Town of Goshen
BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday March 22, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Allan Walker called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Attendance: Ned Bixler, Pat Reilly, James Korner, Scott Tillmann, Allan Walker, Robert Valentine, and Todd Carusillo first selectman. Bill Lane was excused.

Seating of Alternatives: A motion was made by Ned Bixler to seat Pat Reilly and was seconded by Scott Tillmann. The motion passed unanimously.

Others: Pat Collins Recycling and Trash Coordinator, Craig Robillard, Cindy Parrett, Henrietta Horvay, Johanna Kimball, Lynette A Miller and Christopher Leone, superintendent of Litchfield and Region 6 schools

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Reviewed meeting minutes of February 22,2023. Correction required to add that Pat Reilly was in attendance. Capital Expenditures Requests to be added to the minutes as an attachment.

Clarification to second sentence under Financial reports; It was Bob Valentine that suggested that the Board of Finance should review Use of Land Acquisition. With these changes it was voted unanimously to approve meeting minutes of February 22,2023

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Received and reviewed Financial Reports from Debbie Franklin dated Feb 28, 2023.

TAX COLLLECTORS REPORT - Received and reviewed the Tax Collector's report dated Feb 28, 2023. The board noted a very good job to date.

SELECTMAN'S REPORT.

Todd Spoke with Randi Frank of Human Resources Consulting and reports she discussed a 3.4 %– 3.5% merit budget and recommended a 3.0% merit budget for Goshen.

There will be an increase in tree removal expense as the recent storm caused significant tree and limb damage throughout Goshen. The clean-up required the removal of damaged limbs overhanging the roads and Public Works was obliged to hired two bucket trucks at $18,000-$19,000 for this past week. Next week a single truck will be required at an expected expense of $10,000. Garret Harlow, the Public Works Supervisor, said that there will be approximately $60,000 not spent from the operational funds to help offset the costs.

Todd has received the revenue projections from the Recreation Department, the Town Clerk Office and the Library with only the Building department pending.

To reduce tipping expenses and encourage composting, the town reduce the price of the compost bins in half for the residents to $36.00 each.

Paul Collins, the town Recycling and Trash Coordinator, reported that according to DEEP, Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, one person creates 1370 lbs. of trash a year, of which 30% is compostable. If this were composted the savings would be $123.00 per person.

The Bottle bill compromise last year created Nickels for Nips where rather than charging a $.05 recycling charge per nip, the liquor distributers send money directly to the towns to help clean-up any litter the nippers caused. The checks are received in April and October and Goshen has $1950 that can be allocated to recycling, composting or street sweeping. Bob Valentine made a motion to use the $1950 to subsidize the composting bins. It was seconded by Pat Reilly and the motion passed unanimously.

Goshen has an opportunity to purchase fourteen acres on Sharon Turnpike for $200,000. The land would be for future town use and is centrally located across from the Fire house. There is $290,000 from Region 6 expected to be refunded on July first and $200,000 can be used for this purpose with the remaining $90,000 put into the general fund. A motion to purchase the land using this Region 6 money was made by James Korner seconded by Pat Reilly. This is subject to approval at the Town Meeting.

Regarding the merit budget, Bob Valentine makes a motion for a 3.4% increase. A discussion was had on the impact of inflation. A motion was made by Ned Bixler for a 4.0% increase. Bob Valentine rescinded his motion and Allan Walker seconded the motion made by Ned Bixler. Voting Yea were Allan Walker, Robert Valentine, and Ned Bixler. Nay votes were Scott Tillman, and James Korner. Pat Reilly abstained and the motion passed.

The Board agreed that recycling and composting required increased awareness and education, to help residents understand the importance of the programs and cost savings to the town.

Christopher Leone, superintendent of Litchfield and Region 6 schools, presented the Regional School District No. 6 2023-2024 budget. He mentioned that there are still many moving parts like the impact from inflation and Education Bills not yet decided by the state. Chris noted the increases in salaries and employee benefits. As of 3/6/2023, they are projecting a revenue decrease from Goshen of $95,000.

The Goshen cafeteria floor will be redone to a non-slip resin coating this summer. WAMOGO's gym floor will be redone with a non-slip resin coating and will be available to all Park and Recreation programs. There is a mental health grant of $8.75M for social services and mental health in the next five years. There will be savings through shared services through decreasing vertical management and increasing horizontal management.

The Board of Finance thanked Chris Leone for his good work and service.

Todd asked if a deposit was required for the 14 acres on Sharon Turnpike, where should the money be taken from. A motion was made by Jim Korner to take the money from the General Unassigned Funds and seconded by Bob Valentine. The motion passed unanimously.

Budget Proposal Review

ANIMAL CONTROL FUND BUDGET- DEPARTMENT 18
Current Budget 2022-2023 $12,500.00
Proposed Budget 2023-2024 $13,000.00
The increase is $500 to train the new deputy officer.

BOARD OF FINANCE - DEPARTMENT 10
Current Budget 2022-2023 $15,789.00
Proposed Budget 2023-2024 $16,812.00
Printing costs increased.

CEMETERIES - DEPARTMENT 56
Current Budget 2022-2023 $8,475.00
Proposed Budget 2023-2024 $8,475.00
The mowing contract is out to bid this year, therefore thee may be changes in the future.

FIRE PROTECTION - DEPARTMENT 26
Current Budget 2022-2023 $111,595.00

Proposed Budget 2023-2024 $121,534.00
Impacts from the increases in electric, oil and diesel. To be reviewed next month

LIBRARY - DEPARTMENT 21
Current Budget 2022-2023 $1,666,894.00
Proposed Budget 2023-2024 $1,666,994.00
Henrietta Horvay from the Library asked about the status of the repair of the windows in the library. Todd said that last year $10,000 was added to building maintenance and there was another $10,000 added this year. Todd had a company come out to measure the windows and is waiting on the quote. The funds are in Capital Non Recurring and will not lapse.

RESCUE-DEPARTMENT 28
Current Budget 2022-2023 $35,279.00
Proposed Budget 2023-2024 $35,279.00

It was clarified that it was Henrietta Horvay and Lynette Miller from the Library that asked the Selectman for a raise for the library employee as noted in the meeting of February 22,2023.

Increases for elected officials and contractors were discussed. Goshen has historically matched the % increases for elected officials and contractors to the merit increase given to employees. Bob Valentine made a motion for a 4% increase. It was seconded by Ned Bixler and voted unanimously; the motion passed.

Early voting has been mandated by the state. The increase in cost is not yet known but it is expected to be impactful and disruptive. Todd is discussing with Stephanie Thomas, the Secretary of the State of Connecticut.

Pat Reilly suggested to provide residents an idea of their impact of the mill rate change at the next town meeting. Bob Valentine will provide a framework at the next Board of Finance meeting and suggests the Finance Board continues to communicate to the residents how important it is to watch spending.

ADJOURN: Bob Valentine made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Jim Korner
The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m

Lee Kennedy

Lee Kennedy
Board of Finance Clerk

Received March 24, 2023 @ 12:29 PM

Attest Barbara Z Bley
Goshen Town Clerk