

TOWN OF GOSHEN

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, May 5, 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, Anne Greene, Jim Withstandley, Amy Tobin, Darlene Demetri

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 28, 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 28, 2020 as corrected. (Second paragraph, page 2 – Dan Kobylenski) Voted unanimous.

3. Matter Arising Out of the Minutes: None

4. Approval of the Payroll and Warrant -May 7, 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 7, 2020 in the amount of \$1,530,014.76 Included in this warrant were the payroll \$12,604.99 and warrant \$1,517,409.77. Voted unanimous. Included in the warrant were: Cargill Salt – \$3,684.44; Leonard Engineering- \$7,670.78; Nutmeg Truck- \$159,805.00 new plow truck Public Works; Reg. 6, 1/6 assessment-\$1,339,264.00.

5. Public Comments: None

6. First Selectman's Report:

Bob Valentine reported that he had received the final paperwork for the Town's execution on an application for a Highlands grant on 98.484 acres of town owned property on East Street North. The grant is for \$131,500 in return the Town would put a conservation easement on the parcel in favor of the State of Connecticut. In order to accept the grant the Board of Selectmen will need to get input from the Planning and Zoning Commission per CGS 8-24. In addition to town's people approval at Town Meeting. Given the current situation with the pandemic and the inability to have town meeting Bob has ask Chip Roraback, Town Counsel, if the Governor's executive order authorizing the board of selectmen to accept grants would be applicable.

Received from Theresa Walla Kelly, on behave of the American Legion Post #46 were Memorial Day Poppies. A thank you to Ms. Kelly and the American Legion.

The EDC has decided to use \$500.00 from monies donated to EDC by various business to obtain premium listings for AJ's Steak & Pizza and the Goshenette on Civiclift's, Discover Litchfield Hills web site. The purpose is to help them survive the current economic slowdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic by allowing them to better market their businesses.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

May 5, 2020

Page 2

The Board of Finance will meet Wednesday, May 13, 2020, to render their initial approval of the Town Budget. They will have a public hearing, via Zoom, on May 13th to give the public the chance to submit comments and make their voices heard. At their meeting of May 20th they will consider public input and make any changes they deem appropriate. May 27th they will meet via Zoom to adopt the budget and set a mill rate for 2020/2021 fiscal year.

7. Correspondence: None

8. Old Business:

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

Bob Valentine continues to encourage Governor Lamont to adopt an Executive Order to allow Boards of Selectmen to appoint individuals to fill vacancies on regional boards of education until such time that town can have town meeting to elect a replacement member. Goshen has a vacancy and has been unable to fill the vacancy due to the inability to have town meetings during the pandemic.

How summer camp at Camp Coch will be conducted this summer will be dictated by the Office of Early Childhood, State of Connecticut. Given the current guidance from the Office of Early Childhood, particularly the requirement of social distancing, it will be difficult to run camp this year. Recreation Director Colleen Kinkade will continue to keep up to date with the requirements in an effort to have camp this year although most likely different than in the past.

Jim O'Leary, Emergency Management Director and Barry Hall, Goshen Fire Chief, will be setting up COVID-19 testing for Goshen's EMS personnel. Each test has a cost of \$150. Bob Valentine will be working with them to see if volunteers are tested. EMS personnel's health insurance may pay for the testing, where it doesn't, the town will pick up the cost.

As part of the process of long-term recovery of the COVID-19 pandemic and returning to more normal operations at town hall Bob Valentine will be looking to the Governor's team for guidance on the process.

Bob Valentine, serving on the ACIR (Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations) is working with other government officials and the Governor's office, to formulate a long term recovery plan for municipalities.

Bob continues to phone in to the Governor's weekly (every Wednesday) teleconference. Sharing updated info regarding the pandemic and any changes in the Governor's Executive Order with the Board of Selectmen.

b. Appointments:

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Mark S. Harris, it was **voted** to appoint Darlene Demetri a regular member of the Economic Development Commission to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Carl Contadini. Voted unanimous.

Elisabeth Zander – a regular member has resigned. Therefore one (1) additional regular member vacancy will need to be filled and one (1) alternate to replace Darlene Demetri.

c. Budgets: None

d. Long Term Recovery Committee:

Chairman Mark Harris has submitted a list of those individuals who have agreed to serve. Colleen Kinkade Goshen Recreation Department, Anne Green and Greg Brick, business community, Church,

Reverend Sara Krhla, education Jeremiah Sattazahn, RSD 6, DEMHS area 5 long term recovery chair, Marty Connor, Eric Oubre, Red Cross Area 5 and Allison Fulton Housatonic Valley Coalition against Substance Abuse (hvcasa) Others will be asked to volunteer their time. Selectman Harris stated he would also like to have a charity to handle financial assistance – perhaps the Good Neighbor Fund. It was also suggest that the *Berkshire Taconic Foundation* and the *Torrington Community Foundation* could serve this function. A meeting (via Zoom) will be scheduled within a week.

Bob reported that a “Zoom” meeting with the NWCOG will be held next week. He anticipates that long term planning will be part of the discussion.

While some changes/adjustment may be made to the Governor’s Executive Order concerning non-essential business prior to the May 20th deadline: it is not yet known which “orders”, or restrictions might be modified, or adjusted or even cancelled. Bob will share the info he garners and pass it along to Goshen’s businesses.

9. New Business:

9a. Sustainable CT Recommendations by Goshen Economic Development Commission (EDC)

In a letter dated April 28, 2020 to the Board of Selectmen, the EDC by motion, recommended to the Board of Selectmen approval Goshen’s participation in *Sustainable CT*. A “formal resolution” was drafted but it will need some modification, particularly, which group of individual would head up the process of meeting various goals.

It is the view of the EDC, the *Sustainable CT* program can improve Goshen’s economic health, by engaging residents in a wide variety of activities and projects. *Sustainable CT* is a well organized program that will enable EDC to continue their work to support current businesses and organize projects that meet Goshen’s needs and interest. Activities are funded by “Crowd funding” and matching grants from *Sustainability CT*. *Sustainable CT certification* would help to market the town and helps the state achieve their goal of becoming a sustainable state. Bob suggested that many of the goals of Sustainable CT have already been meet by Goshen.

10. Any other Business:

Greg Mitchell has informed Bob Valentine that the annual Memorial Day Parade has been cancelled.

The BOS will take a wait and see what conditions are still in place or adjusted regarding the approval of the Goshen Stampede to be held at the Goshen Fair Grounds. It is anticipated that there will be changes in the Governor’s Executive 7, 7N, and 7X concerning assemblies some time before they expire on May 20, 2020. Those changes will dictate if this event can move forward.

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