

# TOWN OF GOSHEN

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

### **REGULAR MEETING**

Tuesday, May 12, 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: Lucille Paige, John McKenna, Republican American, Pat Reilly

**1 Call to order:** Robert P. Valentine called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.

**2. Approval the minutes of the meeting of May 05, 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 May 05, 2020 as corrected. Marty Connor and Allison Fulton are resources for the Long-Term Recovery Committee, not members. Voted unanimous.

**3. Matter Arising Out of the Minutes:** Questioned about a potential Executive Order from the Governor giving power to boards of selectmen in Connecticut municipalities to appoint members to their regional board of educations while town meetings are prohibited, Bob reported that this decision is still in discussion. In some municipalities, this decision is a point of contention, therefore a final decision has not yet been made.

**4. Approval of the Payroll and Warrant -May 14, 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 May 14, 2020 in the amount of \$48,313.01. Included in this warrant were the payroll \$22,835.42 and warrant \$25,477.59. Included in the warrant were: Trinity New England (paramedic intercept) \$1,920.00; USA Hauling (recycling) \$7,330.50; Yucatech (technical assistance) \$2,197.25

**5. Public Comments:** None

**6. First Selectman's Report:**

Bob Valentine reported that all required application paperwork for the Highlands Grant under the State Conservation Act has been completed pending Goshen's approval. (This grant is \$131,500 for a conservation easement on 98 acres of town land at the end of East Street North.) Attorney Chip Roraback is reviewing recent gubernatorial executive orders regarding the powers of the BOS to accept the agreement without town meeting, in particular EO 7-J-J.

Bob also reported that he has on order hand sanitizer and plexiglass in preparation for easing restrictions on town hall operations. However, due to supply and demand, it may be delayed for a week or two.

The Board of Finance will hold their Budget Hearing tomorrow night, Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> via "zoom" conferencing. The public can also e-mail in their questions/comments to [boardoffice@goshenct.gov](mailto:boardoffice@goshenct.gov). The input they receive from the public, will then be reviewed at their meeting on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>.

The Town Registrars are preparing for the primary to be held Tuesday, August 11, 2020. Because there are two polling districts to be set up, and "social distancing" will need to be adhered to, conversations are taking place with Superintendent Christopher Leone for use of the gymnasium at Goshen Center School.

**7. Correspondence:** None

**8. Old Business:**

**8a. Town Continuation of Operations re: COVID-19 and Governor Lamont's Executive Orders:**

Bob has been meeting with town departments with regard to re-opening Town Hall Offices. Inasmuch as taxes are due July 1, 2020, residents may need to come into town hall to see the Tax Collector. Also, in the Library, what modifications can be made to accommodate patrons coming inside the library? The Town Clerk's Office must be able to safely do business as well. To this end, Bob has ordered sheets of plexiglass to create "sneeze guards" on the counters. The door to the Tax Collector's office can be modified to have a double door wherein the only the top half can be opened, with a section to enable papers to be read, and signed, etc. without having the public enter the room. Bob has reviewed the protocols that Torrington City Hall has, and compare those with what Goshen Town Hall is able to do. To enable "contact tracing", a sign-in sheet can be implemented at town hall.

As Governor Lamont's plans moves forward in Phase 1 to re-open businesses on May 20<sup>th</sup>, questions remain as to how to accommodate businesses while keeping some protections in place. Under consideration is having no more than 5 people in a space reasonable to adhere to the 6' distance. Phase 2 of the reopening of businesses will take place within 4 to 6 weeks hence. Phase 3 will take place sometime in August or September. Bob's regular conference call with the Governor's office tomorrow may yield some additional information.

In the interim, the approval of the Special Event Application for the Goshen Stampede will be put on "hold" until more complete information comes from the Governor's office as to the limits of assembly of people beyond May 20<sup>th</sup>.

The Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security distributed surgical masks to businesses. Fourteen businesses from Goshen took advantage of this assistance, receiving 224 masks. All of these businesses were very appreciative of this effort

Unemployment applications for Goshen residents due to this pandemic from March 1, 2020 and up to May 3, 2020, were 199 residents.

The office of Early Childhood Development has issued new regulations (due to the pandemic) in that no more than 30 children can be enrolled at summer camps; and no more than 10 children are allowed per group. Recreation Director, Colleen Kinkade has been working hard to garner as much information as she can to be in compliance, when considering to have camp or not. One solution might be to only allow Goshen residents to attend camp.

**b. Appointments:** None

**8c. Budgets:** None

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

May 12, 2020

Page 3

**d. Long Term Recovery Committee:**

Chairman Mark Harris reported that a committee has been established, and hence are looking for a meeting date and time accommodating to said members. The agenda will put forth a “fact-finding” mission to ascertain the problems and concerns within the community. An e-mail has been set up for public participation: [gorecovery@goshenct.gov](mailto:gorecovery@goshenct.gov).

**9. New Business:** None

**10. Any other Business:**

**11. Adjournment:** In a motion made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was voted to adjourn the meeting at 5:32 p.m. Voted unanimous.

Respectively submitted,

Lucille A. Paige, First Selectman’s Aide