Town of Goshen

BOARD OF FINANCE

Regular Meeting

Wednesday August 28, 2024

Call to Order: Vice Chair Ned Bixler called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

Attendance: Vice Chair Ned Bixler, Paul Collins, James Korner, Scott Tillmann, Bob Valentine, Pat Reilly (alternate) and Todd Carusillo First Selectman.

Excused: Chair Allan Walker, Russell Murdock (alternate)

Paul Collins motioned to seat Pat Reilly (alternate) was seconded and passed unanimously

Others: Seth Brickell

Approval of Minutes: Jim Korner motioned to accept the minutes of July 24, 2024. It was seconded and passed unanimously with Scott Tillmann abstaining

Financial Report: The report dated July 31, 2024, was received.
G/L 5642-02 PW Power Tools to purchase a generator should be moved to Capital Expense.
G/L 5211-22 Rec Office Supplies is at 81% of the line item due in large part to My Rec software.
G/L 5247-22 Rec Telephone & Internet is at 31.5% of budget early in the year. The camp, concerts, and registrars use the internet.

Tax Collectors Report: The report dated July 31, 2024, was received.

Contingency Report: The following G/L are over budget, for a total of $67,866.82.

	Jul '23 – Jun 24	Budget	$ Over Budget	Comments
Building Official	90,006.12	81,101.00	8,905.12	Building official salary over due to increase in activity. There will be more revenue to offset with increases in activity.
Conservation of Health	75,984.46	75,246.00	738.46	Increase in fee to Litchfield County Dispatch for 911 calling
Elections	27,584.62	26,421.00	1,163.62	Increase in Registrars' salaries, training, meetings & dues. Received a $10k state grant for early voting. Todd will provide details to explain where the grant money was spent.
Emp Benefits & exp	396,184.85	385,249.00	10,935.85	Employee insurance actuals exceeded budgeted assumptions. The board requested detail as to what was assumed during budgeting and what changed.
Land Use Enforce	24,740.90	22,384.00	2,356.90	Increase in Land Use Officer due to increase in activity.
Newsletter	24,327.78	23,810.00	517.78	The increase in printing & mailing costs is hopefully offset by lighter weight paper. Advertising revenues offsets some expense.
Prof Services	36,947.42	24,850.00	12,097.42	Additional legal costs due to issues in Library (book), the P&Z board and land purchase issues related to the Sharon Turnpike land.
Town Office Building	88,728.18	79,592.00	9,136.18	Increases in computer support (Yucatech) and telephone costs. The internet is prepaid for the next five years.
Waste removal	271,941.00	293,956.49	22,015.49)	The budgeted amount for MIRA was mistakenly decreased in approved budget. The board requested additional information as to what was assumed and what changed.

Bob Valentine motioned to:

a. **Move a total of $ 36,715.15 from the Contingency account to the following G/L lines in the amounts noted:**

Building Official	$ 8,905.12
Conservation of Health	$ 738.46
Elections	$ 1,163.62
EMP Benefits& EXP	$ 10,935.85
Land Use Enforce	$ 2,356.90
Newsletter	$ 517.78
Prof Services	$ 12,097.42

b. **Move a total of $ 31,151.67 from the Public Works Line item G/L 5703-02 Winter Salt to the following accounts in the amounts noted:**

Town Office Building	$ 9,136.18
Waste Removal	$ 22,015.49

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Selectman's Report: The report dated August 28,2024 was received.
According to the TPS Group report for Region 6, staff pensions are funded at 42% while it should be 70-76%. On September 16, 2024, Todd Carusillo will attend a meeting of Region 6 and ask for an explanation. Todd Carusillo will provide the TPS report to the Board of Finance.

There will be a referendum on October 14th for Region 20 to impose on the four towns, a $3.65 million bonding package. As of 8/22/2024 the referendum may be reduced to $2.7 million.

Todd Carusillo asked the Board of Finance for $5000 for an Appreciation Dinner for the Goshen Fire Company. The cost is about $5,250 for this one time dinner at the Torrington Country Club. Todd Carusillo will make a personal donation of $250.00. A tax abatement or some benefit for the Goshen Fire Company was discussed. No action was taken, and this will be discussed in the future.

Bob Valentine motioned to move $5000 from the Unassigned General Fund Balance to the Fire Commissioners Line item G/L 5001-27 for the appreciation dinner. It was seconded and passed unanimously with Pat Reilly abstaining.

On August 6, 2024, Todd Carusillo was to meet with Chris Leone, Tom Weik, Denise Raap, and Greg LaCava to discuss Region 20 debt. This meeting was canceled.

Denise Raap sent a FOIA request on budgets and the four selectmen sent questions to Region 20. The responses received were vague and unsatisfactory.

Correspondence:
Todd Carusillo email on Overages dated 8/13/2024. Virginia Perry email of 8/19/2024 stating the annual reports from all the Boards are due September 23, 2024.

Other Business:
The Board of Finance discussed reviewing their policies and procedures and ensuring the Purchasing Policy is followed. The board will take a more active role in managing the budgeting process and agreed to start budgeting earlier and to being more involved with individual departments.

Public Comments: Seth Brickell as the Chairman of the Fire Commissioner thanked Todd Carusillo and the Board of Finance for the appreciation dinner, and for the discussion of the tax abatement or stipend.

Adjourn: Bob Valentine motioned to adjourn, it was seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm.

Lee M. Kennedy
Board of Finance Clerk

Received Aug. 30, 2024 11:14 AM
Attest
asst. Goshen Town Clerk