

Town of Goshen
BOARD OF FINANCE
PUBLIC HEARING
Wednesday May 15, 2024

CALL to ORDER: Chairman Allan Walker called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Chair Allan Walker, Vice Chair Ned Bixler, Paul Collins, Robert Valentine, Jim Korner, Pat Reilly (alternate), and First Selectman Todd Carusillo.

Excused: Scott Tillmann, Russell Murdock (alternate)

Bob Valentine made a motion to seat Pat Reilly. It was seconded and the motion was unanimously adopted.

Public Speakers: Henrietta Horvay, Marissa Wright, Theresa Walla-Kelly.

2024-2025 BUDGET HEARING:

General Fund Budget - Departmental Budget Detail - For Year Ending June 30, 2023 (green packet)

Board of Finance Budget - General Fund Budget - Year Ending June 30, 2023 (pink packet)

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Henrietta Horvay: The employee metrics system with a 3% raise is a very small amount for those at the low end of the pay scale. She would like to see the budgets have a line item for the Library windows.

Theresa Walla-Kelly: Asked about the Road & Bridge Maintenance – Outside services - Road Mowing, line item as we had purchased a mower, and Todd Carusillo agreed the label should be changed. She asked what was under Road & Bridge Maintenance– Outside services - Wood Disposal, and Todd Carusillo said it is for wood that cannot be otherwise used.

Ms. Walla-Kelly asked about the Woodridge Lake Property Owners Association (WLPOA) return of monies owed to Goshen for cooperative work. Todd Carusillo said it is still under discussion with WLPOA and when this money is received it will be shown as Miscellaneous Revenue.

Marrissa Wright: Asked if herbicides for invasive species was included in the General Fund Road and Bridge Maintenance - Outside services? Per Bob Valentine said it is embedded in the current budget. She asked why Public Works Operations Telephone/ Internet is \$2800. Per Bob Valentine it is telephone and TV.

She suggested adding ADD units in emergency vehicles for the future and noted that there is no line item under Inland Wetlands Operations for the Northwest Conservation District which assists towns with wetlands issues. She suggested that the future budget look at energy efficient equipment such as boilers, electrics. LED's. Bob Valentine said LED's were done about ten years ago.

She expressed concern of shifting baselines and pointed to Capital Request – Public Works - Truck Replacement Additional, at \$21,000.00. She noted that Capital Request – Public Works - Major Road Project line items is \$350,000.00 and recommends holding off on paving roads. Allan Walker and Bob Valentine discussed the ten year rolling road plan. Marrissa Wright thanked the board for all they do.

Henrietta Horvay: Asked about the Conservation of Health - Services for the Elderly, decreasing by \$717.00. Bob Valentine said that was due to the reduced need for Meals on Wheels.

Scott Olson, Selectman, said the Library building is a town asset and it is important to protect town assets and be proactive. Scott said that the in the General Fund Budget Road & Bridge Maintenance – Outside services - Road Mowing, is for chemical applications for invasive species.

Pat Reilly mentioned that the members of the Board of Finance received a letter from resident, Janet Hooper, regarding the Needs Assessment. Todd Carusillo clarified that the \$15,000 line item was for an architectural review for the Fire Company, not a Needs Assessment. This was removed from the budget when the Fire Company stated they did not want a stand-alone building.

The board requested that the First Selectman provide a Needs Assessment via a committee of volunteers. Jim Korner asked that the Selectmen advertise to obtain the volunteers.

Allan Walker noted a budget this high will be difficult to reduce next year.

The board agreed to the following:

- From the Capital requests 2024-2025, the line label will be changed to read, Capital Requests – Selectman – Town Hall – General Town Hall Maintenance - *Windows*.
- From the General Fund Budget June 20, 2025, a line label will be changed to read, Road & Bridge Maintenance – Outside services – *"Weed Control"*, rather than *"Road Mowing"*.

ADJOURN: Jim Korner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded and the motion was unanimously adopted. The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m

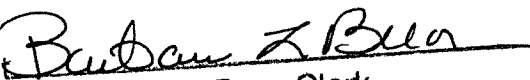
Submitted by,



Lee M. Kennedy

Board of Finance Clerk

Received May 16, 2024 @ 11:07 A.M.

Attest 
Goshen Town Clerk