

TOWN OF GOSHEN  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
**MINUTES – Regular Meeting**  
Town Hall Conference Room  
**January 12, 2016**

PRESENT: Robert P. Valentine, Dexter S. Kinsella, Steven M. Romano

OTHERS: Allan Walker, Erin Hurlburt, Don Patterson, Cate Corwin, Nanci Howard, Al Torizzo, Garret Harlow

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

IN A MOTION made by Steven M. Romano, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was VOTED to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2015 meeting. Voted unanimous.

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES: NONE

IN A MOTION made by Steven M. Romano, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was VOTED to approve the warrant and payroll of January 14, 2016 in the amount of \$44,068.68. It was noted included in the warrant was the payroll in the amount of \$23,343.46 and the warrant in the amount of \$20,725.22. Voted unanimous. Items contained in this warrant showed expenses for fire equipment, hose testing, and road borings.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT:

In continuing his efforts to tie in with Nutmeg Network (VOIP), Bob Valentine reported that he secured the services of Nextiva. Greg Gauthier, from APEX, will now “port – over” our Goshen town phone numbers accordingly into the system. The agreement will initially cover only month-to-month services pending success of the operation. State grant money in the amount of \$19,900 will be applied for connecting to the Nutmeg Network and operating expenses.

The annual list of legislative priorities emanating from the Northwest Hills Council of Governments (NWHCOG) has been compiled:

**Revise Thresholds for Prevailing Wage:**

Currently \$100,000 for facility alterations and \$400,000 for new construction – have not changed since 1991. NWHCOG maintains that the prevailing wage rates should not apply to projects for new construction, rehabilitation, or repair where the total cost is less than \$1million and the threshold should be indexed to the current inflation rate. The State’s current prevailing wage requirements have been shown to routinely increase the cost of municipal construction by 20% or more.

**Repeal the Municipal Spending Cap Enacted by the 2015 General Assembly:**

This legislation undermines home rule and effectively hand cuffs towns from providing the level of service that local residents want. Local officials closely monitor their municipal budgets; to best meet local needs our towns should retain the freedom and flexibility to adopt the local budget that is right for their town. If local residents wish to invest in their future by paying more than a 2.5% increase in any given year, they should be allowed to do so.

**Keep a Watchful Eye Out for Onerous “Sleeper Bills”:**

A number of bills with significant municipal impacts have been passed recently by the General Assembly *without the opportunity for public evaluation* or discussion of the changes. Two (2) notable examples are the requirement for COG’s to *employ* a Regional Election Monitor and the municipal set-aside for minority business enterprises. Municipalities should vigorously object to any rushed/unnecessary change in the rules through last minute legislative proposals or inappropriate provisions in the implementer bill.

Bill Valentine reported on receipt of the Region 6 School District Superintendent’s proposed budget for 2017. The increase proposed is 1.95%; equates to an .88 % increase in town assessments.

CORRESPONDENCE: NONE

IN A MOTION made by Steven M. Romano, seconded Dexter S. Kinsella, it was VOTED to move into executive session for discussion of a personnel matter; this motion invited into executive session Erin Hurlburt, Don Patterson, Cate Corwin, Nanci Howard Al Torizzo and Garret Harlow – members of the Recreation Commission. Voted unanimous.

The Board of Selectmen and attendees moved out of executive session at 6:45 p.m. No action was taken.

IN A MOTION made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Steven M. Romano, it was VOTED to add to this agenda item 8b – STEAP Grants and item 9c – Employee Evaluation. Voted unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS:

IN A MOTION made by Steven M. Romano, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was VOTED to appoint Simon Ellis (West Side Pond) to the Lake Weed Committee. Voted unanimous.

IN A MOTION made by Steven M. Romano, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was VOTED to authorize First Selectman, Robert P. Valentine to execute two applications for STEAP grant funding from the State Office of Policy & Management:

**1<sup>st</sup> priority:** Woodridge Lake Sewer District Regional Waste Disposal Project. \$500,000 STEAP funding. Project is a \$15.5 million regional wastewater construction project as result of a multi-year engineering facilities planning effort costing in excess of \$1million to resolve a consent order issued by the DEEP.

**2<sup>nd</sup> priority:** Restroom Facility at Camp Cochipiannee - \$193,600 STEAP funding. \$20,000 town funding. Project is the replacement of antiquated outhouse style restrooms built in the 1970's at the town's only recreational facility, Camp Cochipiannee. Camp Coch has become an integral part of the Goshen community; summer camp alone has hosted 282 young people this past year. Additionally, as many other activities/events are hosted there, the existing facilities pose an impediment to elderly and handicapped users in need of sanitary and convenient restrooms.

NEW BUSINESS:

The 2016-2017 budget building process has begun. Bob Valentine will have several proposed budgets to bring to the Board of Selectmen's meeting next week, January 19, 2016.

IN A MOTION made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Steven M. Romano, and from a recommendation by Lynn Steinmayer, Library Director, it was VOTED that this employee's work was favorable following a six month evaluation, and therefore, it was voted to grant Elizabeth O'Connor an increase in wages of \$.50/hr. retroactive to January 1, 2016, per established Personnel Policy. Voted unanimous.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Steven Romano, Chairman of the Lake Weed Committee, had a conversation with Dr. Knoecklein regarding the harvesting of the weeds on the three lakes. Bob Valentine suggested that Garret Harlow may assist the Committee in producing a formal bid document inclusive of the pertinent data needed for this work scope.

IN A MOTION made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Steven M. Romano, it was VOTED to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. Voted unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucille A. Paige, First Selectman's Aide