

# TOWN OF GOSHEN

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

### REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, May 19, 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, Jim O'Leary, Emergency Management Director (EMD), Garret Harlow, Supvr. Public Works, Henrietta Horvay, Lynn Steinmayer, Library Dir., Jim Withstanley

**1 Call to order:** Robert P. Valentine called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

**2. Approval the minutes of the meeting of May 12, 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 12, 2020 as submitted. Voted unanimous.

**3. Matter Arising Out of the Minutes:** None

**4. Approval of the Payroll and Warrant -May 21, 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 21, 2020 in the amount of \$56,528.70. Included in this warrant were the payroll \$11,326.39 and warrant \$45,202.31. Voted unanimous. Included in the warrant were: City of Torrington (Animal Control) \$4,953.52; John Hancock (Pensions) \$5,938.84; MIRA (trash disposal tipping fee) \$10,691.23

**5. Public Comments:** On the issue of potentially having the Goshen Stampede this year; Jim O'Leary (EMD) stated that from what he is hearing from other towns in the area, town fairs are being cancelled. Although regulations/rules are being changed hourly, he feels that Governor Lamont is not going to relax the order to limit large public gatherings anytime soon. Bob added that in his meetings with the Board of Directors of COST and his conference calls with the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, any large-scale events are not being considered until perhaps September, Phase 3.

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, under item 9. New Business, it was **voted** to add item 9a. Library Opening-COVID-19 Voted unanimous.

At this time, the Board chose to address item 9a. Library Opening.

**9. New Business:**

**9a. Library Opening – COVID-19:** Library Director Lynn Steinmayer stated she and her staff will be following guidelines based on some of what other libraries are doing as well as protocol they are developing for safety. In addition, she will be meeting with the Library Board tomorrow to discuss these protocols. Currently, the Library is not open to the public but has been successful in taking on-line requests/orders, curbside pick-up. Some of the protocol being discussed are, daily use of hand sanitizers, masks must be worn, several cleanings of the areas during the day, and conducting "social distancing". Bob Valentine added that a log should be kept of patrons in case it would be necessary to have *contact tracing*. But also, a process needs to be put in place to shred the log so no more than fourteen days are saved at any one time. Temperature sensors will be available also. Henrietta Horvay

questioned the use of the town hall bathroom facilities by patrons. Bob advised that temperature sensors are on order, which should be one of the key components of the protocol. Also important that all departments works co-operatively together on protocol.

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to add to the agenda, under item 8. Old Business, 8e. Public Works Dept. Report-road projects during the Spending Freeze. Voted unanimous.

**8. Old Business:**

**8e. Public Works Dept. Report-Spending Freeze**

Garret Harlow, Supervisor of Public Works reported on the updated road projects that are taking place in Goshen. Good progress is being made with crack sealing the roads (under the 10 Year Road Plan). Typically, roads that are to be chip sealed, are crack sealed first and usually 9.5 miles of road annually. Work also continues on shimming sections of roads prior to chip sealing. This year it was decided, due to the spending freeze, to use some of the chip seal dollars to shim roads rather than using TAR funds. Approximately \$70,000 will be used for shimming. However, this will result in approximately 2.5 miles less chip sealing being done. Also, we are currently awaiting reimbursement of over \$600,000 from our Milton road project from last year. Projects that have been put on hold for the time being are paving reclaiming and paving of Tamarack Lane (\$130,000 is estimate cost), along with placement of pipe on West Hyderdale Drive, and School Hill Rd. reclaiming and paving.

Due to the mild winter, there are approximately \$80,000 unspent for winter salt funds. Given the salt barn is not full it was agreed to fill it at this time for an anticipate \$20,000 cost.

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

Bob reported on a Staff meeting today, with the main topic being the possible partial opening of Town Hall. All of the staff appear to be "on the same page". Precautions that will be followed now that plexiglass has arrived will be "sneeze guards" in the Town Clerk's office. The "Dutch style" door will be put up in the entry of the Tax Collector's office. Facial masks must be worn by employees and visitors. Hand sanitizers will be available at all times. The Building Dept., Land use and Area Health will, by appointment allowed meeting in the conference room, with builders to review plans on Thursday mornings. Other than the Thursday morning appointments no schedule has been set to partially open town hall.

The State computer systems crashed yesterday so there are no COVID-19 reports. They should be up and running soon.

A legal opinion from Attorney Chip Roraback regarding the Highland Grant for 98 acres of town land at the end of East Street North was received. The grant would require a "conservation easement" on the land in turn for a \$131,500. Although the board of Selectmen have the authority to except the grant there is a question as to whether they could place a conservation easement on the land in return without a town meeting. Or if recent executive order issued by the Governor would be sufficient to place the easement on the property. Attorney Roraback concluded that a town meeting would be required. Bob signed the grant paperwork will be in contact Matt Starr, DEEP to let him know we will need to have a town meeting vote before we can receive the funds and place an easement on the land.

**7. Correspondence:** None

**8. Old Business:**

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

Under Governor Lamont's Executive Order 700 an electronic meeting can be held to elect a board of education representative, but the meeting must be held between June 27 and June 30, 2020 and no other business can be conducted.

The approval of the application for Special Event Permit for the Goshen Stampede will be on the agenda of the BOS next week, Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>.

**8b. Appointments:** None

**8c. Budgets:** None

**8d. Long Term Recovery Committee:**

A "zoom" meeting of the *Long Term Recovery Committee (Go Recovery)* will be held tomorrow 5-20-20 at 10:00 a.m.

The committee we be looking for input from the community.

**8e. Public Works Dept. Report-Spending Freeze – see page 2**

**9. New Business:**

**9a. Library Opening: See page 1**

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to add to the agenda under 10. Any other Business, 10a. Tax Collector's Report as of April 30, 2020. Voted unanimous.

**10. Any other Business:**

**10a. Tax Collector's Report as of April 30, 2020:**

The Board reviewed said report. Collection Rate – collected less refunds vs. total budgeted is 100.58%, which is very good.

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, the BOS **voted** to receive said report. Voted unanimous.

**11. Adjournment:**

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m. Voted unanimously.

Respectively submitted,

Lucille A. Paige, First Selectman's Aide