

Wednesday, May 29, 2019
Annual Budget Meeting and Special Town Meeting

First Selectman Robert P. Valentine called the meeting to order at 8:00 P.M.

Robert P. Valentine asked for nominations for moderator. William Lane nominated Patrick Reilly seconded by Henrietta Horvay. Henrietta Horvay moved that nominations be closed and Patrick Reilly serve as Moderator. William Lane seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Barbara L. Breor swore in Patrick Reilly as Moderator and read the call to the meeting. The Moderator stated that there will be allowed three people in favor and three people against each item, before he would entertain a motion to call the question and they will be limited to five minutes. All communication will be through the moderator.

1. Act upon a budget for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020.

Alan Walker made a motion to accept the proposed budget in the amount of \$11,977,817 that was unanimously approved by the Board of Finance. Chris Sanders seconded.

Alan Walker stated that the Board of Finance appreciates the cooperation of all and that they met practically all the needs.

Lynette Miller stated she was against the proposed budget because of \$10,000 designated for hiring Connecticut Economic Resource Center (CERC) to create an Economic Development Plan for Goshen. Her fear is that the Town's people would have no control over business development. She also stated once you zone out rural you cannot zone it back in.

Doreen Deary spoke in favor of the proposed budget and that she is part of the Goshen Business Circle (GBC). She stated that Ms. Miller's assumptions were wrong and further stated that CERC would hold public input sessions to craft a plan based on what Goshen Residents wanted.

Lynette Miller then stated her concerns regarding a 2008 grant the Town of Goshen received, in the amount of \$43,000, to explore Incentive Housing Zones (IHZ) particularly her contention that it created the Goshen Housing Trust.

Robert Valentine stated that the IHZ grant application was approved at Town Meeting. In addition \$10,000 of the \$43,000 grant was used to digitize the Assessor's maps, thus creating the current GIS system. The Goshen Housing Trust, which is a private non-profit corporation, was not created until 2012 well after the IHZ work. CERC is not a government agency but a private entity and they are planners.

Mark Harris stated for clarification purposes that the zoning commission is responsible for any zone changes and that a public hearing would need to be held before they could make any changes.

David Bonaguide stated he was against the budget. He stated that everything that has been done in this town for years has been done through volunteers and why do we need to spend this money on Economic Development now. He voted against it in the past.

Dawn Wicks, co-chair of the Goshen Business Circle, stated that the GBC survives upon each other. An Economic Development Plan would help fill the eight empty commercial spots in Town and that Town is losing at least \$10,000 in taxes a year by having vacant buildings.

Gerald Glass stated that Connecticut is ranked 50 or 47 in Economic Development country wide and is against a quasi-agency bringing in a State dictated plan.

Robert Valentine made a motion to call the question. Henrietta Horvay seconded. Terri Truczinskas made a motion to vote by paper ballot. Seconded by Nell Glass. Passed unanimously.

Patrick Reilly appointed Henrietta Horvay, Cynthia Barrett and Henry Moore as tellers. The meeting proceeded while the votes were counted.

2. To vote for one member of the Regional School District #6 Board of Education for a term of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022.

The moderator asked that nominations be opened. Chris Sanders nominated Craig Robillard. Seconded by Steven Romano.

Kaitlyn Marchand nominated Emily Cole. Seconded by Lisa Harris.

Jennifer Bergin nominated Mike Bergin. Seconded by Lynette Miller.

Dexter Kinsella moved that nominations be closed and a hand vote be taken seconded by Alan Walker. Passed unanimously.

Each candidate spoke. The vote totals are below:

Craig Robillard – 27
Emily Cole – 39
Mike Bergin – 6

*****The totals from the paper ballot for the proposed budget were presented to the Moderator, Patrick Reilly, and read by the clerk. The totals were:

Yes – 76
No - 57
Total 133

The budget passed.

3. To authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, State and/or Federal grants for use by the Town.

Chris Sanders made a motion to allow the Board of Selectmen to apply and receive grants per the call. Seconded by Robert Goldberg.

Lynette Miller asked why we do this.

Robert Valentine stated that per State statute the Board of Finance can only approve up to \$20,000 before a Town Meeting needs to be called. This allows us to apply for State and Federal grants.

Robert Valentine called for a voice vote. All in favor.

Dexter Kinsella made a motion to adjourn at 9:17 P.M. seconded by William Lane.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara L. Breor, Town Clerk