

# May 11, 2016 - Public Hearing

GOSHEN BOARD OF FINANCE  
PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING  
MAY 11, 2016

Allan Walker, Chairman of the Goshen Board of Finance called the hearing to order at 7:30 P.M.

Present at the Board of Finance Hearing were Board of Finance members, Allan D. Walker, Edward Davidson, Richard Reis, James Korner and Alternates Russell Hurley and George Zeidenstein. Others present First Selectman Robert Valentine and Selectman Steven Romano and Dexter Kinsella, Administrative Assistant Virginia Perry, Edward Perry, Carol Aldrich, Henrietta Horvay, Thomas Breakell and John McKenna, Republican American reporter.

Chairman Allan D. Walker stated the purpose of the hearing was to give the taxpayers of the Town of Goshen the opportunity to be heard relative to their thoughts and comments on any appropriations in the proposed 2016/2017 Fiscal Budget. Allan Walker went on to say that the Board of Finance began their review of the proposed budget with the hope to ensure that the mil rate would not increase, despite the fact that the State of Connecticut has made substantial cuts and eliminating much of the towns ECS (Education Cost Sharing Grants) and Pilot Grants. Chairman Allan Walker noted, that should the State decide to reinstate these Grant monies back to the towns the Board of Finance may want to revisit the appropriation request for Major Roads Project.

The Floor was open to public questions concerns and comment.

Presented for review was the General Fund Budget Year Ending June 30, 2017 Allan Walker noted that the Town Revenue Projections reflect those reductions in the State grants and that when you look at the bottom line it works. In many cases they are best-estimated guesses.

Under Proposed General Fund Expenditures Mr. Walker noted that the Region 6 School Budget went up \$61,740.00, some of which is due in part to changes in Goshen's student population. Mr. Walker went on to commend the Superintendent for his hard work on being

fiscally prudent. Mr. Walker went on to say that the proposed budget for next year is 2% lower than the current year. There were no questions or concerns.

#### Under Capitol Non-Recurring Requests

Carol Aldrich asked why under Transfer To Other –Funds (Transfer Out-Capitol & Non-Recurring) there was a decrease of \$82,033.00, Bob Valentine stated that this was due primarily due to a \$100,000.00 reduction in Major Roads Projects. The reduction was to offset approximately \$280,000.00 in state grants. Bob also stated that a review of future road projects and available funds showed that in the near term Public Works could manage with the reduction. Chairman Allan Walker stated that should the State of Connecticut restore these grant monies the Board of Finance would have a special meeting to appropriate these monies back to the Major Roads Project. Mr. Walker noted that all Capitol and Non-recurring Requests have been funded and that our Selectman, had done a thorough job in his review of the budgets

Presented for review was The General Fund Budget – Departmental Budget Detail for the year ending June 30, 2017

Allan Walker noted that this review was to give citizens an idea of where the budgeted money is expected to go and that none of the departments are held to specifics, they are held to the bottom line. If they are going to exceed the bottom line then they are expected to come to the Board of Finance and we will discuss it. All of the department budgets reflect a 2.5 increase in wages and salaries. The Board of Finance budget reported a decrease of \$4,562.00 due in part to a change in Auditors, Henrietta Horvay asked if this fee would remain the same for this year and Mr. Walker confirmed that it would indeed remain the same. The Board of Finance was pleased with the new auditors' performance. There was some discussion with regards to the importance of employee evaluations. Mrs. Horvay went on to say that there would be more accountability and transparency if that were the case. It was also suggested that Election workers wages be increased due in part to the long hours that are required during elections. Mrs. Horvay stated that the moderators, who must be trained, hold highly responsible positions and should receive a substance increase in wages. Bob Valentine spoke to the matter saying that he has been in touch with the Registrar's office and it is agreed that there are some differentials in the wage scales that must be addressed. There was some discussion and the matter would be resolved. The Goshen & Cornwall Transit Bus will be shared with Cornwall and used first and foremost for the town seniors. Bob

Valentine said that costs would be absorbed by various grants along with working with Northwest Transit. Mr. Walker noted that the town Newsletter has been well received, and it is his impression that it will end up paying for much of itself through advertisements'. Mr. Walker commended that people are working very hard to keep budgets as near to current year as possible and in many cases they are lower. The final item to be discussed was Water Pollution Control. There was some discussion, but no questions or concerns.

Former First Selectman Tom Breakell stated that he wanted to thank and commend all those who served on the various committees, departments, and boards for working so hard to keep the numbers down and setting a stellar example of fiscal responsibility.

He did note, that it was his concern that the monies being taken from the Major Roads Project, due to the State budget cuts, should be returned back to that project should those cuts be rescinded. "We worked hard to develop that road plan, and generally speaking whenever you let one go by, it always costs you more the second time around." He went on to say that the town cemeteries could use a little extra attention, especially the one down on West Side Road where he plans to eventually head to ...someday! There was laughter and good-natured comments to conclude the public hearing.

There was nothing further to come before the Public Hearing, The hearing adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Nell Glass  
Goshen Board of Finance Clerk

Received May 13, 2016 <sup>12:35</sup> P M  
Attest Megan Scudlon  
Asst. Goshen Town Clerk