

TOWN OF GOSHEN

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, April 07, 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: Chris Sanders, John McKenna

1 Call to order: Robert P. Valentine called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

2. Approval the minutes of the meeting of March, 31, 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 March 31, 2020 as submitted. Voted unanimous.

3. Matter Arising Out of the Minutes: None.

4. Approval of the Payroll and Warrant -April 9, 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 9, 2020 in the amount of \$49,275.04. Included in this warrant were the payroll in the amount of \$23,106.53 and the warrant in the amount of \$26,168.50. Voted unanimous. Included in the warrant were: Ct. Electronic Resource Center (EDC Action Plan) \$6,500.00; Vapo Rino for G.F.C. \$2795.00; Westchester Tractor, Inc. \$3,200.00.

5. Public Comment: None

6. First Selectman's Report:

The CERT members have worked together to prepare the residents of Goshen for potential needs; the elderly who are unable shop for themselves, pickup their prescriptions, etc. Superintendent Chris Leone will send a request for younger residents to run errands, pick up groceries, etc. for those who are homebound.

In the "Warrant" just read, (4-9-20) there is \$600 in there for (petty cash) to be used by volunteers to purchase groceries etc. for seniors and homebound who may have needs. Those receiving the goods would then write a check to the town for the cost. Also, the \$2,950.00 for the Goshen Fire Department is for a steam cleaner for the ambulance. This will ensure that when the ambulance is used, it can come back and be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized for the next patient to be transported to medical facilities.

7. Correspondence: None

8. Old Business:

8a. Town continuation of operations RE: COVID-19 and Governor Lamont's Executive Orders:

The Governors Executive Order 7S – section 6 requires municipalities to choose one of two options for property tax collection. The first would defer tax payments for qualified resident for a period of 90 days from when they become due up until July 1, 2020. The second would reduce the interest rate for past due taxes to 3% annually for a period of 90 days up until July 1, 2020. Bob Valentine discussed with

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

April 7, 2020

Page 2

Martin Heft, Acting Undersecretary Intergovernmental Policy and Planning Division, Office of Policy and Management, Rebecca Jurchert- Derungs, Goshen Tax Collector and Lucy Hussman, Goshen Assessor, the “pros” and “cons” of each option. After discussion, it was decided the best option for Goshen would be the 3% reduction in interest.

In a **motion** made by Mark S. Harris, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was **voted** adopt the Low Interest Rate program (3%) in the Governor’s Executive Order 7S, Section 6, as recommended by the Tax Collector and Assessor. Voted unanimous.

Bob will attend the meeting of the Board of Finance on Wednesday, April 8th, to discuss the budget process which will include keeping the current 19.6 mill rate, use of fund balance and not budgeting for capital projects at this time. As well as keeping monies in fund balance which could be used for capital project at a future date.

8b. Appointments: None

8.c. Budgets:

The following budgets were reviewed and discussed accordingly.

Contingency; Waste Removal; Newsletter.

Additional budgets will be brought to the table at next week’s meeting of the BOS, along with the Public Works budget.

Budget spreadsheets created by Bob Valentine were reviewed and discussed. These spreadsheets will be submitted to the Board of Finance at their meeting, Wednesday, April 8th. In that endeavor, Bob will show what the proposed budget looks like with and without capital expenditures – he noted these numbers are preliminary (the Board of Assessment Appeals meeting has been extended for one month, therefore the grand list numbers are subject to change). Shown is a 19.6 mill rate along with various tax collection rates and the resulting year end fund balance.

Selectman Harris agrees with not raising the mill rate, holding it at 19.6, given the current situation. If the economic situation is better than anticipated then a capital appropriation can be made at a later date. Selectman Kinsella wants to be sure that not budgeting capital at this time would not have the effect of the town losing out on any federal govt. stimulus grants. Bob assured everyone this would not happen. The idea is to be “conservative” to avoid any large monetary troubles for Goshen.

9. New Business: None

10. Any other Business:

Selectman Harris brought attention to the signage of a large, red heart on people’s properties. This is in direct tribute to all those working and volunteering in the healthcare operations anywhere during this critical time. The Town Hall will display a big, red, heart to join in tribute to all those serving the healthcare industry.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

April 7, 2020

Page 3

11. Adjournment:

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to adjourn the meeting at 5:46 p.m. Voted unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucille A. Paige, First Selectman's Aide