

**GOSHEN BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
August 25, 2021**

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Allan Walker called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.
2. ATTENDANCE: Allan Walker, Ned Bixler, Scott Tillmann William Lane, Russell Hurley
Others: First Selectman, Bob Valentine, Todd Carusillo, Pat Reilly
EXCUSED: James Korner
3. SEATING OF ALTERNATES: In a motion made by Ned Bixler, seconded by Russ Hurley, it was voted to seat as Alternate, Pat Reilly. Voted unanimous.
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 23, 2021: Ned Bixler made a motion, seconded by Scott Tillmann, voted to approve the minutes of June 23, 2021. Motion carried with William Lane abstaining.
5. TAX COLLECTOR’S REPORTS: The Tax Collector’s report for **June 30, 2021** showed – Collection rate – collected less refunds vs. total budgeted was 100.98%.
Tax Collector’s Report for July 31, 2021 showed – Collection rate – collected less refunds vs. total budgeted was 50.20%. The Tax Collectors report was received and reviewed as presented.
6. THE FINANCIAL REPORT:
The financial report from Debbie Franklin, Accounting Consultant was reviewed and received. Included in the report were recommendations for yearend adjustments for departmental overages for fiscal year 2020/2021

The following motions were made to make appropriations from Contingency and or UnAssigned General Fund Balance. Contingency only containing \$40,000.

Animal Control	\$888.64	Motion by William Lane, seconded by Scott Tillman; voted unanimous
Board Assessors	\$377.01	Motion by Scott Tillman, seconded by Ned Bixler; voted unanimous
Building Official	\$22,374.79	Motion by Ned Bixler, seconded by Russ Hurley, voted unanimous
Fire Commission	\$ 33.32	Motion by Russ Hurley, seconded by William Lane, voted unanimous
Fiscal Office	\$1,559.28	Motion by William Lane, seconded by Scott Tillman, voted unanimous
Land Use Officer	\$ 451.16	Motion by Scott Tillman, seconded by Ned Bixler, voted unanimous
Newsletter	\$1,437.30	Motion by Ned Bixler, seconded by William Lane, voted unanimous
Selectmen	\$2,978.57	Motion by William Lane election. seconded by Scott Tillman, voted unanimous
Waste Removal	\$20,395.00	Motion by Scott Tillman, seconded by Ned Bixler, voted unanimous
Welfare	\$ 31.46	Motion by Ned Bixler, seconded by Russ Hurley, voted unanimous
TOTAL:	\$50,527.32	

Amount from Contingency: \$40,000
Amount from Unassigned General Fund Balance: \$10,527.32

7. SELECTMAN'S REPORT: was given by Robert Valentine, First Selectman.

Mr. Valentine reported that Jim Bernard, Treasurer for Goshen for many years has resigned his position. Matthew Sweet having a strong financial management background, has been selected to take Jim's place until the November elections. The Board of Finance wishes to thank Jim Bernard for all his distinguished service over the years, and good wishes for the future.

Application was made for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant. The town will receive a total of \$847,306.52 in two tranches; the first was received June 22, 2021. First Selectman Valentine distributed a draft letter to George Sinnamon, CPA Sinnamon Associates, town auditor concerning proposed uses of the American Rescue Plan Act dollars available to the town of Goshen. (Attached) First Selectman Valentine reviewed the letter and recommendations for the use of the funds with the board and the action of the Board of Selectmen the day before to approve the proposed use of ARPA funds and letter to Mr. Sinnamon contingent upon Board of Finance agreement.

*In a motion made by Russ Hurley, seconded by William Lane, to approved the use of the ARPA funds as detailed in the letter to George Sinnamon, CPA, Sinnamon Associates dated August 19, 2021 Voted unanimous.

We have closed our books for 2020/2021 fiscal year and George Sinnamon has begun his audit. The audit is expected to be complete in mid-October.

Public Works has ordered replacements for truck 9 and truck 4. Truck 4 is a 1984 *International*, six-wheel, four wheel drive dump with a wing plow. Truck 9 is a 2010 F550. Truck 9 replacement won't be ready until late in the year. The replacement for truck 4 should be received soon and then be sent to be fitted with bed, plow including wing plow.

The State of Connecticut has now closed on the purchase of 620-acre parcel at Beach Hill. The property will be a wildlife management area. A recent ceremony celebrating the purchase featured Sen. Chris Murphy who spoke of the importance of the Highlands Act and grant funds which funds paid for ½ of the land purchase.

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The recycling contract was put out to bid; only one bidder responded even though several were invited to bid. The Board of Selectmen, after much discussion decided to award a contract to *USA Hauling and Recycling* for a period of 6 years, which coincides with the *MIRA* contract for recyclables. End of the *MIRA contract* is 2027.

There being a vacancy on the Board of Finance for an Alternate for more than 30 days, the Board of Selectmen appointed Russell Murdock as Alternate to serve until the November election.

All, with the exception of *QuickBooks* files have now been put in the “cloud” in order to mitigate the possibility of having all of our files being vulnerable to a hack on the server. We are looking into a cloud-based storage for our QB files. The theory is that if any **one program** is hacked, the others would still be accessible.

The merger of the Litchfield school district and Region 6 has been put on hold in order to allow attorneys for the four towns to confer and agree on a process for bringing a plan to the towns’ people in *all* of the towns. Unfortunately, given the current delay the merger plan will not be ready for a vote during this November’s election. Hopefully, this spring the plan will move forward.

8. CORRESPONDENCE: None

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS PROPER TO COME BEFORE THE MEETING: NONE

10. ADJOURNMENT: IN A MOTION MADE BY RUSS HURLEY, SECONDED BY NED BIXLER, IT WAS VOTED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:05 P.M. VOTED UNANIMOUS.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucille A. Paige, Recording Secretary