ups.

Alumni Game: Litchfield & WAMOGO; (Next year, this will take place the Friday after Thanksgiving)

K-2 Basketball with Warren, Morris, Goshen: K-2; will add 3rd graders; begins in January; 20 participants (runs same time as "WAMPO Rec. Skills program" at WAMOGO.

5. Old Business:

Creative Recreation presentation: see page 1

6. New Business:

Camp Cochipianne: (Teen Adventure Camp & Summerfest):

A discussion took place on the programs overall held at the Camp. Currently, the fee is \$95 For Goshen residents; and \$120 for non-residents. Question - should this fee be increased. Taken into consideration is the mandated raise in minimum wage for salaries. The Commissioners felt that "Summerfest" fees should not be increased from the new Goshen fee. The Shane Moorehouse Kinsella Fund will be providing scholarships for some children, which will be helpful this year.

In a **motion** made by Patrick Lucas, seconded by Nanci Howard it was **voted** to increase the fees at Camp Cochipianne for the summer programs by \$5.00: from \$95. to \$100. for Goshen residents; and \$120. to \$125.00. for non-residents of Goshen. Motion carried with Don Patterson voting no.

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Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021: Discussed in the Treasury report.

8. Adjournment:

In a **motion** made by Nanci Howard, seconded by Patrick Lucas, it was **voted** to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m. Voted unanimous.

Respectfully,

Lucille A. Paige, Recording Secretary