

Town of Goshen
BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday December, 18, 2024

- 1. CALL to ORDER:** Chairman Allan Walker called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., then turned the meeting over to Vice Chair Ned Bixler.
 - 2. Attendance:** Chairman Allan Walker, Vice Chair Ned Bixler, Robert Valentine, Paul Collins, Russell Murdock, Scott Tillmann, Jim Korner
Others: First Selectman Todd Carusillo, Seth Breakell, Fire Commissioner Chairman, Ashley Daddona, BOE Member, Michael Leonard.
 - 3. Seating of an Alternate:** None
 - 4. Approval of Minutes:**
Paul Collins motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Robert Valentine, Scott Tillmann and Jim Korner abstained, hearing no changes, all in favor. Vote Unanimous.
 - 5. Financial Reports Review:** Bob had questions on Public Works Equipment Lease line item why it's 263.21% or \$4,570 over budgeted, (he thought the town got rid of leases), and why crack sealing item is 38%, are we done with crack sealing. Todd will look into the equipment lease and for the crack sealing, there are outstanding invoices. Reviewed and received the financial report.
 - 6. Tax Collector's Report Review:**
The Board reviewed the Tax Collector's report. **Motioned by** Robert Valentine, seconded by Ned Bixler. Reviewed and received the Tax Collector report.
- Patricik Reilly arrived at 7:36 p.m.**
- 7. Selectman's Report:**
Paul Collins asked about Region 6 bonded debt being assumed by Region 20? Todd said that it cannot be assumed; Region 20 will have to get bonding or get a loan, because Region 20 is a new entity, they have no credit to be bonded. They will need to take out a loan for all the debt. Region 6 bond is 3.4%, if Region 20 takes a loan for the 1.9 million with a local bank the interest is 7%.

Bob inquired on the timeline for the Board of Education Superintendent, within the last 8 months she hadn't made any cuts, these cuts should have been made before the school year started. Bob asked what cuts were made, Todd stated there were \$600,000 cuts made in September and \$326, 217 cuts made this past Tuesday 12/17/24. Bring the school debt from \$2.1 million down to \$1.77 million. The only information this board receives from the Board of Education is from the newspaper; Bob would like to extend an invitation to the Acting Superintendent to the next Board of Finance meeting for clarity.

Discussion regarding the \$1,262.13 balance from the Fire Company Appreciation Dinner. Accounting practices were discussed. The final results were the Fire Commissioners wanted to give out Sixty \$20.00 gas cards to the life members as an appreciation. Motioned was made to spend the town contribution on the gas cards and reapplied the money that was donated against the dinner. Motioned by Jim Korner, seconded by Paul Collins. Vote Unanimous. Scott Tillmann abstained.

The auditor's report shows that Region 6 owes Litchfield \$ 178,000 for expenses, Goshen portion is 47.24% equaling \$84,087.20. The region 20 referendum vote for Litchfield debt of 1.9 million passed. The region doesn't have credit to claim

The board revisited the speed hump cost. Board member James Korner questioned if WLPOA owes the town money for the work on the sedimentation restoration. Todd will send a sedimentation report to the Board members for review. With all that is going on, we will table the speed humps request. The Finance Board will review sedimentation projects and cost reporting.

Allan Walker questioned who was Carmody, Torance & Hennessey and why is there a \$7000 Invoice. Todd explained that it was from the Board of Education vote complaints from June 17, 2024. Todd explained that he put a stop to the attorney speaking with the residents and The town won't be responsible for any other cost without First Selectman approval. Ned Bixler will share legal documents with the board.

Bob provided two separate spreadsheets, one is used to set our mil rate in May of last year; it included the 2nd refund payment from region 6, the 1st \$247,000 payment we used \$200,000 to purchase property. The second spreadsheet shows what happens to our fund balance of \$634,000 provided from the town auditor. We started the new year with a fund balance of \$3,122,383 for FY 2024/2025. Goshen percentage of Region 6 shortfall is 47.6%, and Goshen's share of Region 20 shortfall is 21.24% based on student populations. Our share of \$645,569 region 6 over spent includes \$178,000 the auditors found that region 20 over spent. Goshen shares of overages are \$855,960. To cover this our mil rate could be

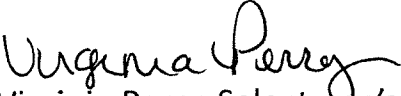
16.5 up to 17.5. The board discussed taking it out of fund balance or a one time assessment to cover these overages. The board discussed an increase of mil rate to cover region 20 escalated 4% increase in their budget for next year and increases in our own town budgets.

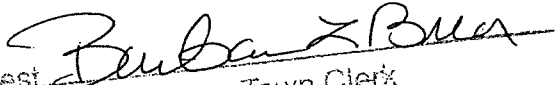
Ned asked if there were any comments from the audience, Sue Wheeler of Westside Rd stated she goes to all BOE meetings and she believes there should be more cuts.

8. Correspondence: None

9. New Business: None

10. Adjournment: Motioned by Jim Korner, seconded by Paul Collins. Adjourned at 8:40 p.m.


Virginia Perry, Selectman's Admin Asst.

Received Dec. 23, 2021 @ 3:44 P.M.
Attest 
Goshen Town Clerk