

TOWN OF GOSHEN

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, April 14, 2020

This meeting held and recorded via Zoom.us and is available as a recording

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

OTHERS: John McKenna, Colleen Kinkade, Lucille Paige

1 Call to order: Robert P. Valentine called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

2. Approval the minutes of the meeting of April 7, 2020:

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to approve the minutes of the minutes of April 7, 2020 as submitted. Voted unanimous.

3. Matter Arising Out of the Minutes: Colleen Kinkade, Recreation Director, reported on the great success of the Easter Egg kits that were distributed; 77 kids participated in the egg hunts. Senior baskets with baked goods and holiday treats will also be distributed to the senior citizens of Goshen.

4. Approval of the Payroll and Warrant -April 16, 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 April 16, 2020 in the amount of \$51,419.48. Included in this warrant were the payroll in the amount of \$14,630.89, and the warrant in the amount of \$36,788.59. Voted unanimous. Included in the warrant were: MIRA (tipping fees) \$ 9640.45; Stirling (employee health insurance) \$14,989.14; USA Hauling (recycling) \$7,330.50.

5. Public Comment: None

6. First Selectman's Report:

Reporting on the Board of Finance meeting of Wednesday, April 8, 2020, the BOF also agreed to hold current 19.6 mill rate. The BOF also agreed to put off "capital" requests to a later date.

A list of auditors doing business in the State of CT has been put together. The RFP for Town of Goshen's yearly audit is ready to be sent to those on the list. It is hoped a goodly amount of auditing firms will respond to the RFP by the date of May 27, 2020.

Bob reported the fire last week of a home on North Street. Thankfully, no one was seriously injured. As such, Bob has spoken with the homeowner, Bob Nesbitt as to assist the family where he can. Per Title 24, Trailer and Trailer Camps Ordinance Mr. Nesbitt will be allowed to have a trailer on site to live in while the home is repaired.

Yesterday's severe storm caused many trees to be down, loss of electrical service, etc. *Eversource* and Goshen's Public Works are out there addressing those issues.

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7. Correspondence: None

8. Old Business:

8a. Town Continuation of Operations, RE: COVID-19, Governor Lamont’s Executive Orders:

On April 10, Governor Lamont extended the original order in that no more than five (5) people can assemble in one setting to May 20, 2020. The annual Wine Festival, scheduled to be held at the Goshen Fair Grounds July 18,19 has been cancelled. There has been some thought that the Goshen Stampede may move to the Wine Festival date in an effort to still have the event this year. The Special Event Permit for the Goshen Stampede was “tabled” until after April 30, 2020. (see BOS minutes 3 25 20)

Bob received an e-mail from the Torrington Area Health District (TAHD) to confirm that there are 2 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Goshen. Bob also received a report from John Field, DEMHS area 5. This report stated that 13,387 of confirmed cases in the state of Connecticut. He reviewed the status of gloves, gowns and N95 face masks. Bob reported that the interior of the Goshen Town Hall has been steam cleaned; he and Erin Reilly spent the day cleaning tops of desks, machinery and equipment, etc. A new Virtual Private Network (VPN) for laptops to enable employees to work from home is being installed where needed.

8b. Appointments: Bob has received a letter of resignation from Carl Contadini from the Economic Development Commission. A replacement will be sought accordingly.

8c. Budgets: The following budgets were reviewed and discussed:

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|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Land Use Enforcement | Town Clerk | Recreation |
| Fire Marshal | Fire Protection | Town Office Building |
| Treasurer | Library | |
| Elections | Employee Benefits | |
| Selectmen | Public Works | |

Several of the budgets were changed to reflect the Board of Finances approval of a 2.5% increase for elected officials, contractors and those not covered by the Randi Frank pay matrix. Bob Valentine commented that overall, the budget is up only slightly with the largest increase for MIRA tipping fees, \$23,829.

In addition to submitted budgets, Bob included a compilation of **Capital Expenditures Requests for 2020 to 2021**. This listed the various town departments and “date of projected expense” – *looking forward 5 years*. The total Capital requests for 2020/2021 FY are \$993,980. Noted, that even though capital requests were submitted, they will be taken up at a later date after the budget is approved.

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Bob distributed a spreadsheet highlighting Town of Goshen Revenue Projections (for year ending June 30, 2021). He highlighted those areas of attention and gave explanations.

A spreadsheet highlighting summary "**Budget Projections**" was also reviewed by the Selectmen. Bob complimented all the Boards and Commissions for great job crafting budget with very little increase.

A spreadsheet with the breakdown – **BUDGET 2020-2021 Progress Report** was also distributed among the Selectmen. This showed current budget/requested budget; operating increases/decreases; current capital/capital requests; capital increases/decreases.

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

9. New Business:

9a. Authorization for the Board of Finance to Adopt FY 2020/2021 Goshen Budget per Executive Order 71, Section 3, March 21, 2020:

Bob Valentine explained the reason for the letter to Allan D. Walker, Chairman of the Board of Finance, regarding the aforementioned Executive Order which read;

"I write pursuant to Section 13 of Executive Order No. 71, dated March 21, 2020, issued by Governor Ned Lamont to notify the Goshen Board of Finance (the BOF) of the Goshen Board of Selectmen's authorization of the BOF to "adopt a budget for the July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 fiscal year and to set a mill rate...without complying with any in-person budget adoption requirements, including but not limited to, Annual Town Meetings requiring votes, referendum, and special Town Meetings. The Board of Selectmen authorizes this budget adoption to be made only in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in Section 13, of Executive Order No. 71."

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to approve the letter of authorization by the First Selectman to the Board of Finance. Voted unanimous.

9b. Torrington Area Health District Quarantine Policy:

Bob described a letter being sent to COVID-19 positive individuals by Torrington Area Health District and his displeasure of how it is written. The letter could leave the impression that individuals are not required to stay at home and isolate. He also mentioned that he brought the same subject up at a recent COG meeting. Bob publicly stated his strong opposition to the use of the word "**recommends**" as it relate to individuals staying isolated while they are sick instead of "**required**". TAHD's response was that, were they to require isolation they would have to place a policeman in front of their house. Bob retorted, a policeman required to be at every "**Stop**" sign, every "**speed limit**" sign, etc. to **ensure the required** stop or **required speed** limit is being followed?? He believes TAHD needs to be more forceful, more direct in their letter making it clear that someone COVID-19 positive stay in their home and isolate to avoid infecting others. He also read a letter he had asked TAHD to distribute from him that offered to assist resident that are required to isolate.

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After discussion concerning the issue it was agreed that Bob would add language to his letter more strongly addressing the need for individuals who are COVID-19 positive to stay home and isolate until they are well and send that letter to everyone he become aware is infected.

10. Any Other Business: None

11. Adjournment:

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to adjourn the meeting at 6:13 p.m. Voted unanimous.

Respectfully,

Lucille A. Paige, First Selectman's Aide